

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

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SUBJECT

Items Relating to the Front Range Passenger Rail Planning Study.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A. Resolution 2025-092 Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the City of Loveland for the Front Range Passenger Rail Planning Study.
- B. Resolution 2025-093, Authorizing Acceptance of an Intergovernmental Grant Agreement Between the City of Fort Collins and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for the Front Range Passenger Rail Planning Study.
- C. First 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.

The purpose of this item is to enable 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 two resolutions and ordinance will: 1) authorize the City Manager to execute an intergovernmental agreement for the planning study with the City of Loveland, 2) authorize City staff to accept an intergovernmental grant agreement from the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and 3) 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.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolutions and Ordinance on 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.

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 local match will be provided from Transportation Fund reserves. The City will invoice Loveland for its 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.

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

1. Copy of Resolution 2025-055
2. Award Letter
3. Resolution 2025-092
4. Resolution 2025-093
5. Ordinance No. 185, 2025