

Resolution #TC-2022-08-06

43 CRS 1-1303 (2) Report to the TLRC for Prioritization of Railroad Corridors for Acquisition, Use & Preservation

Approved by the Transportation Commission on August 18, 2022.

WHEREAS, the abandonment of rail lines in Colorado is considered to be of statewide importance because of the impacts these abandonments may have on local communities as well as the "market", including shippers, receivers and consumers; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission has been given statutory responsibility by the State for approving the acquisition of rail lines or railroad right-of-way under 43 C.R.S. 1-1303(2); and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation (Department) has identified a list of criteria for prioritization of rail corridors for preservation in a Rail Corridor Preservation Policy, PD 1607, dated August 22, 2014; and

WHEREAS, analysis has been performed by Department staff to determine which rail lines are in jeopardy of being lost due to potential abandonment; and

WHEREAS, C.R.S. 43-1-1303(3) requires the Executive Director of Colorado Department of Transportation to submit a prioritized list of proposed railroad acquisitions and their proposed uses to the Transportation Legislative Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, there are no rail lines of statewide significance that are at immediate risk of abandonment and in need of acquisition; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission wishes to keep the TLRC informed of rail activities that could impact rail service in the State.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Executive Director is hereby directed to submit the following list of recommendations to the Transportation Legislation Review Committee:

The **first priority** is for CDOT to closely monitor and support the activities of CTIO in the investigation of transportation infrastructure and future opportunities at Burnham Yard.

The **second priority** is to monitor the receivership process of the San Luis & Rio Grande Railroad and be prepared to reach out to any new owners of the line to explore ways to assist them.

The **third priority** is to monitor the status of the Tennessee Pass and Fort Collins Branch Lines. While there is no indication that the UP will abandon these lines in the near future, the

Tennessee Pass line has not been used for freight movement for over 15 years. If these lines are abandoned, the State should consider purchasing them to preserve them for freight and/or passenger service in the future.

**Herman
Stockinger**

Digitally signed by Herman
Stockinger
Date: 2022.08.22 10:01:51
-06'00'

Herman Stockinger, Secretary
Transportation Commission of Colorado