

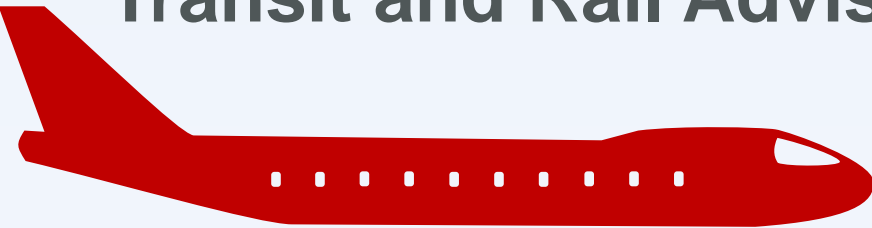


State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

Update



Transit and Rail Advisory Committee



July 14, 2017

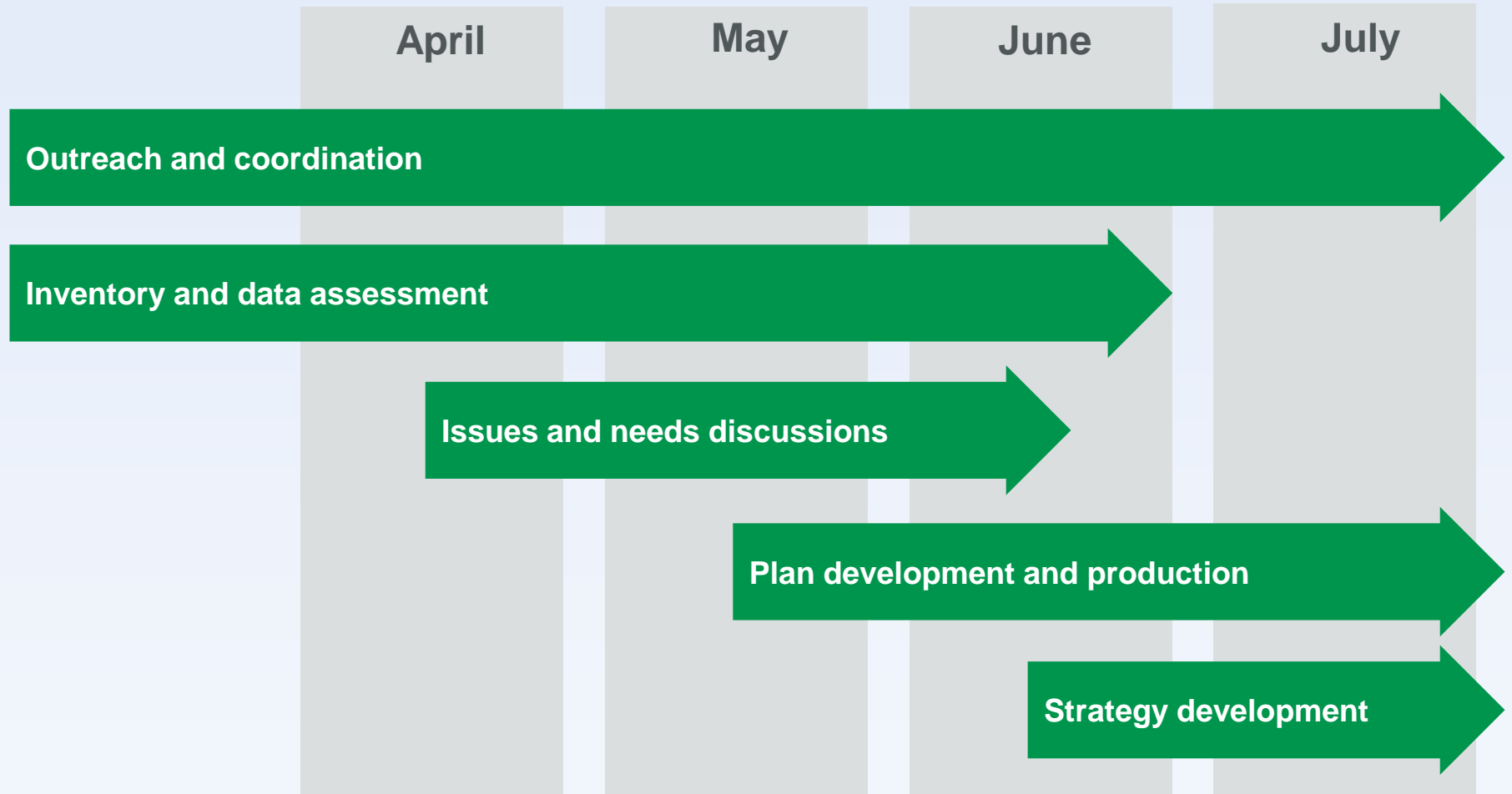


Agenda

- ▶ Rail Plan Progress
- ▶ Outreach and Engagement Results
- ▶ Strategy Development Process
- ▶ Next Steps and Timeline



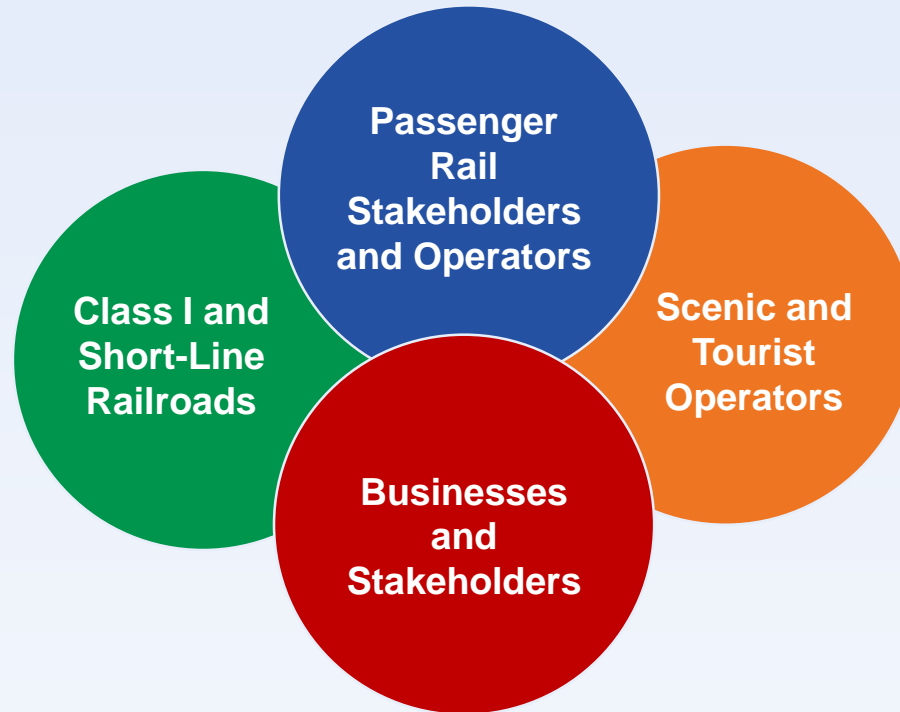
Rail Plan Development



Stakeholder Interviews

- ✓ RTD
- ✓ Amtrak

- ✓ BNSF
- ✓ UP
- ✓ Cimarron Valley
- ✓ Colorado & Wyoming
- ✓ Denver Rock Island
- ✓ Great Western
- ✓ Kansas & Oklahoma
- ✓ KYLE
- ✓ Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado
- ✓ Rock & Rail
- ✓ San Luis Central
- ✓ Iowa Pacific/San Luis Rio Grande
- ✓ UTAH
- ✓ Victoria & Southern



- ✓ Cañon City & Royal Gorge
- ✓ Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge
- ✓ Cumbres & Toltec Scenic
- ✓ Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge
- ✓ Georgetown Loop
- ✓ Leadville, Colorado & Southern
- ✓ Manitou & Pike Peak
- ✓ San Luis & Rio Grande

