

FREX Facts

History

The Front Range Express (FREX) is an interregional weekday commuter bus service along the I-25 corridor between Colorado Springs and Denver. FREX began in 2004 as a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) demonstration project with start-up grant funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). CMAQ funds allowed for 80% of the cost to purchase used buses for the project and 80% operating funds. At the end of the demonstration project in 2007, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) provided \$6.3 million in funding to purchase 19 new buses, and the service was continued.

In 2008, the City of Colorado Springs entered into the current Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Castle Rock, El Paso County and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to continue FREX. During 2008 and 2009, operating funds were provided by the City (PPRTA), Castle Rock, Douglas County, and the Town of Monument.

In 2010, the Town of Castle Rock opted out of FREX and significant budget cuts resulted in the City discontinuing the use of PPRTA funding for the service. A reduced amount of service in 2010 was funded through the sale of nine of the nineteen FREX buses in the fleet. CDOT owned 80% of the value of the buses sold. In 2011, \$220,000 in CDOT's remaining bus sale proceeds funded operations of FREX, along with \$2,000 from the Town of Monument and \$733,300 in PPRTA funds.

The 2012 net cost to operate FREX is \$1,078,000. Of that amount, \$798,000 (74%) is PPRTA funding and \$280,000 (26%) is CDOT FASTER funding.

The current contract with the FREX service provider will expire October 11, 2012. Under this agreement, the FREX service may be discontinued at the end of August 2012.

FREX Annual Cost & Funding Sources

- 2012 Total Operating Cost: \$2,010,000
- Funding Sources
 - City (PPRTA funding): \$798,000
 - CDOT (FASTER): \$280,000
 - Rider Fares: \$854,000
 - Advertising: \$ 6,000
 - Carryover: \$ 72,000

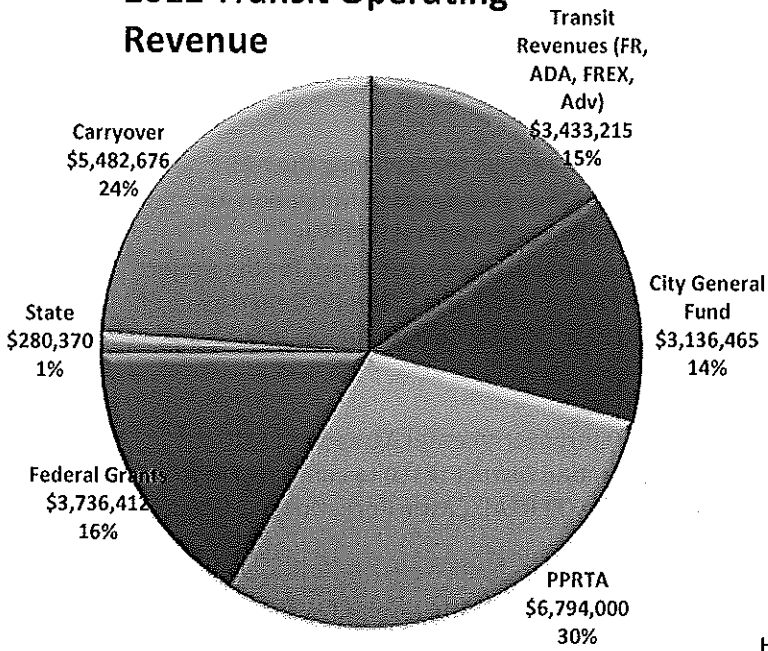
Ridership

- On average there are 400 one-way trips/day
- Average riders/bus (both directions on and off peak): 12 riders
- Average riders on a bus at peak times: 22.5 riders

Mountain Metro Transit Farebox Return Ratios

	<u>Direct Cost</u>	<u>Direct & Indirect Cost</u>
• Local fixed-route bus:	29%	25%
• FREX:	45%	39%
• ADA Paratransit:	13%	11%

2012 Transit Operating Revenue



Transit Projected 2012 Expenditures

