Transportation Commission Resolution #20251205

Funding support for the Front Range Passenger Rail District.

Approved by the Transportation Commission on December 17, 2025

Whereas, the Colorado General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 21-238 during the 2021 legislative session, thereby creating the Front Range Passenger Rail District (District) as a political subdivision of the state; and

Whereas, the District was established to research, develop, construct, operate, and maintain an interconnected passenger rail system within the Front Range that is competitive in terms of travel time for comparable trips with other modes of surface transportation; and

Whereas, the District was organized to serve a geographic area extending from Fort Collins to Pueblo, encompassing many of Colorado's largest population centers and economic hubs; and

Whereas, the District's vision is to connect Colorado's Front Range communities and economic centers through a safe, efficient and reliable passenger rail system that expands access to housing, services, jobs and desired destination; and

Whereas, The District's near-term mission is to secure a sustainable source of funding necessary to construct, operate and maintain a passenger rail system from Fort Collins to Pueblo with future expansion to New Mexico and Wyoming; and

Whereas, the Colorado Transportation Commission (Commission) recognizes that advancing Front Range passenger rail planning and development is consistent with statewide multimodal objectives; and

Whereas, passenger rail efforts in Colorado will help reduce congestion by shifting trips to fast, reliable train service while expanding travel options and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in support of the state's broader climate goals; and

Whereas, the Commission supports the continued collaboration between the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the District to advance the planning work necessary to bring a ballot question to voters and move Front Range passenger rail toward implementation; and

Whereas, the Commission finds that providing targeted financial support- combined with accountability measures- is in the public interest and consistent with the prudent stewardship of state resources.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, the Commission hereby allocates a total of $3,000,000 to the Front Range Passenger Rail District.

Be It Further Resolved, of this amount;

1. The Commission directs CDOT staff to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the District, which shall include clear benchmarks, deliverables, schedules, performance metrics, reporting requirements, and financial accountability provisions.

2. $1,500,000 shall be made available to the District, upon execution of the Intergovernmental Agreement, to assist in executing elements of the District's Ballot Access Plan.

3. The remaining $1,500,000 shall be contingent on the District's satisfactory completion of the benchmarks and performance measures established in the Intergovernmental Agreement, as determined by the CDOT staff, and shall be amended into the Intergovernmental Agreement at such a time

4. CDOT staff shall provide periodic updates to the Commission regarding progress toward the IGA benchmarks and performance measures.

Herman F. Stockinger III

Herman Stockinger, Secretary
Transportation Commission of Colorado