- ✓ Miller/Coors
- ✓ Vestas
- ✓ Adams County EDC
- ✓ Upstate Colorado EDO
- ✓ Colorado Farm Bureau
- ✓ Colorado Dept. of Agriculture
- ✓ Colorado Mining Assoc.
- ✓ Colorado Tourism Office



Stakeholder Surveys

Purpose - engage key stakeholders, business, and travelling public in plan development and issues identification

Audience – regional and local economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, private businesses, elected officials, and regional and local governments

Response – over 400 survey responses in spring of 2017 from all regions of the state and a wide variety of stakeholders

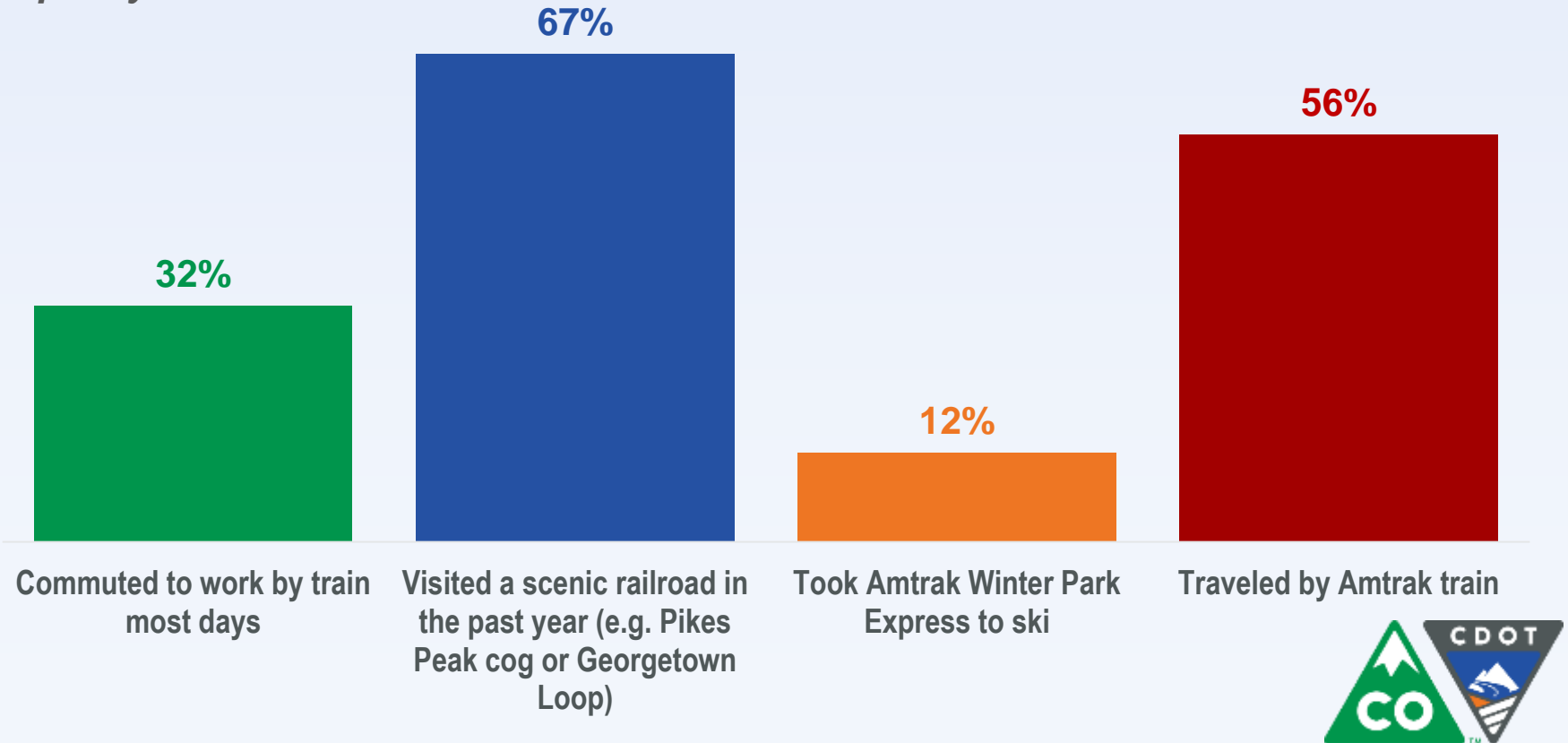
Results – survey and interview responses will be integrated into each plan and directly inform priorities and recommendations



