



# COLORADO

## Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation Development

Multimodal Planning Branch  
4201 E. Arkansas Ave, Shumate Bldg.  
Denver, CO 80222

**DATE:** October 17, 2018  
**TO:** Transportation Commission  
**FROM:** Debra Perkins-Smith, Division of Transportation Development, Director  
**SUBJECT:** Colorado Freight Plan Development Update

### Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview and update on the development of the Colorado Freight Plan (CFP).

### Action Requested

This memo is informational only; no action is required.

### Background

In 2015, CDOT developed a State Highway Freight Plan in accordance with the Federal Authorization Bill, MAP-21, in order to meet eligibility requirements for federal freight funding opportunities. Colorado was among the first states in the nation to develop a statewide freight plan, building from a strong history of freight planning at CDOT.

In 2016, Congress passed a new Federal Authorization Bill, known as the FAST Act, which established the National Highway Freight Program (NHFP). The FAST Act required CDOT to develop a multimodal freight plan in order to allocate dedicated federal funding for freight. In response, CDOT began developing the CFP to consider and integrate modes such as highway, rail, air, and intermodal.

### Details

At the August 2018 TC meeting, the TC approved the State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan (SFPRP). This plan focused on passenger rail and freight rail infrastructure and issues. The SFPRP is federally required to be approved by CDOT's governing body, the TC. Unlike the SFPRP, the CFP is not required to be approved by TC. FHWA will approve the final CFP. The CFP and SFPRP were developed in parallel by CDOT to promote efficiencies in stakeholder engagement and to leverage the freight rail elements within both plans.

The CFP is a statewide, multimodal plan for all freight modes. It is a strategic and high-level policy plan that is linked to the 2045 Statewide Transportation Plan through goal alignment. In addition, a required element of the CFP is a Freight Investment Plan (FIP). The FIP documents and outlines CDOT's strategic investment approach to allocate NHFP funding. The TC guides this approach through the selection of NHFP projects. The FIP is included as an appendix to the CFP and is a listing of prioritized freight-specific projects anticipated for funding through the NHFP. In September, the TC approved the NHFP FY 18 project list that will be included in the FIP.

Development of the CFP started in January of 2017 and is anticipated to be completed in December 2018, following FHWA approval. Key activities of the plan included:

- Kickoff - January 2017
- Data and Analysis - March to June 2017
- Engagement - April to December 2017
- Drafting - November 2017 to January 2018
- Stakeholder Review - January to March 2018
- Freight Investment Plan - April to September 2018
- Approval - Submit to FHWA November 2018

Throughout the development of the CFP, the T&I Committee members have been provided updates at key milestones. These meeting dates and update topics are outlined below:

- January 2017 - Kickoff of plan development
- April 2017 - Update on advisory committee activities and partner coordination
- July 2017 - Discussion on Freight Advisory Council (FAC) involvement; economic analysis results; stakeholder outreach results; and, priority strategy approach and key strategies identification
- January 2018 - Overview of plan key elements

- June 2018 - Overview of Multi Objective Decision Analysis (MODA)
- August 2018 - Review of proposed FY 18 NHFP project selection process and projects
- September 2018 - Transportation Commission approval of FY 18 NHFP projects
- October 2018 - Transportation Commission review of draft Colorado Freight Plan

The CFP emphasized stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process. Stakeholders from private industry, economic development organizations, freight trucking and rail businesses, and regional and local governments were engaged through advisory committees, working groups, interviews, surveys, and through ongoing coordination by CDOT staff. A freight plan working group, made up of FAC members, provided significant direction on plan development, including key strategies and implementation actions. Review and input from stakeholders has been integrated into the current draft plan to ensure responsiveness to key partners.

A clear priority that emerged from stakeholder outreach was the need for communications and educational efforts around the importance and role of freight to Colorado. In response, CDOT is providing initial support for the Colorado Delivers initiative. Colorado Delivers is a partnership platform and overarching brand to help coordinate messaging, disseminate information, and to collaborate on partnerships, actions, and future needs related to freight.

