



Multimodal Freight Plan and State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan Development



Transit and Rail Advisory Committee



April 14, 2017



Agenda

- ▶ Rail Plan Vision and Goals
- ▶ Outreach and Engagement Results
- ▶ Identified Issues and Needs
- ▶ Next Steps



Vision and Goals



2017 Rail Plan Vision

Colorado's rail systems are a critical component of our multimodal transportation system that enhance mobility and advance economic vitality for all Coloradans.



Revising Rail Plan Goals

► Guiding Principles:

- Align rail goals with Statewide Transportation Plan and Multimodal Freight Plan
- Link goals to revised rail vision
- Simplify rail plan goal statements
- Strengthen strategies and recommendations to cover additional detail and topics



Proposed 2017 Rail Plan Goals

- ▶ Ensure that Colorado's rail systems are **SAFE** and **SECURE**
- ▶ **EXPAND** and **IMPROVE** Colorado's rail systems for passengers and freight
- ▶ Provide users and travelers with greater **MOBILITY** and **CONNECTIVITY** options
- ▶ **PRESERVE** and **MAINTAIN** critical corridors and infrastructure to support Colorado's rail systems
- ▶ Advance **ECONOMIC VITALITY** and **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** of Colorado's communities and regions



Outreach and Engagement



Reaching Economic Development Stakeholders

- ▶ **CDOT jointly sponsored a web-survey with the Economic Development Council of Colorado and the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade**
 - **Purpose** – engage key economic stakeholders and organizations in freight and rail planning
 - **Respondents** – regional and local economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, private businesses, elected officials, regional and local government
 - **Response** – over 300 responses in spring of 2017 from all regions of the state and a wide variety of stakeholders

