



# Front Range Passenger Rail Update

Denver City Council - LUTI

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February 6, 2024

**FRPR** FRONT RANGE  
PASSENGER RAIL

# What is Front Range Passenger Rail?

- ▶ **New intercity train service.**
- ▶ **Initial service:** Pueblo through Denver and north to Fort Collins, with stops along the way.
- ▶ **Long-term vision:** connecting to New Mexico and Wyoming.
- ▶ **Using existing tracks** shared with freight railroads to minimize costs and accelerate the service start date.



# Primary Stations



Amtrak Medium Station  
Prototype: Pennsylvania  
(Bernardon Architects)

# Commuter Rail

Connects suburbs to an urban core in one metropolitan area



# Intercity Rail

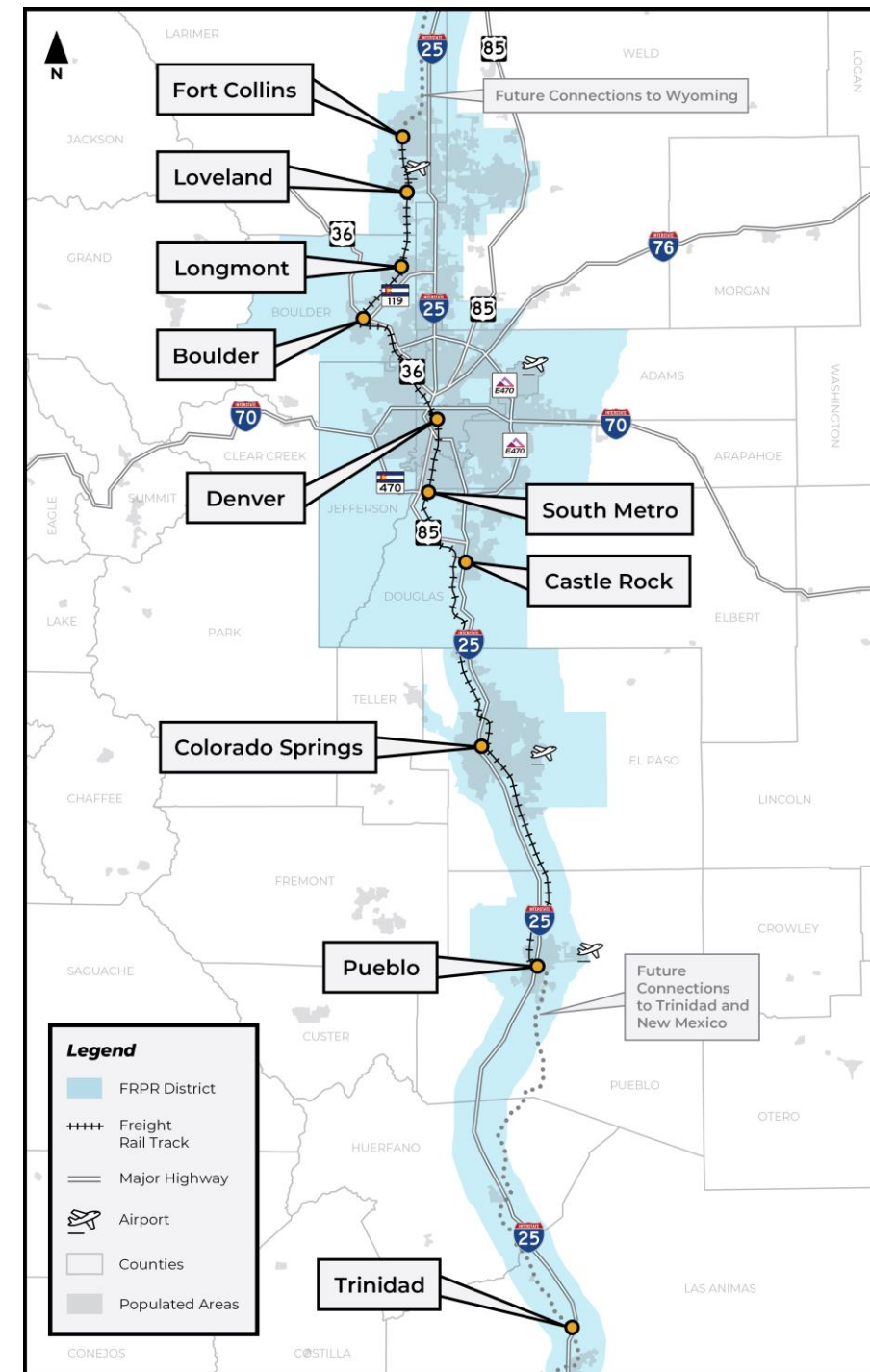
Connects cities across the state



|                             |                         |                                       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>2-4 Miles</b>            | <b>STATION DISTANCE</b> | <b>20-30+ Miles</b>                   |
| <b>35-45 Miles Per Hour</b> | <b>AVERAGE SPEED</b>    | <b>65-90 Miles Per Hour</b>           |
| <b>20-75 Miles</b>          | <b>SERVICE LENGTH</b>   | <b>50-300+ Miles / &lt; 750 Miles</b> |

# What is the FRPR District?

- Established in 2021 through SB 21-238.
- Largest special district in Colorado.
- Purpose: design, finance, construct, operate, and maintain a passenger rail system along the Front Range.
- Following voter approval, can levy taxes to fund the rail system.
- Working with local communities to support station development.