The current draft of the CFP includes the following chapters:

1. *Why Freight Matters* - Introduction and Key Messages
2. *Planning for the Future* - About Plan Development
3. *Engaging Stakeholders* - Outreach Activities, Results and Issues
4. *Connecting the Economy* - Economic Impact, Trade and Commodity Flows
5. *Assessing Assets and Condition* - Multimodal Need and Issues
6. *Managing for Performance* - Performance Based Approach and Measures
7. *Investing Resources* - Linking Performance and Investment Decisions
8. *Implementing the Plan* - Priority Strategies and Initiatives

Members of CDOT committees, including STAC and FAC, were involved in identifying the strategies included in the CFP. In response to guidance from FAC members, the CFP focuses on four action areas and linked priority strategies that can make the greatest difference to freight movement in the state. These priority strategies include:

- *Address Infrastructure Constraints* - Focus investments to make significant improvements to the multimodal freight transportation system.
- *Examine Urban and Rural Freight Movements* - Pursue research and partnerships to improve efficiency of freight movement in both urban and rural areas.
- *Enhance Economic Connections* - Identify investment opportunities which will have the greatest impact on economic growth and sustainability.
- *Integrate Planning Processes* - Consider freight in all aspects of planning, construction, and operational activities.

The CFP includes implementation plans that identify needed partnerships, resources, and actions for each of these strategies.

CDOT invites TC members to review the draft CFP. Staff requests that comments are returned to Michelle Scheuerman (michelle.scheuerman@state.co.us) no later than November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

#### Next Steps

- November 2018 - Address TC comments and return to TC if needed to review revisions
- December 2018 - Finalize CFP with FHWA approval

#### Attachments:

- Attachment A - CFP Presentation

# Colorado Freight Plan



Transportation Commission  
October 17, 2018



**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Transportation

# Key Terms

- ▶ **Colorado Freight Plan (CFP)**
- ▶ **Freight Investment Plan (FIP)**
- ▶ **National Highway Freight Program (NHFP)**
- ▶ **State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan (SFPRP)**

# Agenda

- ▶ **Evolution of Freight Planning in Colorado**
- ▶ **Freight and Rail Plans: Key Differences**
- ▶ **Colorado Freight Plan and Freight Investment Plan**
- ▶ **Colorado Freight Plan Development**
- ▶ **Transit and Intermodal Committee Meetings**
- ▶ **Broad Stakeholder Involvement**
- ▶ **Colorado Freight Plan Contents**
- ▶ **Review Process**
- ▶ **Next Steps**

# Evolution of Freight Planning in Colorado

- ▶ **2015 – CDOT develops State Highway Freight Plan**
  - Built on strong foundation of freight planning
  - Among first states in the nation to develop plan
  - Positioned CDOT to take advantage of potential federal funding
- ▶ **2016 – FAST Act Passes**
  - Establishes National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) and provided dedicated federal funding
  - Required all states to develop a freight plan including all modes
- ▶ **2017 – Colorado Freight Plan begins development**
  - Built off the progress made on with the State Highway Freight Plan
  - Meets federal requirement to include all modes

# Freight and Rail Plans: Key Differences

## ▶ State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan (SFPRP)

- Federal requirement that state governing body (TC) approve plan
- Focus on passenger and freight rail

## ▶ Colorado Freight Plan (CFP)

- State governing body not required to approve the plan
- Focus on integration of all modes

## ▶ Plan Integration

- Staff worked together on planning efforts to promote efficiency in stakeholder engagement
- Staff worked together to leverage the freight rail element of the SFPRP

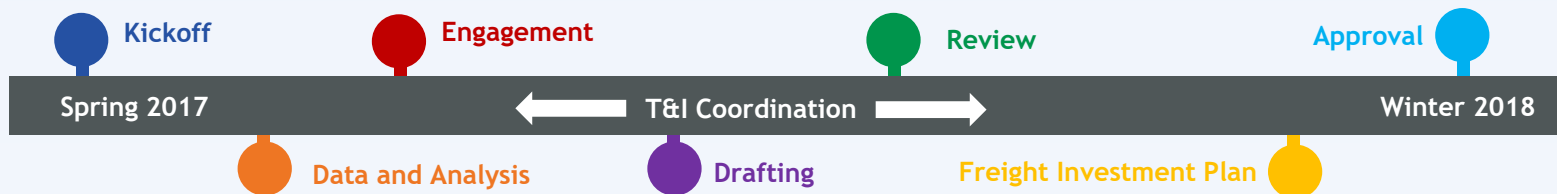
# Colorado Freight Plan and Freight Investment Plan

