



Front Range Passenger Rail Update

Fort Collins City Council Update

November 2024

FRPR FRONT RANGE
PASSENGER RAIL



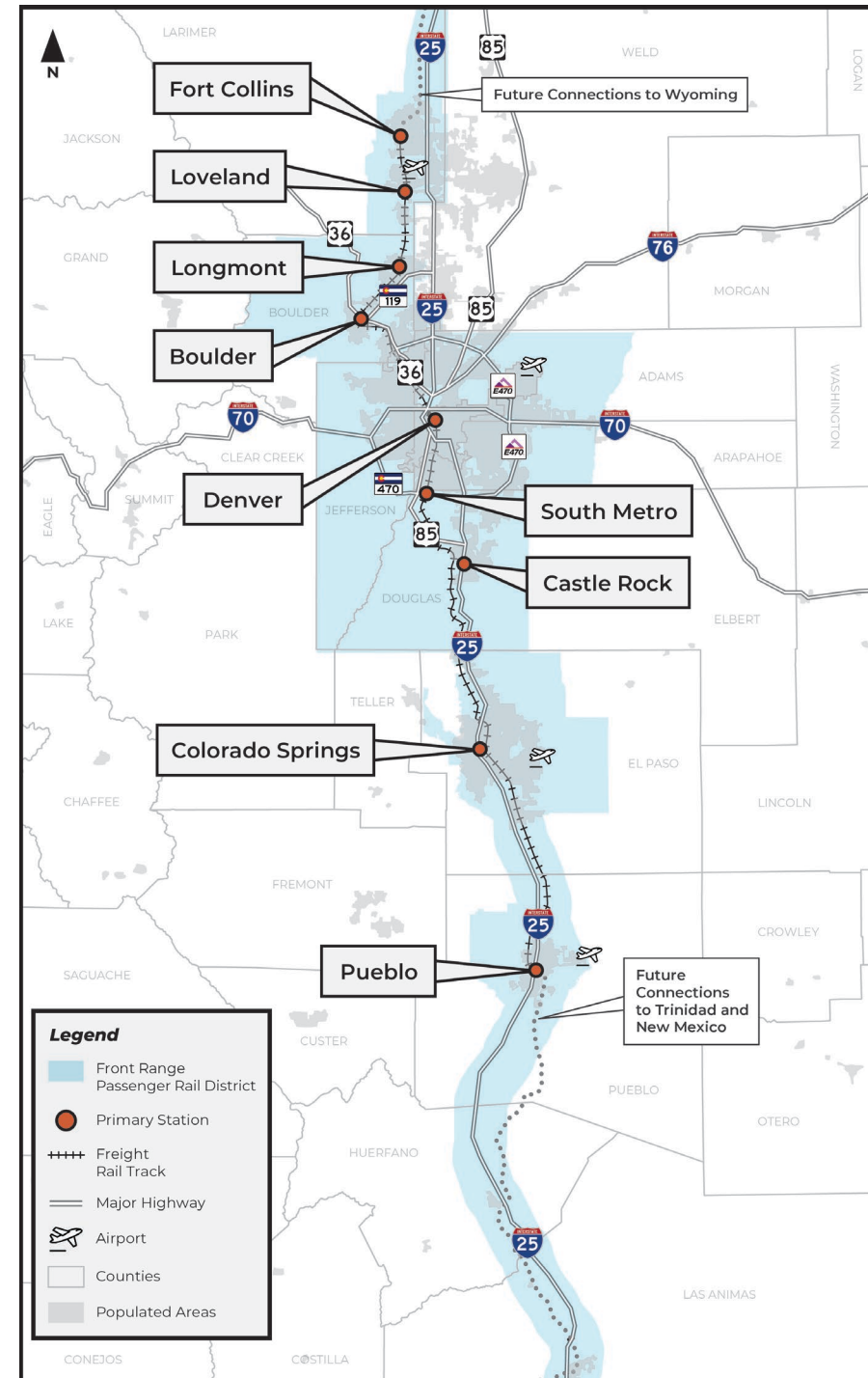
Agenda

- Front Range Passenger Rail Refresher
- Project Updates
- Legislative Developments
- Accomplishments and Two Year Lookahead

Refresher

Front Range Passenger Rail District

- District Overview
- Created by Colorado Legislature
- Largest special district in state
- Statutory direction: plan, design, finance, construct, operate, and maintain a passenger rail system along the Front Range
- 24-member board of directors, 5 staff members, initial budget of \$4M
- Partnerships with CDOT, RTD and FRA
- Empowered to refer tax measure to voters for sustainable investment needed to realize project