Public Survey - Utilization

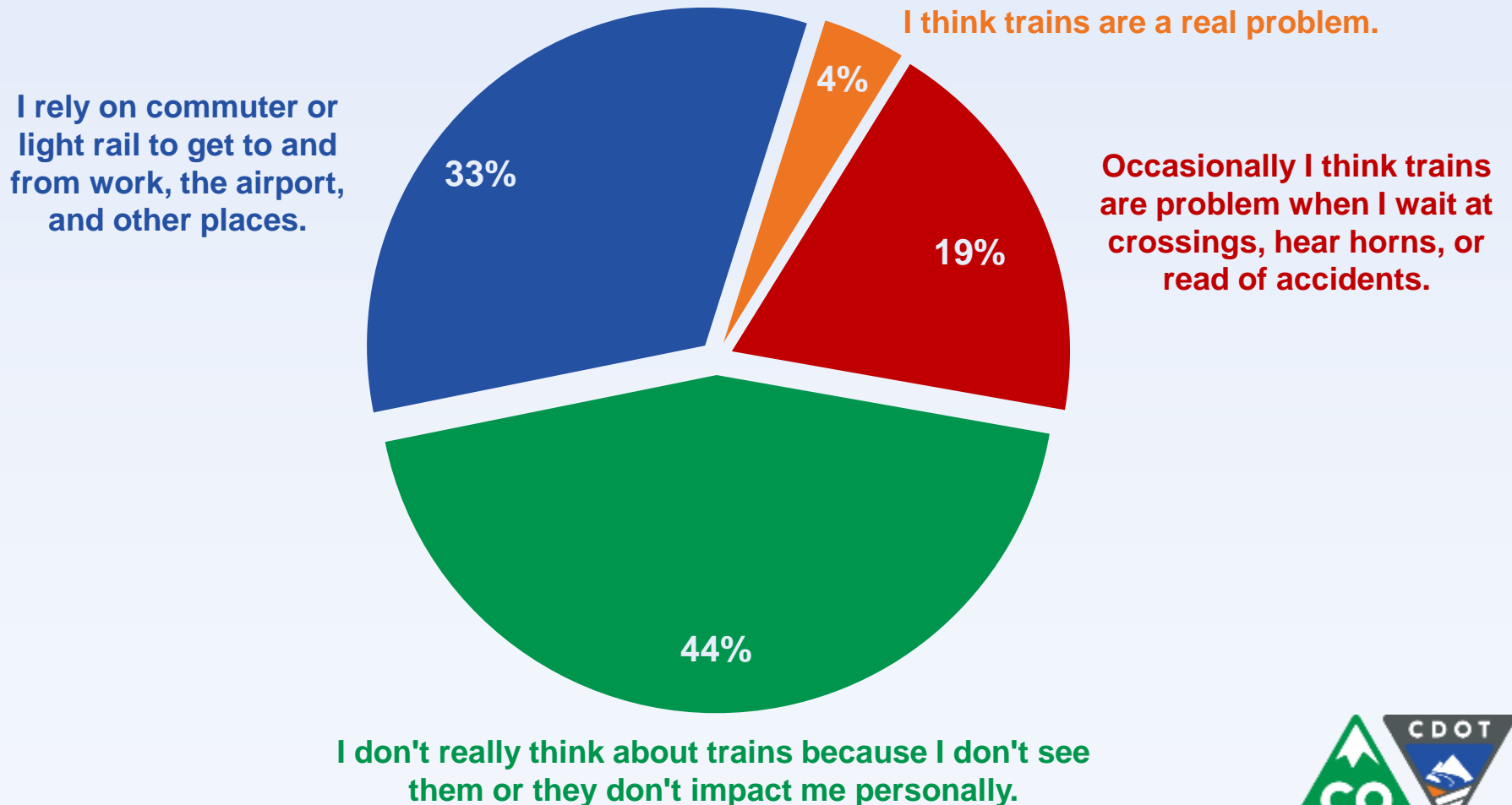
Q. In the past year, have you ridden a passenger train in Colorado? Select all that apply.

