

# DENVER CITY COUNCIL



## Proclamation No. 26-xxxx

### Supporting the Front Range Passenger Rail District's Proposed Special Events Stations and the Development of Passenger Rail Service Along the Front Range

**WHEREAS** the Front Range Passenger Rail District (FRPR District) was established as a corporate and political subdivision of the State of Colorado to research, develop, construct, operate, and maintain an interconnected passenger rail system along the Front Range extending from Wyoming to New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS** the development of Colorado Connector (CoCo) represents a significant regional investment in multimodal transportation infrastructure designed to serve current and future generations of Coloradans; and

**WHEREAS** CoCo is intended to connect residents and visitors to employment centers, housing opportunities, colleges and universities, medical facilities, and entertainment destinations throughout the Front Range; and

**WHEREAS** Colorado's Front Range population is projected to approach eight million residents in the coming decades, increasing demand on existing transportation systems and exacerbating congestion along Interstate 25, one of the state's most heavily traveled and consistently congested corridors; and

**WHEREAS** passenger rail offers a reliable, efficient, and sustainable transportation alternative that can reduce vehicle miles traveled, alleviate roadway congestion, and contribute to improved air quality and environmental outcomes; and

**WHEREAS** the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the FRPR District, and the Class I freight railroads spent the last four years extensively studying the operational feasibility of utilizing existing rail infrastructure, enabling near-term passenger service while maximizing the use of existing assets; and

**WHEREAS** pending voter approval, initial passenger rail service that is anticipated to begin as early as 2029 will expand frequencies and coverage, providing a timely response to growing transportation needs; and

**WHEREAS** the FRPR District has conducted public outreach through town hall meetings, City Council presentations, and social media engagement, providing community with meaningful opportunities to ask questions, offer input, and engage with FRPR District board members and staff; and

**WHEREAS** Denver Union Station will serve as the hub of the future CoCo rail network and is expected to benefit from the highest volume of total boardings on the system; and

**WHEREAS** the inclusion of two special event CoCo stations in Denver, conditional on final approval from the Class 1 host railroad partners, has the potential to enhance transportation options, increase community vibrancy, support economic development, advance the creation of transit-oriented development, and generate increased activity in the hospitality, retail, and service sectors; and

**WHEREAS** the FRPR District has committed to provide annual payments to the City and County of Denver after a ballot measure passes for a period of 25 years through the FRPR District Local Return Program to support the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of passenger rail station facilities and station-area improvements, including multimodal access, first- and last-mile connectivity, transit connections, transit-oriented development activities, and other investments that enhance access, connectivity, and functionality associated with the CoCo station areas in Denver.

### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:**

**Section 1.** That the Denver City Council recognizes that the Front Range Passenger Rail District goals align with Denver's Comprehensive 2040 Plan, Blueprint Denver and other local priorities.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Front Range Passenger Rail District.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL DATE

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PRESIDENT

