



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Division of Transit & Rail

2829 W. Howard Place, 4th Floor
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DATE: May 10, 2019

TO: Transit and Rail Advisory Committee (TRAC)

FROM: Randy Grauberger, Project Director, SW Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission

SUBJECT: Update from the Southwest Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission

Purpose

This memo provides an update on the activities of the Southwest Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission (“Passenger Rail Commission”) since the last update on March 8, 2019.

Action

For Discussion Only.

Detailed Activities January - April 2019

- Jan 2019 - Supplemental Budget Request made to the legislature (JBC) for remaining \$1.6 M of \$2.5 M.
- Feb 7 - Supplemental Budget request approved
- Feb 16 - Commission Project Director hired
- March - Blended Team approach to RFP suggested by CDOT Executive Director Lew; discussed with Division of Transportation Development.
- Commission meetings in Denver (February 8 and March 8) and Colorado Springs (April 12); updates on RFP development: TIGER and CRISI grant award next steps; Legislative Updates; La Junta to Pueblo “through car” discussion; Communications subcommittee created.

Next Steps

- Complete Request for Proposals (May)
- Hire Consultant to work with Blended Team of CDOT staff to initiate the development of a Passenger Rail Service Development Plan (SDP) and NEPA document (Notice to Proceed expected in August, 2019)
- Finalize Commission logo
- Update Commission website
- Update the conceptual 15 Year Vision for Front Range Passenger Rail developed in December of 2017
- Continue to make Commission related presentations throughout the Front Range
- Respond to Amtrak on participating in the development of a “SW Chief Financial Plan” with Amtrak, BNSF Railway, Kansas and New Mexico DOTs and local communities to ensure continued service of SW Chief in southeast Colorado
- Pursue proposal to develop Amtrak service between LaJunta and Pueblo
- Participate with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Amtrak, and BNSF in completing work related to recent TIGER and CRISI grant awards.
- Pursue 2019 Build Grant to complete improvements to BNSF Railway tracks and infrastructure utilized by Amtrak’s Southwest Chief
- Hold monthly Commission meetings in Denver (May 10th), Fort Collins (June 14th), Denver (July 12th), and Pueblo (August 9th)

Attachment

PowerPoint