- ▶ **Colorado Freight Plan (CFP)**
  - Strategic, multimodal, statewide plan
  - Linked to 2045 Statewide Plan through goal alignment
- ▶ **Freight Investment Plan (FIP)**
  - Required element of CFP
  - Necessary to distribute NHFP funding
  - Identifies TC-approved freight projects funded under NHFP



# Colorado Freight Plan Development

- ▶ **Kickoff** – January 2017
- ▶ **Data and Analysis** – March to June 2017
- ▶ **Engagement** – April to December 2017
- ▶ **Drafting** – November 2017 to January 2018
- ▶ **Stakeholder Review** – January to March 2018
- ▶ **Freight Investment Plan** – April to September 2018
- ▶ **Approval** – Submit to FHWA November 2018



# Transit and Intermodal Committee Meetings

## ▶ January 2017

- Kickoff of plan development

## ▶ April 2017

- Update on advisory committee activities and partner coordination

## ▶ July 2017

- Discussion on Freight Advisory Council (FAC) involvement
- Economic analysis results
- Stakeholder outreach results
- Priority strategy approach and key strategies identification

## ▶ January 2018

- Overview of plan key elements

# Transit and Intermodal Committee Meetings

## ▶ June 2018

- Overview of Multi Objective Decision Analysis (MODA)

## ▶ August 2018

- Review of proposed FY 18 NHFP project selection process and projects

## ▶ September 2018

- Transportation Commission approval of FY 18 NHFP projects

## ▶ October 2018

- Transportation Commission review of draft Colorado Freight Plan

# Broad Stakeholder Involvement

## ► Engagement and outreach

- Representatives of Freight Advisory Council and STAC shaped plan direction and strategies
- Broad outreach and engagement to industry and planning partners
  - *Over 800 survey responses from members of the Colorado Farm Bureau, Colorado Mining Association, and Colorado Economic Development Council*
- Private-sector represented on Joint Project Advisory Committee
  - *Safeway, MillerCoors, New Belgium, OEDIT, Celadon Trucking, BNSF, and public agency partners*