Out of 247 responses from Colorado residents, nearly 40% have ridden a train in the past year.



Public Survey - Perceptions

Q. What do you think about trains in Colorado? Select the option that best applies to you.



Strategy Prioritization Process

Comprehensive Strategy Listing

Evaluation of strategies from prior plans + new ideas from stakeholder outreach + best practices from other state plans. Initial consultant recommendations for prioritization and evaluation.

Strategy Evaluation and Tiering

Internal working session to evaluate strategies. Criteria established (CDOT role, lead time, stakeholder support, barriers) to sort strategies into – Tier 1, 2, or 3 for further refinement.

MFP Working Group

Vetting of process and tiered strategies.
Discussion and identification of top priorities.

SFPRP Working Group

Vetting of process and tiered strategies.
Discussion and identification of top priorities.

MFP

Short-list of priority strategies for implementation.

JPAC

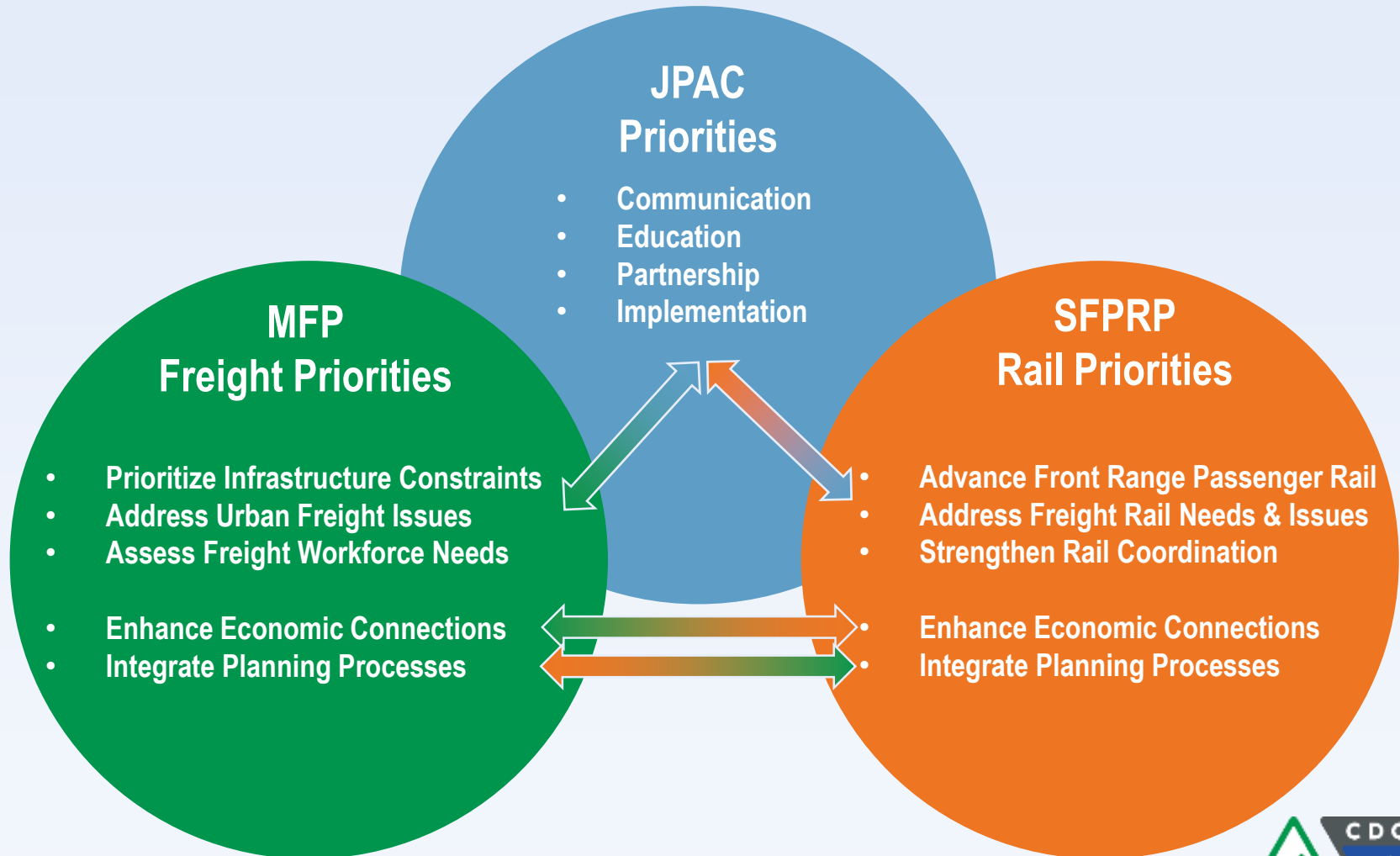
Cross-cutting, high-level strategies to support both plans.

