

Project Director's Report

by Randy Grauberger

For July 26 – August 27, 2020

Key SW Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission Staff Activities

- Finalize and distribute July 24th Commission meeting draft minutes and August 28th agenda packet.
- Follow-up call with FRA to discuss revisions to Draft Statement of Work, schedule and budget on 2019 CRISI grant. FRA gave the go ahead to begin the Request for Proposal process with CDOT to select the consultant for the SW Chief Thru-car Study to Pueblo and C. Springs. Obligation of Grant agreement expected in October.
- Continued analysis of Online Public Meeting results; study conducted June 29 - July 31. Very positive results are being seen overall.
- Held kick-off meeting of the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) on August 13th. More of a chartering meeting; specific agenda related to pending issues will be developed for October meeting.
- Meetings and PowerPoints with City and County of Denver, Longmont Transportation Advisory Board, US 36 Mayors and Commissioners Coalition, and Air Force Academy to discuss status of Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) project.
- Rail Commission staff call with Amtrak's Ray Lang and Rob Eaton on latest Amtrak legislation service status prior to Amtrak's presentation to the Rail Commission on August 28.
- Project team meeting with Bill Van Meter to discuss possible partnerships opportunities with RTD as Front Range Passenger Rail moves forward.
- Meeting with Union Pacific Railroad and BNSF Railway Rail Commission members and staff to discuss possible use of Joint Corridor operations and analysis/optimization of Alternative 3 (BNSF Alignment) from Pueblo to Fort Collins. The difficult areas of this will be in the area south of DUS in the Denver area and also the northern portion of El Paso County where the corridor was converted to a single track operation in the 1970s
- Follow-up meeting with Great Western Railway (GWR) official regarding potential use of some GWR right-of-way and a possible future FRPR maintenance facility in Loveland where GWR has a locomotive shop. The Berthoud area is still an option for a maintenance facility in the northern portion of the 180-mile corridor.
- Meetings with Pueblo Station Area Plan (PSAP) Consultant team; online public meeting week of 8/17 to get input on final two station locations.
- Participated in TIGER 9 and CRISI PTC implementation calls with funding partners.
- Met with CDOT's rail ridership modeling staff and reviewed city pair ridership data; other modeling assumptions; "modeling" special events, and secondary stations.
- Meeting with CDOT Transportation Commission (TC) Chair Karen Stuart. She supports a follow-up lunch/dinner meeting between the two Commissions as soon as is practical (considering COVID).
- Began receiving responses to questionnaire for States for Passenger Rail Coalition membership. Seeking input about all elements of their rail passenger systems; governance, operations, fare structure, funding, security, stations, equipment, etc. Participated in a zoom call with the States for Passenger Rail Coalition on August 26.
- Attended project team meetings with Consultant and CDOT project team members for Project Management Team, Communications Committee and Project Development Committee. Project development focusing on optimizing Alternative alignments for speed, curvature and grades, and also doing ridership modeling.

Upcoming meetings / presentations

- Segment Corridor Coalition meetings – Sept. 15 – 17
- Project Team meeting with UP and BNSF – Late September
- September Rail Commission meeting – September 25
- October Rail Commission meeting – October 23rd
- November/December Rail Commission meeting – December 4th.

SW Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission Financial Report

As of August 25, 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
Pledged Match for Potential 2019 CRISI Grant App. (Thru Car Study)	\$159,000
Membership to “States for Passenger Rail Coalition”	\$5,416
Pledged Match for 2020 Build Grant for SW Chief Infrastructure Improvements	\$20,000
Pledged Match for 2020 CRISI Grant application (RTC modeling & complete SDP)	\$25,000
<i>Proposed funds for licenses for Project website and Project database mgmt. from HDR</i>	<i>\$651 (estimated)</i>
	\$2,359,032
Available	\$140,968

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

Invoiced through June	\$1,121,365.67
Estimated CDOT staff dollar commitment through August	\$305,000

At the projected “burn” rate, it is estimated that the HDR contract funds will be fully spent in mid-October. This will necessitate additional consultant funding from the 2021 legislative session, CDOT, or other sources. The Commission’s operating funds will also need to be supplemented in 2021.