Joint Project Advisory Committee and Freight and Rail Plan Working Groups

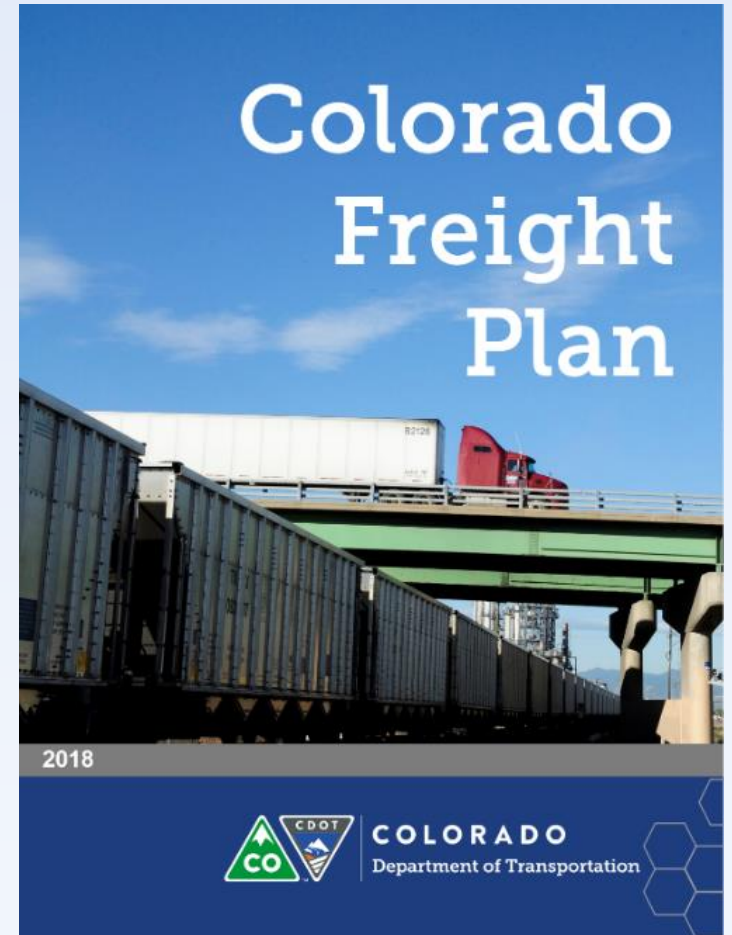
# Communicating with Broad Audiences

- ▶ Overarching brand; unified message
- ▶ Addresses stakeholder needs for education and messaging around freight in Colorado
- ▶ Platform for continued communications and partnerships



# Colorado Freight Plan Contents

- ▶ ***Why Freight Matters***
  - Introduction and Key Messages
- ▶ ***Planning for the Future***
  - About Plan Development
- ▶ ***Engaging Stakeholders***
  - Outreach Activities, Results and Issues
- ▶ ***Connecting the Economy***
  - Economic Impact, Trade and Commodity Flows
- ▶ ***Assessing Assets and Condition***
  - Multimodal Need and Issues
- ▶ ***Managing for Performance***
  - Performance Based Approach and Measures
- ▶ ***Investing Resources***
  - Linking Performance and Investment Decisions
- ▶ ***Implementing the Plan***
  - Priority Strategies and Initiatives



# Focusing on Priority Strategies

## ► Stakeholder collaboration and partnerships resulted in a short list of priority strategies for implementation

- Tactical approach to address critical needs and issues
- Responsive to stakeholders and industry partners
- Identifies short-term implementation steps and long-term actions
- Provide support and assistance for implementation efforts

### Colorado Freight Plan

Integrate  
Planning  
Processes



Enhance  
Economic  
Connections

Address  
Infrastructure  
Constraints

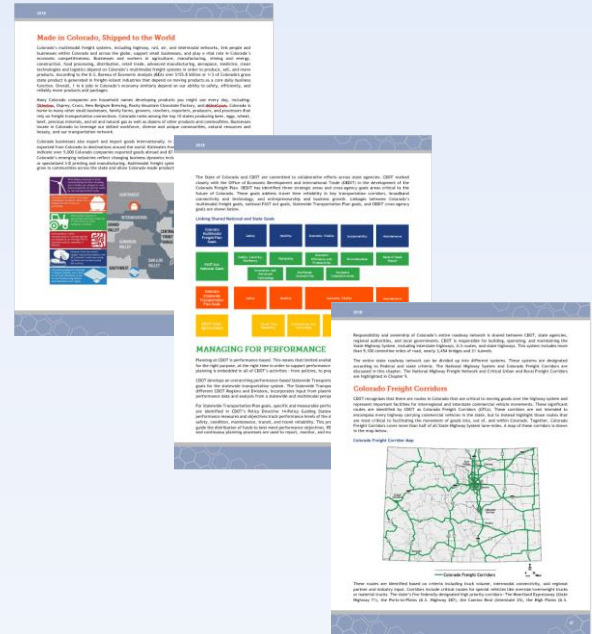


Examine  
Urban and  
Rural Freight  
Movements

# Review Process

## ► Draft Colorado Freight Plan

- TC welcome to review
- Comments back by November 8<sup>th</sup>
- Comments to Michelle Scheuerman (michelle.scheuerman@state.co.us)





# Next Steps

- ▶ **November 2018**
  - Address TC comments and return to TC if needed to review revisions
- ▶ **December 2018**
  - Finalize CFP with FHWA approval
- ▶ **Ongoing**
  - Coordination with partners on implementation actions

# Colorado Freight Plan

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