

Front Range Passenger Rail and Joint Service Update

Caryn Champine, Director, PDT
John Putnam, Chair, FRPR District



- Does City Council support considering a resolution of support at a future meeting?
- Are there any additional questions about CoCo?



Colorado Connector

By the Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) District

Fort Collins City Council Discussion



About Colorado Connector (CoCo)



Over 25,000 Colorado residents voted to name our train “Colorado Connector” (CoCo).

Colorado’s new passenger train service connecting Front Range cities stateline to stateline

A uniquely Colorado approach partnering with freight railroads to deliver service

Front Range Passenger Rail District is responsible for planning, funding, building, and operating Colorado Connector (CoCo)

About the Front Range Passenger Rail District



Meeting of FRPR District Board of Directors

Created by the Colorado General Assembly in 2021

Empowered to refer tax question for voter approval

Statutory direction to plan, finance, construct and operate intercity passenger rail

Phased Approach: Accelerates Service Delivery

Phase 1 - Funding already secured and term sheet signed with BNSF; starter services between Fort Collins and Denver starting in 2029

Phase 2: Extends service from Fort Collins to Pueblo, completing initial station buildout subject to voter-approved funding

Ballot funds go directly to service operations and expansion



Joint Service At-A-Glance

Starter service from Fort Collins to Denver funding already in place:

Frequency: 3 round trips per day, 7 days a week

Station Locations: 8 stations

Distance: 69 track miles

Travel Time (approx.): 1 hour 40 minutes incl. station stops and recovery

Cost Efficiency: 60%+ lower cost vs. prior estimates

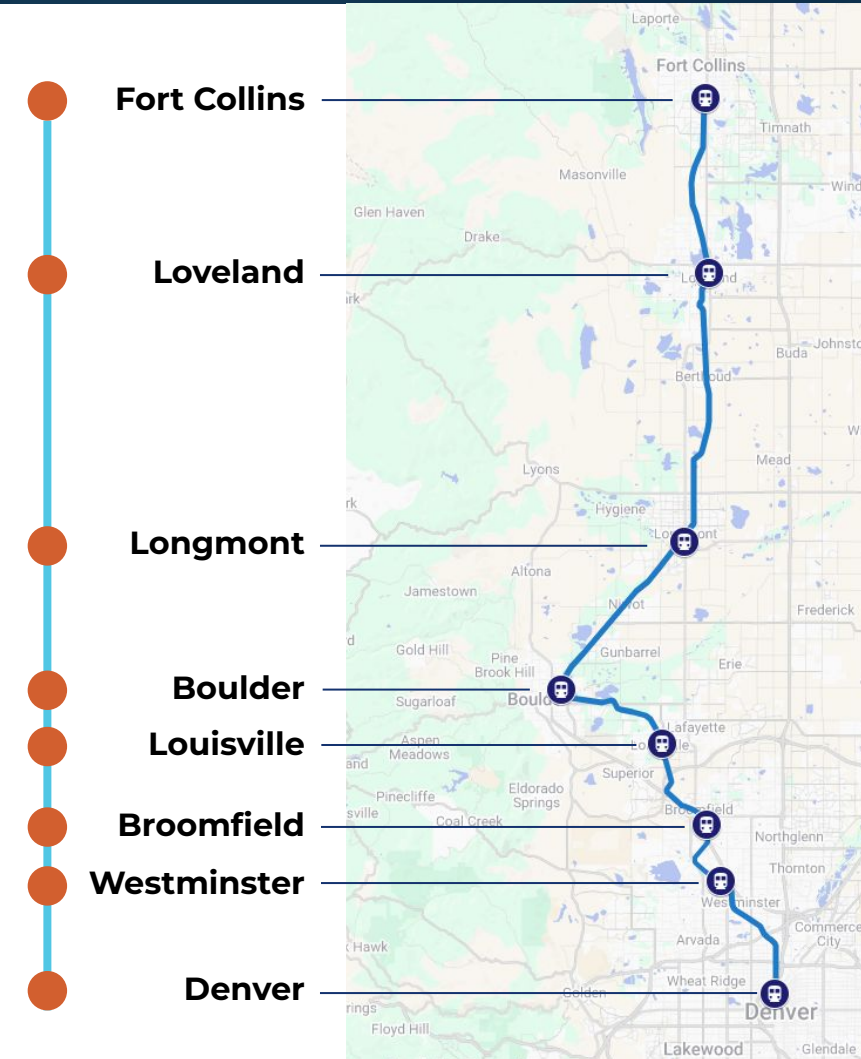
Expedited delivery: 2029 start vs. 2050+ from RTD alone, made possible by a direct access agreement with BNSF

Host Railroads:

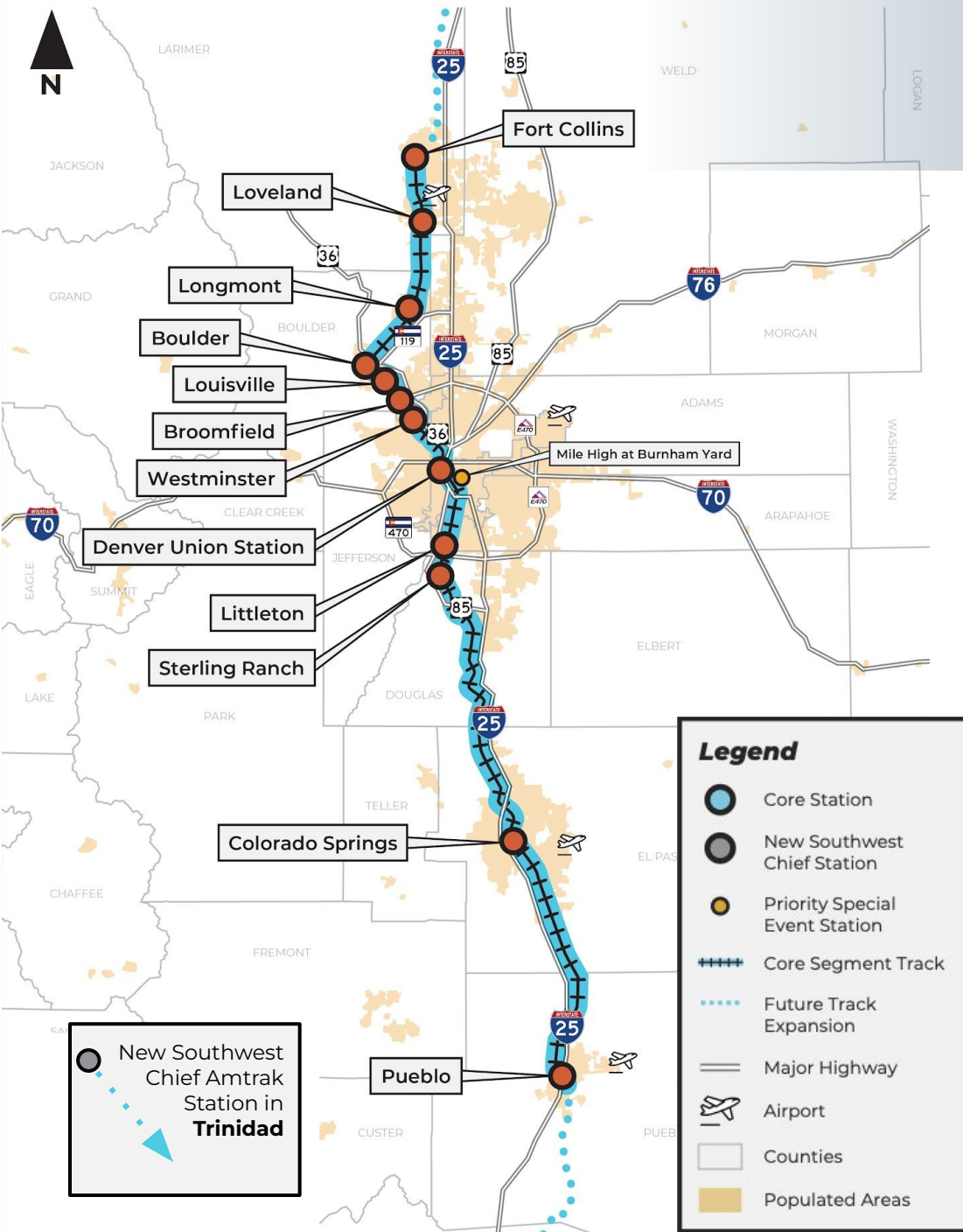


BNSF from Fort Collins to Westminster

RTD from Westminster to Denver Union Station



Full Service Overview



Full service from Fort Collins to Pueblo with additional local investment in Trinidad:

Frequency: Up to **10** round trips per day by 2045

Station Locations:

- **12** CoCo stations
- **1** new Southwest Chief station in Trinidad

Distance: **190** track miles

Top Speed: **79** miles per hour

Travel Time (approx.):

- **1h 40m** from Fort Collins to Denver
- **2h 40m** from Denver to Pueblo

Equipment: Most likely dual-mode (electric + low-emission diesel)

Host Railroads:

-  **BNSF** from Fort Collins to Westminster
- RTD** from Westminster to Denver Union Station
-  **UP / BNSF** from Denver to Pueblo

A Uniquely Colorado Approach to Delivery

Partnership with Private Industry

Direct collaboration with private freight railroads:

- ❑ Signed a term sheet with BNSF for the Fort Collins to Denver segment (April 2026)
- ❑ Initial infrastructure needs were jointly defined during the planning process with both Union Pacific (UP) and the BNSF Railway (BNSF)
- ❑ Ongoing partnership and further collaboration required to deliver future phases of the project
- ❑ Phased implementation approach strategy grounded in existing tracks



Train riders arriving at Union Station bound for Coors Field

Why CoCo: A Track Record for Rail

Across the U.S., Transit and Rail investment delivers:



An alternative to highway congestion

- New traffic-free option for residents who drive
- New access for residents unable to drive



A cleaner alternative

- Rail emits 80%+ less pollution vs. driving
- Rail is 50% more energy efficient than driving



Affordable Transportation

- Driving is not getting cheaper
- Households with options to reduce from 2 cars to 1 car save ~\$10,000 per year



Economic Multiplier Effect:

- Every \$1 of transit investment yields \$5 economic return
 - \$3 of this \$5 is local sales



Household Value:

- Homes near transit worth up to 24% more



New Jobs:

- Transit creates 50,000 jobs per \$1 billion
- Transit creates 30%+ more jobs than roads



*Discussions have commenced with **the Broncos** and host railroads to consider a special event station at their new stadium location.*

Special Event Stations

Host railroad tracks pass through key regional sports and entertainment destinations

The District is exploring partnership possibilities to serve special events

Early prioritization placed on Broncos as the largest potential venue

Future opportunities can be explored after successful launch of service

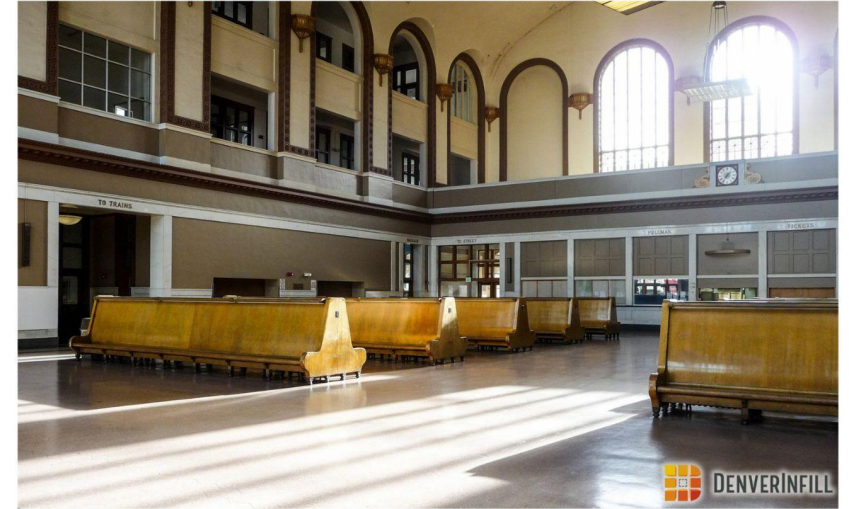
Local Return for Station Areas

Millions of Dollars Sent Annually to Municipalities

Funds for stations, local connections, sidewalks, bike access, transit and community improvements

Support local vision while strengthening downtown communities

Local communities maintain local control over station area ownership and management



Denver Union Station
Circa 2000
Pre-Redevelopment



Denver Union Station
Today

FORT COLLINS DRAFT STATION AREA



Future Stop: Cheyenne, WY →

OLD TOWN SQUARE

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

THE GARDENS ON SPRING CREEK

FEDERAL CENTER

Prospect/Shields Neighborhood

CSU Tennis Complex

Eggleton Crossing

CSU VETERINARY HEALTH CAMPUS

COLORADO CONNECTOR STATION

The Edison at University Plaza

South College Heights Neighborhood

Meadow Lark Neighborhood

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT ZONE

DRAKE MAX STATION

King Soopers

Drake and College Urban Renewal Area

MASON TRAIL

Drake Rd

College Ave

Harvard St

MAX BRT CORRIDOR

Drake and College Urban Renewal Area

US 287

Thunderbird Dr

Thunderbird Heights Neighborhood

Midtown Commons

← Next Stop: Loveland Station



Proposed Resolution of Support for FRPR

The objective of this resolution is to:

- **Endorse a narrative summary describing the proposed station area**
- **Support continued rail planning and collaboration**



Moving Forward: The Front Range Passenger Rail District is exploring a 2026 ballot question

Next steps include...

Stakeholder Engagement

Complying with statutory mandate for outreach ahead of ballot referral

Development of Operational Plans

Outlining how funding would be managed, safeguarded, and tied to clear service outcomes before any potential ballot consideration

Possible Ballot Referral

In consideration for the November 2026 ballot

Get Involved and Q&A



Email: Info@FRPRDistrict.com
Website: ColoradoConnector.com

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