

# Colorado State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan



Pikes Peak Area Council of  
Governments

November 15, 2011

# Today's Meeting

- ▶ Informal, feel free to speak up whenever you want.
- ▶ There will be a short presentation today which will be posted to the web as well.

<http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/PassengerFreightRailPlan>

- ▶ Let you know where we are as a new Division. Answer any questions you may have and listen to your concerns.



# CDOT Staff and Role Responsibility

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# Why A State Rail Plan?

- ▶ Supports the new division on Transit and Rail to provide future Direction for Improving/Expanding Freight and Passenger Rail Services
- ▶ Identifies Existing and Potential Funding Sources
- ▶ Required by Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) as a Condition of Future Federal Funding
- ▶ Rail Plan Links Rail Planning Activities/Projects to CDOT's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan



# State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

- \$400,000 Grant from FRA's Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008
- Matched with \$400,000 State funds
- 15 month Project
- Steering Committee (SC) Members finalized



# State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan Steering Committee

- ▶ 2- BNSF and Union Pacific Railroads
- ▶ 2- San Luis and Rio Grande (SLRG) and OmniTRAX (Short Lines)
- ▶ 2- Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI) and Colorado Municipal League (CML)
- ▶ 1- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- ▶ 1- State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)
- ▶ 1- Colorado Office of Economic Development
- ▶ 1- Amtrak
- ▶ 1- Progressive 15, Action 22, Club 20
- ▶ 2- Transit (Colorado Association of Transit Operators [CASTA] and RTD)
- ▶ 1- Agriculture, Colorado Department of Agriculture
- ▶ 3- Colorado DOT Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager and Planning & Performance Mgr.



# Vision

“The Colorado rail system will improve the movement of freight and passengers in a safe, efficient and reliable manner. In addition, the system will contribute to a balanced transportation network, coordinated land use planning, economic growth, a better environment and energy efficiency. Rail infrastructure and service will expand to provide increased transportation capacity, cost effectiveness, accessibility and intermodal connectivity to meet freight and passenger market demands through investments which include public-private partnerships.”



# TASKS

1. Identify and Review Best Practices
2. State and Local Rail Programs
3. Rail System Description and Inventory
4. Prepare Stakeholder Outreach Plan
5. Conduct Stakeholder Outreach Plan
6. Economic, Environmental and Safety Impacts of Rail Transportation
7. Needs Assessment and Evaluation
8. Create a Vision for Rail in Colorado
9. Identify Potential Investment Opportunities
10. Long Range Service and Investment Program
11. Integrate Rail Plan into Statewide Transportation Plan



# Status

- Tasks 1 and 2 completed
- Work on other Tasks is ongoing
- Workshops/Open Houses and other presentations, August 2011 – September 2011
- Had 3 Steering Committee Meetings
- Last of 3 Stakeholders Meeting 10/18/2011
- Next Steering Committee Meeting 12/2/2011
- Draft Plan for review and comments  
January 2012



# Questions/Comments

Check the website and provide your comments @

<http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/PassengerFreightRailPlan>