# District Board of Directors

## MPO/TPR

### Representatives (10)

- Denver Regional Council of Governments
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Council
- Pueblo Area Council of Governments
- South Central Council of Governments

## Governor Appointments (6)

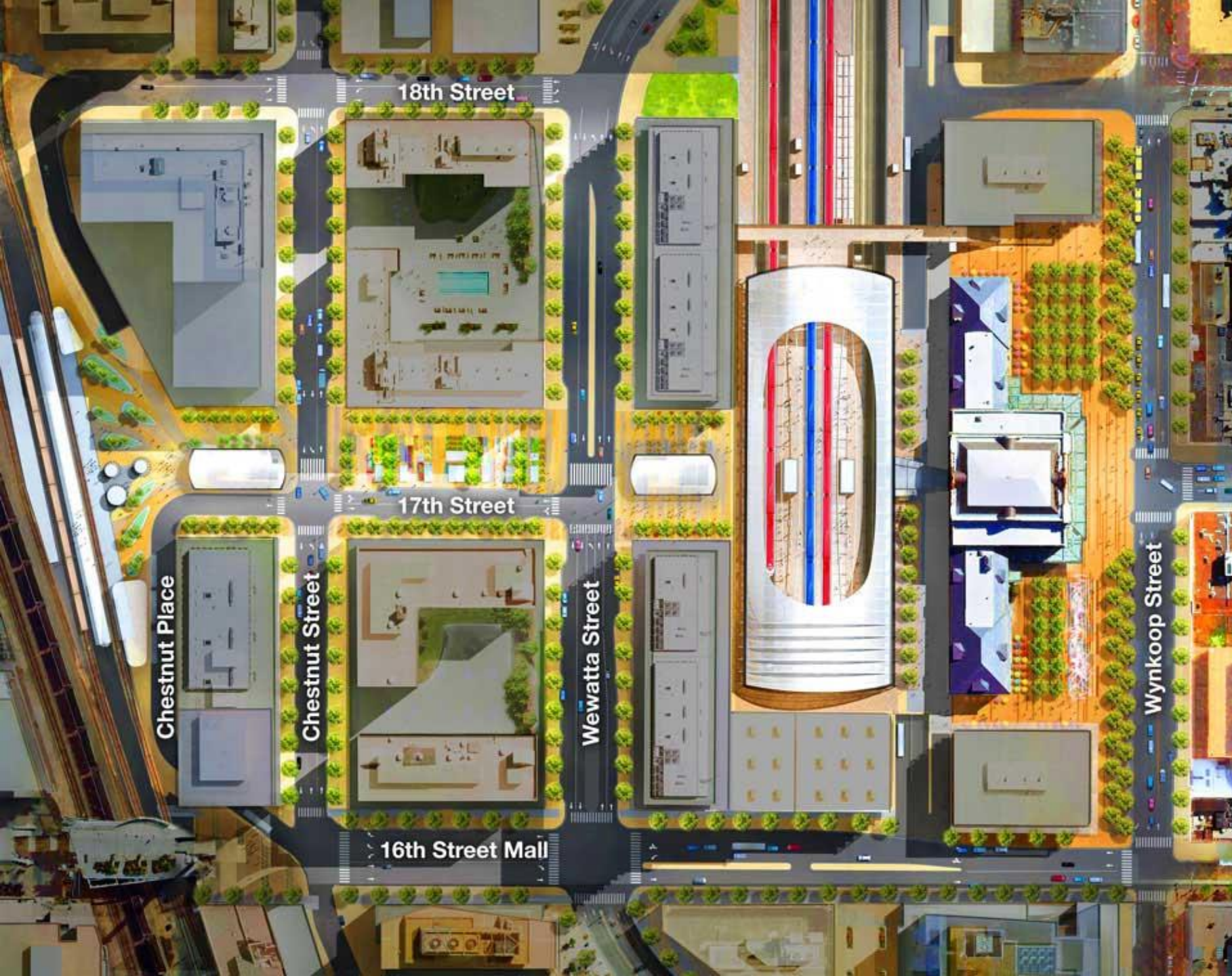
### CDOT (1)

### Non-Voting (7)

- BNSF Railway
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Amtrak
- RTD
- I-70 Mountain Corridor Coalition
- State of New Mexico
- State of Wyoming



