

## Project Director's Report

by Randy Grauberger

For January 24 – February 25, 2020

### **Key SW Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission Staff Activities**

- Participated in Meeting with Governor Polis, Shoshana Lew, Jacob Riger, Sal Pace to discuss SW Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail activities.
- Finalize and distribute January 24 Commission meeting draft minutes and February 28<sup>th</sup> agenda packet.
- Met with CDOT Executive Management Team to discuss schedule and budget in light of decision to NOT move forward with a possible referred measure in November 2020.
- Reviewed Draft Front Range Passenger Rail District Bill and began to consolidate comments.
- Participated in a Southwest Chief Subcommittee call to discuss agenda for developing a long-range plan for the Southwest Chief and to host initial meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> in Pueblo with Amtrak, BNSF, Kansas and New Mexico.
- Attended project team meetings with Consultant and CDOT project team members for Communications Committee, Policy Committee, and Project Development Committee.
- Attended Stakeholder Workshop for Pueblo Station Area Plan
- Meeting with CDOT Region 1 staff and consultant project team members to discuss possible availability of I-25 and US 85 ROW for possible Front Range Rail alignments
- Participated in Project team interviews with representatives of the following: AARP Colorado, Berthoud, Castle Rock, Colorado State University and North Front Range MPO.
- Provided PowerPoint presentation on the Commission's activities (remotely) to the Washington DC Winter meeting of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition.
- Provided Commission PowerPoint at joint lunch between CDOT Transportation and Rail Commission.
- Participated in meeting # 3 of the Governor's Transportation Discussions at the Governor's Mansion Carriage House.
- Reviewed preliminary rail ridership forecasting model inputs for Phase 1 alignment alternatives with CDOT modeling staff
- Attended presentations (3) by Rocky Mountain Rail in Boulder, Louisville and Longmont.
- Sat in on Rocky Mountain Rail meeting with HPTE to discuss unsolicited proposal for rail corridor (in lieu of Highway US 6) from Golden to Georgetown.
- Presented the Commission's PowerPoint presentation to a quarterly meeting between CDOT and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

### **Upcoming meetings /presentations:**

- March 9 - Deadline to submit Commission comments on Draft Rail District Bill to Senator Garcia's office
- March 9 – Meeting with Amtrak, BNSF, New Mexico and Kansas related to Long Range Plan for Amtrak's SW Chief. Meeting at Transportation Test Center northeast of Pueblo.
- March 10 – Meeting in Pueblo with CDOT Region 2 staff and consultant project team members to discuss possible availability of I-25 ROW for possible Front Range Rail alignments.

- March 16 - Stakeholder Interview with DEN officials
- March 21 – Presentation to ColoRail Annual Meeting
- March 27 – Transportation Commission meeting in Denver.
- April 2 – Meeting in Denver with FTA, FHWA and FRA
- April 7 – 9 - Round 3 of Segment Coalition meetings
- April 24 – Rail Commission meeting in Pueblo

SW Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission Financial Report

As of February 26, 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)	<u>\$159,000</u>
	<b>\$2,307,965</b>

**Available** **\$192,035**

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

Invoiced through December	\$272,560
Projected invoice for January (Estimated by HDR)	<u>\$210,000</u>
	\$482,560 or 32.3%

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