

## Project Director's Report

by Randy Grauberger

For February 29- March 25, 2020

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

- Finalize and distribute February 27 Rail Commission meeting draft minutes and March 27<sup>th</sup> agenda packet.
- Worked with several Commissioners in crafting a consolidation of the Commission's comments related to the Draft legislation to create a Front Range Passenger Rail District proposed by Senate President Leroy Garcia.
- Participated in a meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> in Pueblo with Amtrak, BNSF, Kansas and New Mexico to begin discussions related to a long-range plan for the Southwest Chief. After the meeting the group toured the facilities of the Transportation Technology Center Inc. (TTCI) and saw the new 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Acela equipment on site at TTCI for testing.
- Met with CDOT Region 2 staff to discuss possible I-25 rights-of-way availability for future Front Range Passenger Rail.
- Met with the Consultant team staff working with Pueblo County on the Pueblo Station Area Plan. Provided comments on preliminary locations being evaluated for the eventual Pueblo Passenger Rail Station.
- Began communications 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.
- Attended project team meetings with Consultant and CDOT project team members for Communications Committee, Policy Committee, and Project Development Committee.
- Scheduled future "on-line interviews" with Fort Carson, and DEN to get their perspectives on Front Range Passenger Rail. Attempting to set such interviews with Colorado Motor Carriers, Action 22 and E-470.
- Participated on a conference call with members of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition.

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

- April 2 - On-line meeting with FRA, FHWA and FTA (meeting #3) regarding the Front Range Passenger Rail Project
- April 24 – Monthly meeting of the Rail Commission
- April 28 – 30 Round 3 of Segment Coalition meetings
- May 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 March 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  
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  
**\$2,313,381**

**Available** **\$186,619**

*Possible match for 2020 BUILD Grant* *\$100,000*

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

Invoiced through December \$272,560  
Invoices for January \$190,676  
Invoices for February \$139,263  
\$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.