

Project Director's Report

by Randy Grauberger

For June 29 – July 23, 2020

Key SW Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission Staff Activities

- Finalize and distribute June 26th Rail Commission meeting draft minutes and July 24th agenda packet.
- Call with FRA to discuss revisions to Draft Statement of Work on 2019 CRISI grant. FRA suggesting moving forward with Alternatives Analysis instead of Feasibility Study. Obligation of Grant agreement expected early October.
- Continued to monitor input from Online Public Meeting which continues through July 31. Very positive results are being seen overall.
- Scheduled first meeting of Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) for August 13th.
- Meetings with Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Air Force Academy regarding community/local specific issues related to future Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) alignments, possible station locations, speeds, other impacts/benefits.
- Made PowerPoint presentation to Berthoud Town Board of Trustees on July 14. Presentation and following Q&A lasted 55 minutes. Very good dialogue with Mayor Karspeck and Town Board members.
- Meetings with CDOT Regions 2 and 4 related to possible I-25 Corridor use and updates on other refinements to potential alignments.
- Continued analysis/optimization of Alternative 3 (BNSF Alignment) in advance of August 5th meeting with BNSF and UP.
- Meeting with Union Pacific Railroad ROW staff in Omaha to review accuracy of CDIOT railroad right-of-way data base. The data is not very accurate suggesting that more discussion of this topic needs to take place which would include Division of Transit and Rail, Division of Transportation Development, and the Rail Commission. Accuracy of this data will be important for the Rail Commission will be when entering NEPA for the FRPR project.
- 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.
- Meeting with Pueblo Station Area Plan (PSAP) Consultant team re: station area specific issues; PSAP project much farther into details than the FRPR Project team is during the project team's current planning effort.
- Provided brief overview of the last two months Rail Commission related activities to the TRAC on July 10.
- Met with CDOT's rail ridership modeling staff and reviewed city pair ridership data; other modeling assumptions; "modeling "special events"; and, an additional modeling run with Berthoud as a FRPR station is pending.
- Finalized 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 July 23.
- Attended project team meetings with Consultant and CDOT project team members for Project Management Team, Communications Committee and Project Development Committee.

Upcoming meetings /presentations:

- Project Team meeting with UP and BNSF – August 5
 - August Rail Commission meeting – August 28
 - Segment Corridor Coalition meetings – Mid Sept?
 - September Rail Commission meeting – September 25
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SW Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission Financial Report

As of July 23, 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

\$2,358,381

Available

\$141,619

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

Invoiced through June \$1,022,728

Estimated CDOT staff dollar commitment through June \$ 245,000

At the projected "burn" rate, it is estimated that the HDR contract funds will be fully spent in late September or early October. This will necessitate additional funding from the 2021 legislative session, CDOT, or other sources.