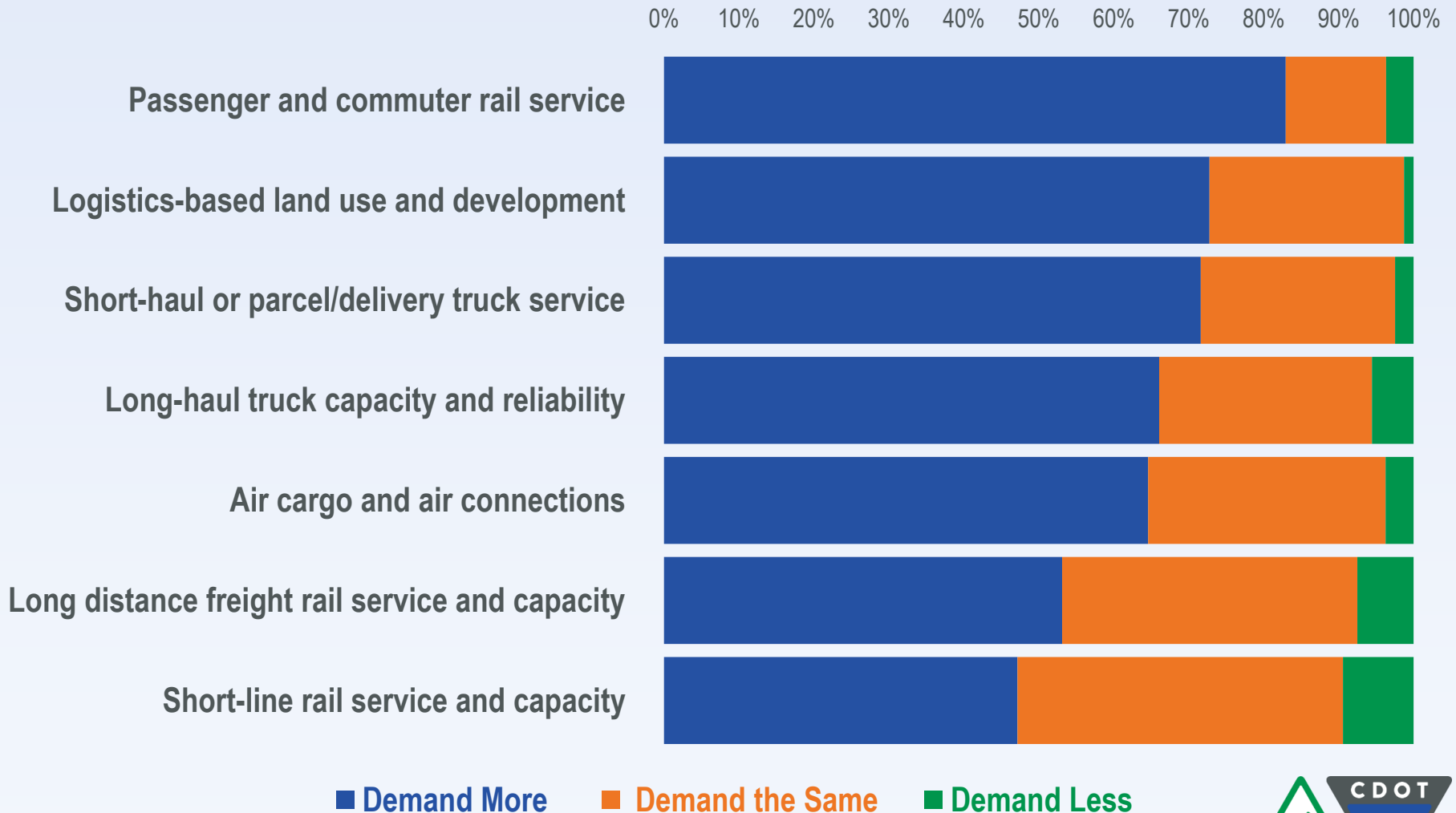


What key factors do you believe most impact business location, expansion, and investment decisions within in your region?

<i>Percent of responses indicating "Very Important" and "Important"</i>	Colorado Survey	National CEO Survey	More or Less Important in Colorado?
Railroad service	46.2%	32.4%	+ 13.8%
Broadband availability	91.5%	79.8%	+ 11.7%
Accessibility to airport	69.8%	58.6%	+ 11.2%
Proximity to suppliers	69.0%	64.3%	+ 4.7%
Energy costs	76.6%	75.3%	+ 1.3%
Public-private financing	68.6%	67.7%	+ 0.9%
Regulations	70.4%	69.8%	+ 0.6%
Availability of appropriate labor supply	93.0%	92.9%	+ 0.1%
State and local incentives	75.3%	75.8%	-0.5%
Highway accessibility	85.9%	88.0%	- 2.1%
Proximity to major markets	73.7%	76.3%	- 2.6%
Available land and buildings	80.2%	83.7%	- 3.5%
Inbound/outbound shipping costs	56.8%	64.6%	- 7.8%
Expedited or fast-track permitting	64.8%	74.2%	- 9.4%
Corporate tax rate	57.8%	78.8%	- 21.0%



Over the next 20 years, do you think businesses and communities will demand more from Colorado's freight and rail infrastructure, demand less, or about the same?



What key transportation and infrastructure opportunities should Colorado focus on in the future?

1. Expanding intermodal connectivity and capacity
2. Intra-state and regional transportation connections
3. Expanding broadband access and availability
4. Relieving road and rail freight bottlenecks
5. Developing passenger rail service
6. Strengthening freight/rail and economic development connections
7. Increasing public and private funding available for freight/rail investments
8. Creating partnerships with freight and rail industry partners
9. Adopting freight/rail, logistics, and vehicle technologies
10. Improving safety for commercial vehicles
11. Improving safety of rail crossings
12. Enabling public-private financing



Survey Response Highlights

Nationwide and Charles Schwab located in region due to availability of rail transit. Other businesses tell us the proximity of light rail figured significantly in their location decisions.

Although shared UP/BNSF tracks run through the Grand Valley, lack of access to rail is a common complaint.

Locating near light rail stations is highly desirable, and has been mentioned by many businesses from Blue Spruce Brewery to IQ Navigator an IT firm.

Smuckers chose not to locate in the Colorado Springs region because we don't have a rail-served industrial park. They are one out of approximately 15 we've tracked in recent years.

With our slowed economy, we are facing fewer rail transfers to our area and fear losing the rail service altogether.

We've lost business and jobs due to rail freight cost. Agricultural and perlite are just a couple of examples.

Vestas, Evraz, Rocla, and a dozen other businesses are in Pueblo specifically because of rail. We're vying for renewable energy manufacturing companies, but are disadvantaged due to no rail mass transit to DIA.

Roughly a third of the prospects we've spoken with have asked about rail access, which is difficult (and very expensive) to get, despite two rail lines converging here.