SFPRP

Short-list of priority strategies for implementation.



Priority Strategies



Rail Priority Strategies

Advance Front Range Passenger Rail

Lead / Support Role



Partners



Barriers/Constraints



Resources/Funding



Key Actions

- Support the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission
- Integrate findings of prior rail studies to identify future rail corridors
- Evaluate future capacity considerations and constraints on corridors
- Develop and update priority list of study, mobility, connectivity, and accessibility improvements

Address Freight Rail Needs & Issues

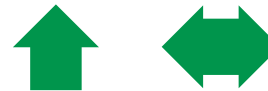
Lead / Support Role



Partners



Barriers/Constraints



Resources/Funding



Key Actions

- Develop inventory of short-line rail service and capacity constraints
- Design and implement Short Line Assistance Program (e.g. loan fund, grants, incentives, etc.)
- Expand SB37 Abandonment process to track additional infrastructure and assets

Rail Priority Strategies

Strengthen Rail Coordination

Lead / Support Role



Partners



Barriers/Constraints



Resources/Funding



Key Actions

- Establish a regular and recurring consultation process between CDOT and rail partners
- Identify annual coordination opportunities
- Identify potential projects that address infrastructure capacity and mobility constraints
- Coordinate with PUC, railroads, and local planning partners to fund rail crossing improvements
- Monitor Quiet Zones and local concerns
- Provide technical assistance and support to ensure appropriate implementation of PTC



Rail Priority Strategies

Enhance Economic Connections

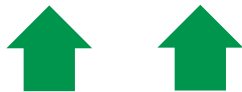
Lead / Support Role



Partners



Barriers/Constraints



Resources/Funding



Key Actions

- Develop ongoing coordination processes and communication channels with state, regional, and local economic development agencies
- Work with state and regional economic and education partners to evaluate freight workforce needs
- Quantify regional trade and commodity flows and apply findings to customize transportation plans and strategic projects
- Develop a statewide export and manufacturing transportation strategy

