



## Colorado Transportation Investment Office Memorandum

**To:** CTIO Board of Directors

**From:** Piper Darlington, CTIO Director and Maux Sullivan, Assistant Director, Passenger Rail

**Date:** March 18, 2026

**Subject:** Mountain Rail Update

### **Purpose:**

The memo and associated material in Attachment A are provided to brief the CTIO Board on updates related to the launch of initial Mountain Rail Service.

### **Requested Action:**

No action is requested.

### **Background**

The Mountain Rail Program aims to restore passenger rail service in Northwest Colorado by utilizing existing freight corridors impacted by the decline in coal demand. Launched in 2023, the Mountain Rail Program aims to use existing rail infrastructure to meet the growing demand for passenger rail service, serving the existing corridor between Denver, Winter Park, Steamboat Springs, and Craig. By enhancing connectivity between Denver and mountain communities, it will address key objectives, including:

- Enhance regional connectivity;
- Economic development;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Multimodal choice; and
- Leverage existing infrastructure

Senate Bill 24-184 clarified the scope of CTIO powers and duties to explicitly prioritize reducing congestion and pollution through a full suite of multimodal transportation projects including rail. CTIO is advancing mountain rail through the use of a new congestion impact fee authorized under SB 24-184.

### **Next Steps**

The CTIO Board will be receiving additional briefings and requests associated with this project as staff works towards a target launch date later this year.

### **Attachments:**

- **Attachment A:** Mountain Rail Update Presentation