

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Seth Lorson, Senior Transportation Planner
Carisa Clinton, Senior Grants Analyst

SUBJECT

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 185, 2025, Making Supplemental Appropriations and Appropriating Prior Year Reserves for the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund to Support the Front Range Passenger Rail Planning Study.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance, unanimously adopted on First Reading on November 3, 2025, enables the City to receive and expend Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) Grant funds through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) for the Front Range Passenger Rail Planning Study.

The funds will be used to conduct a planning study for a proposed Front Range Passenger Rail system in alignment with the Service Plan Development work being conducted by the Front Range Passenger Rail District. If approved, the ordinance will appropriate \$200,000 in EIAF grant funds, \$125,000 in City of Fort Collins match, and \$75,000 in City of Loveland match for a total of \$400,000 to the project.

An update has been made to the City Financial Impact section of the Agenda Item Summary.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on Second Reading.

FIRST READING BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) District is an independent government agency with the mission to plan, design, finance, construct, operate and maintain a new passenger rail system along the Front Range. The FRPR District is conducting the Service Plan Development Plan that proposes intercity passenger rail service from Pueblo to Fort Collins. The long-term vision is to connect the FRPR from New Mexico to Wyoming. The cities of Fort Collins and Loveland are collaborating on a station planning study effort to identify station locations within their respective cities and create station area plans. The cities of Fort Collins and Loveland are collaborating on grant funding for FRPR station planning because they are the only communities along the planned railway without stations identified and to increase the chance of successful funding. EIAF grant funds will support a portion of the initial planning study costs. On May 6, 2025, Resolution 2025-055 was adopted, which approved and supported the application to DOLA for funding for preliminary design and station location planning for the Front Range Passenger Rail and expressed the City's intent to provide required matching funds or other required contributions.

This initial planning effort includes identifying suitable station sites within each city, and for each city to engage the community to determine a final site, providing a preliminary operations analysis, creating preliminary site plans, evaluating economic impacts, conducting a pre-National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, developing scenarios for right-of-way acquisition, and advancing a detailed financial plan for long-term funding needs. This collaborative planning effort will support the future final design and construction of FRPR stations in Fort Collins and Loveland, aligning with the goal of the FRPR District to provide intercity passenger rail service from Pueblo to Fort Collins.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The Ordinance appropriates a total of \$400,000: the \$200,000 DOLA EIAF grant, and the \$200,000 local share (match).

The Ordinance appropriates \$200,000 in unanticipated revenue from the DOLA EIAF grant program to support the Front Range Passenger Rail Planning Study. Of the \$200,000 non-lapsing grant award, \$125,000 will be allocated to the City of Fort Collins, and \$75,000 will be allocated to the City of Loveland.

Second Reading Update: This item also appropriates \$200,000 in required local share (match) by the grant. The City of Fort Collins will contribute \$125,000 towards the local match and the City of Loveland will contribute \$75,000 towards the local match requirement. The Fort Collins non-lapsing local match will be provided from the 2050 Tax Parks Rec Transit OCF fund. The City will invoice Loveland for Loveland's non-lapsing local match.

This grant is a reimbursement type grant, meaning eligible grant expenses will be reimbursed up to \$200,000 through the period of performance specified in the grant agreement.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

As part of the work for this initial station planning study, staff anticipates conferring with the Transportation Board. The Council Finance Committee considered this item on October 2, 2025, and expressed their support and local match funding for the item. **The minutes were not available on First Reading and are attached for Second Reading.**

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The greater FRPR effort has been a public-facing effort through the FRPR District. The individual station area planning effort conducted by local municipalities will engage in public outreach.

ATTACHMENTS

First Reading attachments available in November 3, 2025, agenda materials at the following link: <https://fortcollins-co.municodemeetings.com/>.

1. Council Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, October 2, 2025 (draft excerpt)
2. Ordinance No. 185, 2025