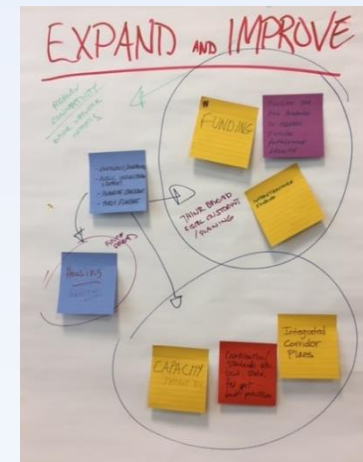
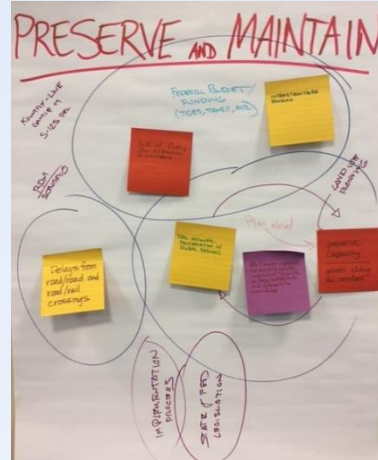
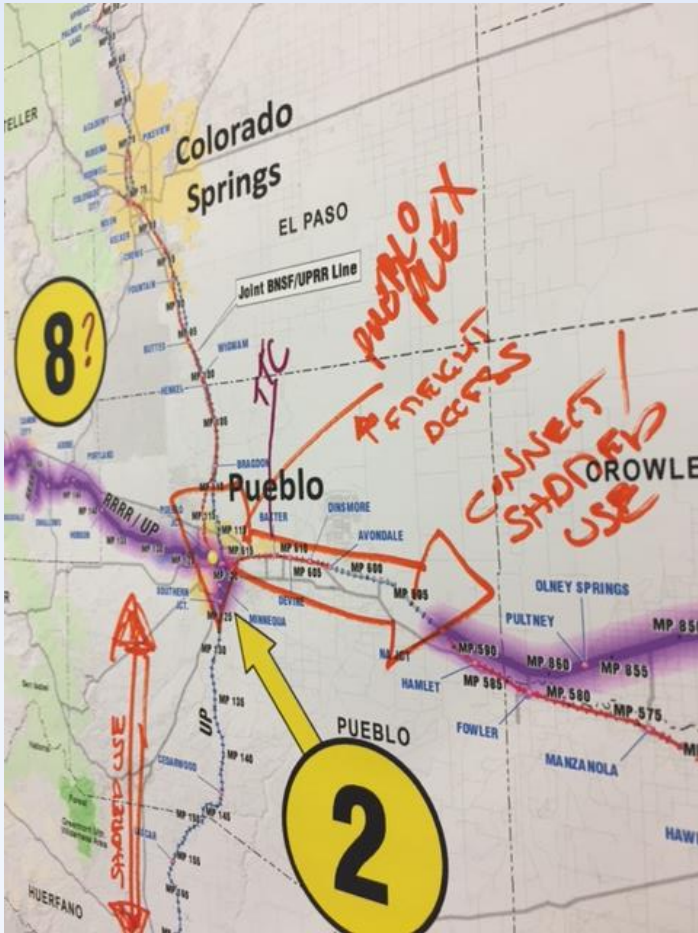
We are long overdue for an I-70 rail system between Denver and Grand Junction. Better rail would serve the Western Slope in countless ways.



Issues and Needs



Working Group Issues Identification



Identified Issues and Needs

► Cross-cutting issues

- Funding
- Coordination
- Joint and future planning
- Public education and support



Identified Issues and Needs (Cont.)

Safety and Security

- Land Use, Development, and Zoning
- At-Grade Crossings
- Trespassing and Theft
- Safety Mitigation (PTC, HazMat)
- Common Carrier Obligations

Expansion and Improvement

- Future Corridors and Planning
- Rail Served Developable Land/Zones
- Local, State, and Federal Coordination
- Capacity / Physical Constraints (condition, speed, weight, physical, etc.)
- Policy, Partners, and Education

Mobility and Connectivity

- Passenger Multimodal Connectivity
- Transit Oriented Development
- Shared Use / Interoperability
- Freight Intermodal Connectivity
- Access to Rail Served Facilities

Maintenance and Preservation

- Preserve Future Capacity Potential
- Funding Limitations
- Federal Budget Priorities
- Abandonment and Alternative Uses (corridors, lines, facilities, etc.)
- Encroachment and Land use

Economic Vitality and Environmental Quality

- Economic Competitiveness
- Future Population Growth
- Industry/Export Specific Needs
- Tourism and Scenic Railroads
- Land Use Compatibility and Access
- Community Impacts
- Environmental (emissions, contamination)
- Quality of Life (noise, vibration)



Identified Issues and Needs (Cont.)

	Safety and Security	Expansion and Improvement	Mobility and Connectivity	Maintenance and Preservation	Economic Vitality and Environmental Quality
Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coordination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint / future planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land use and development		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Regional connectivity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Capacity and physical constraints		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rail access		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Preserve future capacity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Intermodal connectivity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Shared use / interoperability		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Security	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				



Next Steps



Next Steps

▶ Data

- Compilation & analyses

▶ Discussions

- Stakeholder interviews
- Rail stakeholder survey
- Working Group opportunities workshop

▶ Development

- Refine and prioritize issues and opportunities
- Proceed with draft plan by September 2017



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