Integrate Planning Processes

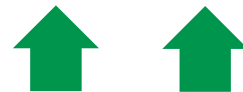
Lead / Support Role



Partners



Barriers/Constraints



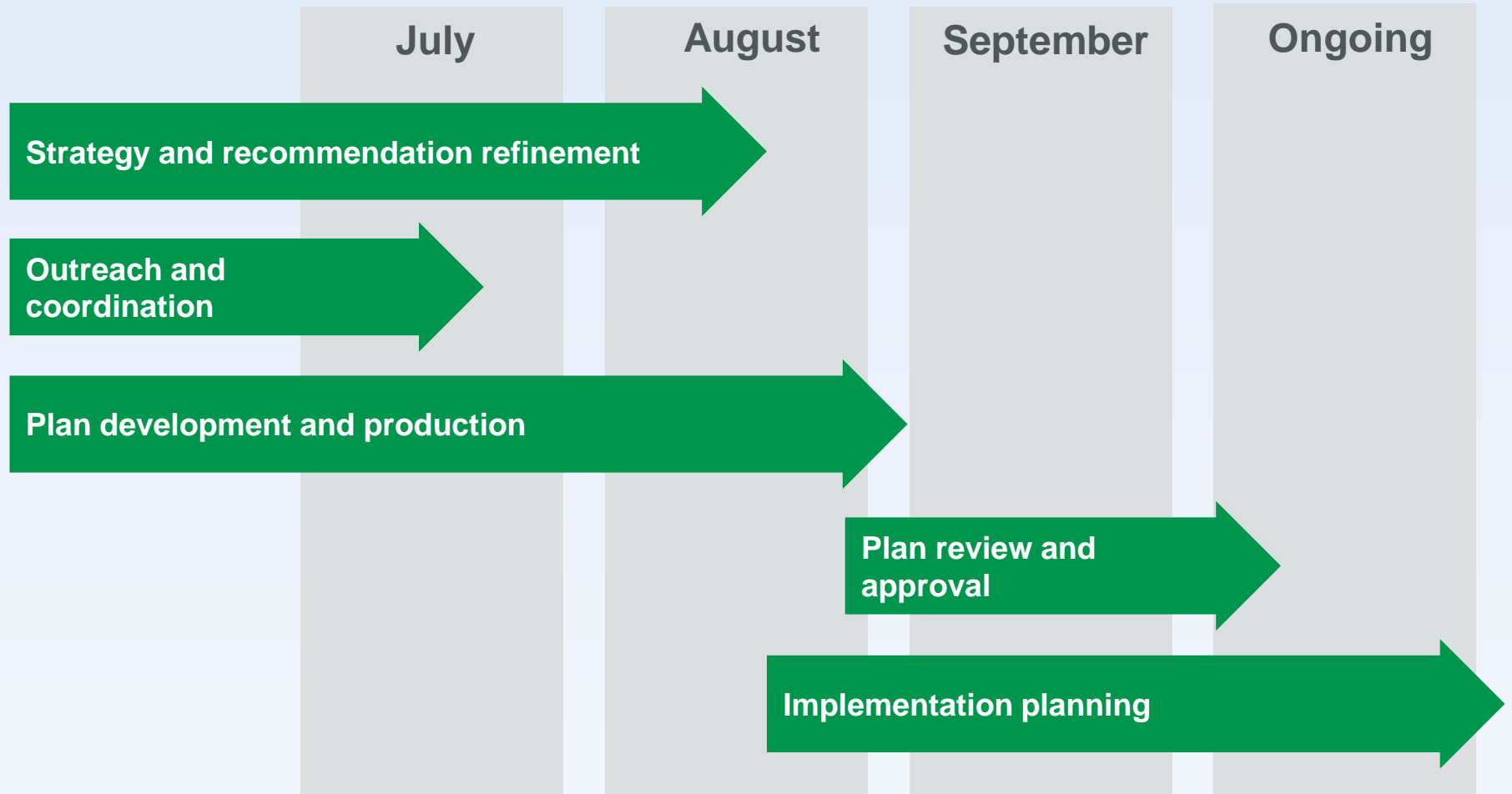
Resources/Funding



Key Actions

- Create process to educate and inform local planning partners on outcomes of rail studies
- Develop information or guidelines to better integrate local decision-making with statewide rail priorities
- Develop program or process to educate and inform regional planning partners on freight needs and issues
- Consider guidelines or policies that effectively integrate rail issues into CDOT planning and project development processes

Next Steps



State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

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