**Where We Are Today**



# Denver Union Station



# Service Development Plan



**Began Late 2022 and  
Concludes Late 2024**



**Pueblo to Fort Collins**



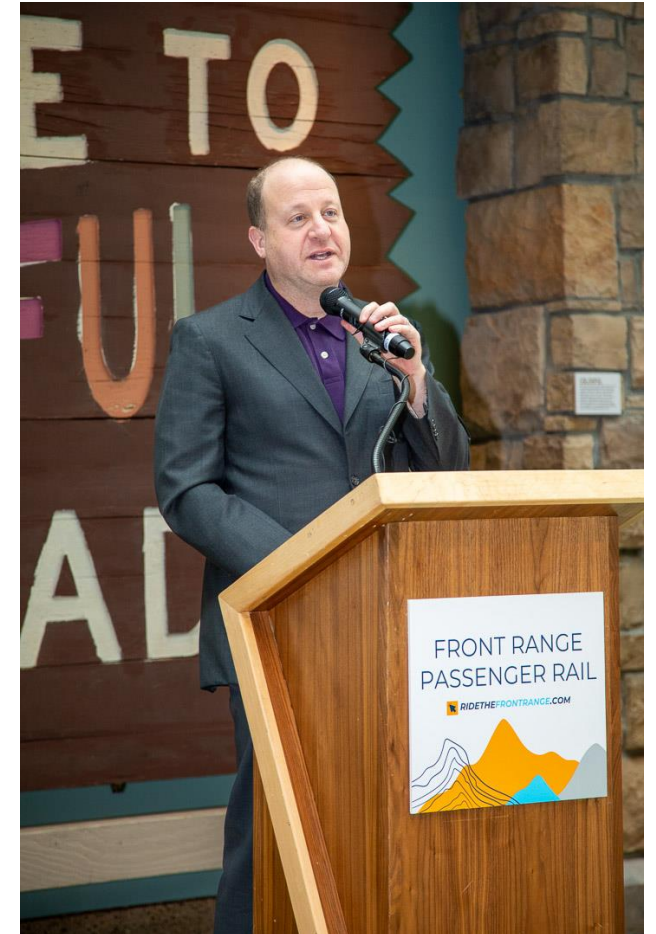
**Implementation Plan  
for Initial FRPR Service**

## **The SDP process defines:**

- Route
- Major Markets for Stations
- Service Frequency
- Onboard Amenities
- Fare Structure
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Costs and Financing Plan
- Implementation Plan

# Corridor Identification and Development Program

- ▶ Comprehensive intercity passenger rail planning program established through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
  - ▶ Creates a pipeline of projects ready for implementation.
- ▶ Accepted into Program in Fall 2023.
  - ▶ District receives initial \$500,000 and is eligible for millions of \$ in grant funding with 90/10 federal/local match.



Governor Polis speaking at CIDP Acceptance Event – Dec. 2023

# Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity

- ▶ Foundation of 15 years of advocacy and planning.
- ▶ District established.
- ▶ Strong state support.
- ▶ New passenger rail programs and funding established through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



**FRPR**  
FRONT RANGE  
PASSENGER  
RAIL





# How We Get There

# Partnerships and Local Coordination



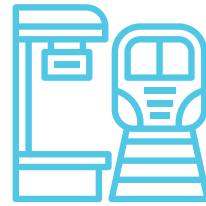
## Financial Support

- ▶ Taxpayers
- ▶ Local governments
- ▶ State legislature
- ▶ Governor's office
- ▶ Colorado DC delegation
- ▶ USDOT and FRA



## Generating Public Support for Ballot Measure

- ▶ Chambers of commerce
- ▶ Environmental, Accessibility, Active Transportation, and Equity Orgs
- ▶ Local governments
- ▶ State legislature
- ▶ Governor's office



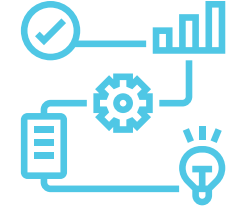
## Station Planning and Station Improvement Districts

- ▶ Local governments
- ▶ Downtown business organizations
- ▶ Landowners
- ▶ Developers



## Multimodal Connectivity

- ▶ Local governments
- ▶ MPOs/COGs
- ▶ CDOT
- ▶ Transit agencies



## Planning, Design, Engineering, Implementation

- ▶ Freight railroads
- ▶ FRA
- ▶ CDOT
- ▶ RTD

# 2024 FRPR District Priorities

- **Robust financial modeling** to develop a funding/financing plan to implement and the project and operate service.
- **Collaboration with core group of stakeholders** to inform a decision around ballot language and timing.
- **Advancing station planning in primary markets.**
- **Implementing coordinated communications** efforts to build a brand and identity, educate the public, and solicit input regarding FRPR.
- **Building coalitions** of support for passenger rail/FRPRD throughout the state.
- **Engaging the State Legislature** around a FRPR District Administrative Clean-Up bill and rail/transportation policy discussions.
- Pursuing **federal funding** opportunities.

# Stay in Touch

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