



COLORADO

Southwest Chief & Front Range
Passenger Rail Commission

December 1, 2017

The Honorable Chair of the House Local Government Committee
Colorado General Assembly
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear House Local Government Committee Chair and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 17-153 created the Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission, and directed the Commission to report to the House and Senate Local Government Committees of the Colorado General Assembly by December 1st regarding proposals for the development of a Front Range passenger rail system. Accordingly, the Commission is pleased to present the following enclosed materials which discuss the key issues, tasks, initial costs and timelines the Commission believes are needed to define and advance Front Range passenger rail toward implementation:

1. Summary of Front Range Passenger Rail Major Issues & Strategic Considerations
2. Summary of Key Steps Towards Implementing Front Range Passenger Rail
3. Map of Proposed Front Range Passenger Rail Corridor & Connections
4. November 2, 2017 presentation to Transportation Legislation Review Committee

Because the public has differing views about what Front Range passenger rail should be and do, the Commission believes the most important first step is to conduct comprehensive public and stakeholder engagement along the entire Front Range. This process will define the public's mobility vision as well as preferred alignment/route, technology, speed, station locations, service levels, and other characteristics. With this foundation, a detailed service plan, including capital and operating costs, can be developed to position the project to seek additional funding needed to proceed to implementation.

The Commission identified five distinct phases for delivery of Front Range passenger rail to the citizens of Colorado. These five phases are outlined in the "Summary of Key Steps Towards Implementation" document (Attachment 2). For the 2018 legislative session, we are focusing on the initial needs, outlined in Phase I. Accordingly, the Commission is formally requesting \$8.7 million over three years (\$2.9 million per year) to complete Phase I. This request also includes staff support for the Commission's ongoing activities, to lead the public engagement and service development plan, and to manage the multidisciplinary consultant team needed to conduct these activities.

We appreciate your Committee's consideration of the Commission's budget request and enclosed materials. We would be pleased to brief the committee further at your request.



Respectfully submitted,



Sal Pace
Chair, Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission
Pueblo County Commissioner



Jacob Riger
Vice Chair, Southwest Chief and Front Range Passenger Rail Commission
Long Range Transportation Planning Manager, Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)

cc: Honorable Crisanta Duran, House Speaker
Honorable Patrick Neville, House Minority Leader
Honorable Faith Winter, Transportation Committee Acting Chair

