



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Transit & Rail

**State Freight and Passenger Rail  
Plan Update**

**March 2022**

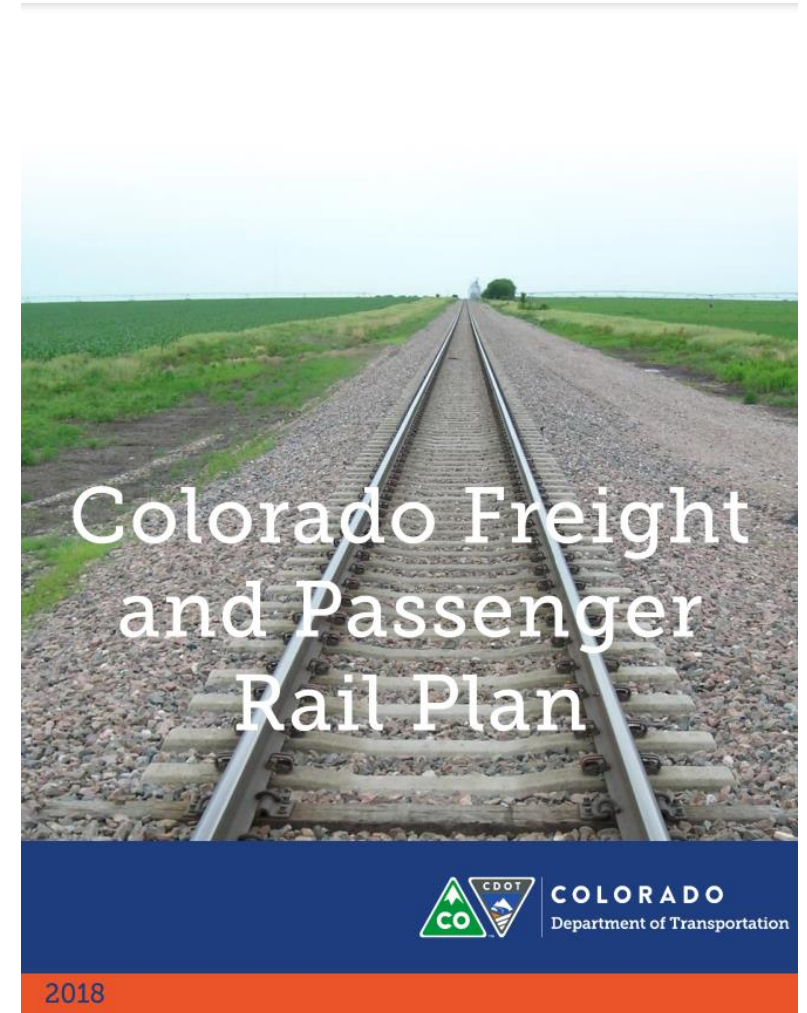
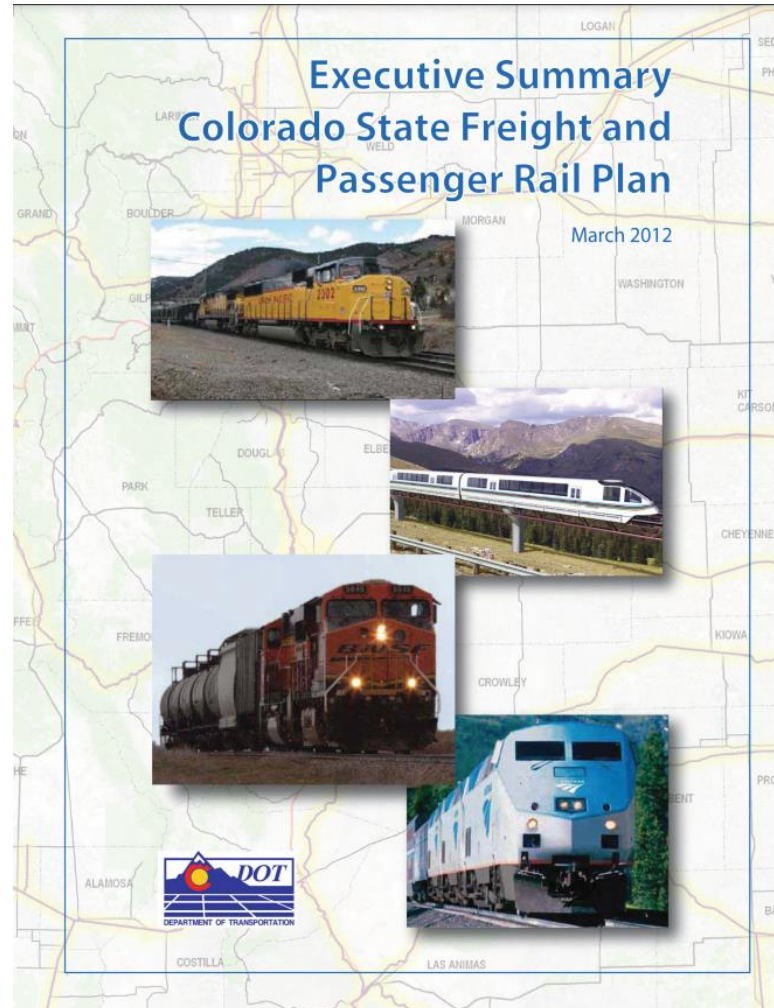