Project Updates



Planning and Project Development

► Federal Service Development Plan

- Complete: Route, Station Area, Ridership, Revenue Analyses
- Underway: Operations and Service Modeling with Host Railroads
- Next Steps: Capital Projects and Costs, O&M Costs, Financial and Implementation Plans
- Completion: Late 2025; sales tax election 2026

► Upcoming Public Outreach: Alternatives Analysis Report (Q4 2024)

- Public and stakeholders can sign up for updates at ridethefrontrange.com

Legislative Developments



2024 Legislative Session

HB 1012

Front Range Passenger Rail District Efficiency

- Clarify Board terms and nominating timeline for MPOs
- Quorum clarification
- More efficient elections
- Board delegation of authority
- Boundary clean-up

SB 184

Support Surface Transportation Infrastructure Development

- New project-based funding for transit and rail
- Financing opportunities support federal funding requests for early capital construction
- Advancing passenger rail service from Denver to Fort Collins

SB 230

Oil and Gas Production Fees

- Funding for expanded transit service, passenger rail and wildlife projects
- Supports operations and capital
- Connecting existing and new transit and rail services statewide



Colorado SB 24-184

- CTIO collects rental car fees for intercity bus and passenger rail services:
 - Bustang
 - Front Range Passenger Rail
 - Mountain Rail
- Revenue collection begins late '25; \$58M/year

- Collaboration between District, RTD, CDOT and CTIO to prioritize near-term rail service from Denver to Fort Collins
 - Partner working groups: governance, finance, operations
 - Linkage between FasTracks and FRPR

Accomplishments and Next Steps

Accomplishments

- ✓ Accepted into **Corridor ID Program**; one of two projects nationwide on Step 2
- ✓ **Route and station markets** adopted by Board
- ✓ **Station location criteria finalized**; local coordination started
- ✓ Extensive **outreach throughout entire corridor**
- ✓ **Demonstration train** from Boulder to Longmont; first passenger rail service since 1960s
- ✓ **Public opinion polling** shows strong support for project and charts course for communications plan
- ✓ **Preliminary financial modeling** to evaluate costs and refine sales tax ask of voters





Ballot Timing Decision (2024 v. 2026)

- District Board evaluated information from workshops, surveys, financial modeling and community input
- Focus on creating a viable transportation project before going to the voters for a sales tax approval
- Fiscal stewards of new state funding mechanisms, leverage resources by continuing to work with partners and considering opportunities to buy down the ask to the voters
- Continuing education and outreach to communities, business leaders and local governments
- Completing Service Development Plan
- Path forward: 2026 ballot measure



Two Year Lookahead

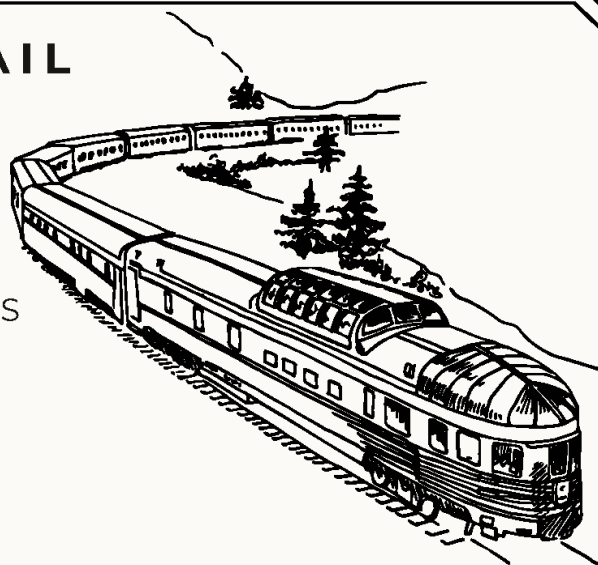
- Service Development Plan and NEPA
- SB24-184 implementation
- Initial host railroad agreements
- Economic Impact Study
- Community education, outreach, and collaboration
- 2026 Ballot Initiative

How Will You Use the Train?

FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL

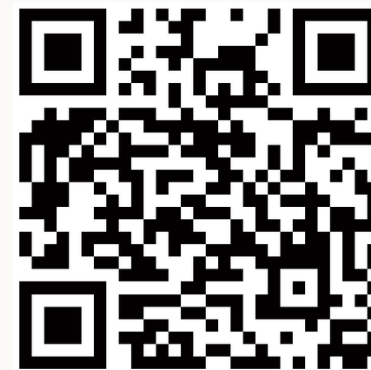
TRAIN RIDE

FORT COLLINS BOULDER CASTLE ROCK
LOVELAND DENVER COLORADO SPRINGS
LONGMONT SOUTH METRO PUEBLO



ADMIT ONE

[RideTheFrontRange.com](https://www.RideTheFrontRange.com)



**HOW WILL YOU
USE THE TRAIN?**