

Project Director's Report

by Randy Grauberger

For March 27 – April 22, 2020

Key SW Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission Staff Activities

- Finalize and distribute March 27 Rail Commission meeting draft minutes and April 24 agenda packet.
- Participated in a call with several Rail Commission members to discuss possible “bill language” for potential passenger rail related projects in Colorado for upcoming Stimulus and federal Transportation Re-Authorization bills.
- Worked with CDOT Office of Communications and Consultant Project team staff in drafting COVID-19 messaging document related to Front Range Passenger Rail Project.
- Worked with SW Chief Grant partners in Colorado, Kansas and New Mexico in developing pledge commitments for 2020 Build Grant for completion of SW Chief Infrastructure improvements in the three states.
- Conference call with CDOT Region and Headquarters Environmental staff to discuss Front Range Passenger rail Project.
- Participated in conference call (3rd Coordination meeting) with FRA, FTA and FHWA regarding Front Range Passenger Rail
- Reviewed meeting minutes from meetings with Consultant team staff working with Pueblo County on the Pueblo Station Area Plan. Also, participated in meeting combining both the Pueblo Station Area Plan Consultant and the front Range Rail Project Consultant Team.
- Held kick-off meeting with FRA in regard to the Commission's winning CRISI Grant for a feasibility study of a SW Chief thru-car operation from La Junta to Pueblo and Colorado Springs. Began drafting scope of work, schedule and budget.
- Attended project team meetings with Consultant and CDOT project team members for Communications Committee, Policy Committee, and Project Development Committee.
- Held “on-line interviews” with Fort Carson, to get their perspectives on Front Range Passenger Rail. Attempting to set such interviews with Denver international Airport, Colorado Motor Carriers, Action 22, and E-470.
- Set May 4 meeting with BNSF Railway and Union Pacific railroad to discuss possible use of freight rail Corridors for elements of Front Range Passenger Rail. Also, scheduling similar meeting with RTD.
- Prepared for upcoming “Round 3” of Segment Stakeholder Coalition meetings to be held April 28, 29, and 30.
- Participated on a monthly conference call with members of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition. Also, provided them information about SW Chief Thru-car Service to Pueblo/Colorado Springs feasibility Study and also Front Range Passenger Rail Project for their use in pursuing Stimulus and Re-Authorization Funding from Congress.

Upcoming meetings /presentations: -

- April 24 – Monthly meeting of the Rail Commission
- April 28 – 30 Round 3 of Segment Coalition meetings
- May/June Date TBD – Corridor Coalition Meeting (meeting #2)
- May 28 – Monthly meeting of the Rail Commission

SW Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission Financial Report

As of April 22, 2020

Income

Senate Bill 1, July 2018 **\$2,500,000**

Expenses (commitments)

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| 2 years of Salaries/Benefits for Project Dir. and Comm. Liaison (est.) | \$500,000 |
| HDR Contract for Service Development Plan / Pre-NEPA | \$1,500,000 |
| Pledged Match for 2018 CRISI grant for PTC | \$100,000 |
| WSP contract to write 2019 CRISI App. for Thru-car Study | \$24,465 |
| October 2019 "Survey for Front Range Passenger Rail" | \$24,500 |
| January 2020 2020 Membership to "States for Pass. Rail Coalition" | \$5,416 |
| Pledged Match for Potential 2019 CRISI Grant App. (Thru Car Study) | \$159,000 |
| Pledged Match for Potential 2020 BUILD Grant Application | <u>\$20,000</u> |
| | \$2,333,381 |

Available **\$166,619**

Update on HDR Contract (\$1,500,000)

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Invoiced through December | \$272,560 |
| Invoices for January | \$190,676 |
| Invoices for February | <u>\$139,263</u> |
| | \$602,499 or 40.17% |

At the projected "burn" rate, it is estimated that the HDR contract funds will be fully spent in early October. This will necessitate additional funding from the 2020 legislative session, CDOT, or other sources.