- Federal requirement to update every four years
- Prescribed guidelines from 2013
- Goal
  - Setting forth State policy involving freight and passenger rail transportation, including commuter rail operations, in the State
  - Establishing the period covered by the State rail plan
  - Presenting priorities and strategies to enhance rail service in the State that benefits the public
  - Serving as the basis for Federal and State rail investments within the State



# Past Rail Plans

- 2012 and 2018
- 2018 Rail Plan produced jointly with DTD's Colorado Freight Plan





# Past Rail Plans

## Colorado's Rail Plan

Our Vision






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

Our 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

Our Priority Strategies

<p><b>Advance Front Range Passenger Rail</b> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission</li> <li>• Integrate findings of relevant studies to identify consensus potential future Front Range passenger rail alignments</li> <li>• Document future capacity considerations and constraints on potential passenger rail corridors</li> <li>• Develop and maintain priority list of mobility, connectivity and accessibility improvements needed to improve existing passenger rail service and/or support future service</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strengthen Rail Coordination</b> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop partnerships and consultation with public and private rail operators</li> <li>• Support efforts to ensure full implementation of positive train control</li> <li>• Coordinate with partners to identify and fund safety, security, and crossing needs</li> <li>• Support and participate in joint efforts to improve safety and security</li> </ul>	<p><b>Integrate Planning Processes</b> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider guidelines or directives that integrate freight and passenger rail issues and needs into CDOT planning processes</li> <li>• Develop program for freight-focused workshops or summits to connect local and regional planning partners with industry</li> <li>• Establish process to share information with local planning partners and the public on outcomes of freight and passenger rail studies</li> <li>• Craft information, policies, or guidelines to better align local decision-making and statewide rail priorities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Enhance Economic Connections</b> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop ongoing coordination processes and communication channels with economic organizations and planning partners</li> <li>• Quantify regional trade relationships and commodity flows and apply findings to customize transportation plans</li> <li>• Support state and regional economic development and education partners in evaluating and responding to freight and logistics workforce needs and labor supply</li> <li>• Develop a statewide export, manufacturing, and trade and logistics transportation strategy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Address Freight Rail Needs and Issues</b> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop inventory of short-line rail service constraints</li> <li>• Design and develop a freight railroad assistance program</li> <li>• Continue coordination with Class I railroads to identify planned or needed improvements</li> <li>• Identify potential projects that address rail-related infrastructure constraints or rail access and connectivity improvements</li> <li>• Expand SB37 abandonment reporting process to identify additional rail-related infrastructure at risk</li> </ul>
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# 2022 Rail Plan Update

- Currently developing the Scope of Work
- DTR envisions this project to be primarily an update
  - Targeted updates to latest freight and passenger rail data
  - Updates to passenger rail sections to reflect the tremendous amount of work underway in this area
- Hope to simplify existing document while still satisfying FRA guidelines
- Will clearly outline CDOT's priority capital projects and investments so that we can pursue federal funding
- Hope to begin work in April-May



# Concurrent Rail Projects

- Front Range Passenger Rail Service Development Plan and Alternatives Analysis
- Station Area Planning
- FasTracks
- Freight Improvements



# Upcoming Efforts

- IIJA
- Corridor Development Identification Program
- Colorado Freight Plan



# Work Accomplished to Date

- Stakeholder Outreach in 2021
- 2022 State Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Action Plan
- DTR is hoping to leverage this prior work to update sections of the Rail Plan.





# Questions and Open Discussion

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