



## WORKING THROUGH COVID-19

As COVID-19 continues to create uncertainty and concern in Colorado and the U.S., we need to work together to ensure continuity of operations and project work in a way that protects our collective health and well-being. The Southwest Chief and Front Range Rail Commission (Rail Commission) and CDOT are aware of the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue work and stakeholder engagement on the Front Range Passenger Rail project while staying safe, maintaining social distancing and keeping the project on track.

### **WHY IS WORK ON FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL STILL IMPORTANT DURING THIS PANDEMIC?**

Developing passenger rail that serves Front Range communities from Pueblo to Fort Collins is a critical component of Colorado's future. Front Range Passenger Rail will provide a safe, efficient and reliable transportation option for travel between major population centers and destinations along the Front Range and create a backbone for connecting and expanding rail and transit options in the state and region.

### **WE CAN'T BUILD OUR WAY OUT OF CONGESTION**

- More than four-fifths of Coloradans live on the Front Range.
- I-25 is frequently congested and is only expected to get worse as Colorado's population grows from 5 million to 8 million over the next 20 years. The Front Range's population alone is expected to grow 35% by 2045 to 6.6 million people.
- While CDOT does and will continue to add highway capacity in areas where it makes sense, simply adding more lanes will not reduce congestion. In some of our most congested areas, there simply is no available space to continue widening roadways. With such intense growth, Colorado needs other options besides highways to move people.

### **WE CAN'T STOP PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE BECAUSE OF COVID-19**

The Rail Commission and CDOT recognize the impacts on Coloradans' lives caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Front Range Passenger Rail project will have long-term positive impacts on Coloradans' economic and life-quality opportunities. We can't stop planning for the future.

### **CONSIDERABLE EFFORT HAS ALREADY GONE INTO THE PROJECT, AND WE SHOULD KEEP MOVING FORWARD**

- CDOT and the Rail Commission have worked hard for the past 10-plus years to further a plan for Front Range Passenger Rail, and will continue the momentum through this crisis.
- We are using safe and effective communication solutions during COVID-19 through webinar and digital engagement tools, to keep informing stakeholders and the public of our project milestones while getting their valuable input.
- To keep stakeholders and the public informed of project milestones and opportunities to provide valuable input, we will promote opportunities to engage through online meetings and a project comment hotline. Those without internet access will be provided the option to mail in their feedback.
- We are in the midst of examining the complex environmental and engineering opportunities and challenges that would result from building such a massive project. We will continue this critical work, which is still able to continue with social distancing and virtual collaboration between the project team, the Rail Commission, CDOT, stakeholders and the public.

**Visit our website at: [www.frontrangepassengerrail.com](http://www.frontrangepassengerrail.com)**