



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Division of Transit & Rail

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DATE: March 9, 2018
TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee
FROM: David Krutsinger, Director - Division of Transit & Rail
SUBJECT: 2018 State Freight & Passenger Rail Plan

Purpose

Update the TRAC on the progress of this FRA-required planning document, and approval step.

Action

Information only in March, approval by Transportation Commission in May.

Background

At the January meetings, the Division of Transit & Rail (DTR) notified the TRAC and T&I Committee that the State Freight & Passenger Rail Plan (SFPRP) would likely be back for adoption or approval at the March 2018 meetings. At that time, the FRA review and comments were still pending. FRA has requested additional edits.

Details

Prior rail plans have been approved with wider latitude on plan organization. States such as Kansas, Minnesota, and New Mexico have recently varied from the Passenger Rail Investment & Improvement Act (PRIIA) guidance. The guidance was originally created following the PRIIA legislation of 2008, which guidance has been updated several times since.

After review of Colorado's draft, provided to T&I in January, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has requested significant changes to the organization and structure to more closely align with PRIIA guidance. The guidance has a very specific outline for chapter sequencing, heading names, and specific content within that structure. CDOT's edits to the structure of the plan are in-process. The FRA has encouraged CDOT to provide a more complete description of the 4-year and 20-year Rail Service & Investment Program (RSIP). The Rail Plan Working Group and TRAC will be asked to provide input on the revised RSIP before the document is brought back to the Transportation Commission for adoption or approval.

Benefits

The SFPRP makes Colorado and CDOT eligible to apply for a variety of Federal Railroad Administration, and competitive funding program grants such as TIGER, INFRA, and others. Funds may be used for freight or passenger rail projects.

Next Steps

The State Freight & Passenger Rail Plan will proceed through the following next steps: (1) March 9th TRAC, (2) March 27th STAC, (3) April 18th TC Workshop on both the Colorado Freight Plan, and the State Freight & Passenger Rail Plan, and (4) May 11th TRAC. At the May 17th Transportation Commission meeting staff will request adoption or approval of both the Colorado Freight Plan (CFP) and SFPRP documents

Attachments: Presentation

