

Colorado State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

Presentation to Stakeholder Group - May 4, 2011



Colorado's State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

- **Consultant Scope of Services Designed to Satisfy 12 Requirements of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA)**
- **12 Month Project: Notice to Proceed January 7, 2011**
- **Rail Plan Links Rail Planning Activities/Projects to CDOT's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan**
- **Balance Between Freight Rail and Passenger Rail**
- **Supports New CDOT Division of Transit and Rail**



State Rail Planning History

- **1970s : Local Rail Service Assistance (LRSA) - Focused on support for lines potentially subject to abandonment. \$100,000 FRA Rail Planning Grants**
- **Late 1980s – early 1990s : Local Rail Freight Assistance (LRFA) Act – Freight Rail Assistance on light density rail lines**
- **1990s – 2008 Part of Multimodal Planning efforts of ISTEA, TEA-21, and SAFETEA-LU**



State Rail Planning History (cont)

- **2008 : Passenger Rail Investment & Improvement Act (PRIIA) – Mandated Updating of State Rail Plans and Development of National Rail Plan**
- **2009 - American Recovery and Investment Act – TIGER Grants (\$1.5 B) and Intercity and High Speed Passenger Rail Corridors (\$8.0 B)**
- **FY 2010 Appropriations**
 - \$50 million for Planning Studies (required 50% match)
 - Additional \$2.5 B for High Speed Rail Corridors



Why A State Rail Plan?

- **Required by PRRA as a Condition of Future Federal Funding**
- **Provides a “Bankable Plan” for all Proposed Rail Infrastructure and Services Projects**
- **Provides Future Direction for Improving/Expanding Freight and Passenger Rail Services**
- **Identifies Existing and Potential Funding Sources**
- **Serves as Educational Tool for Rail Transportation**



Task 1 -Identify and Review Best Practices

- **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guidebook on State Rail Planning Best Practices**
- **Existing State Rail Plans**
- **FRA's Preliminary National Rail Plan**



Task 2 – State and Local Rail Programs

- Provide Short History of Rail in Colorado
- Provide Short History of State Efforts in Rail Programs
- Provide a Summary of Significant State Rail Plan Legislation and Policy Initiatives since 1990
- Summarize CDOT Managed Rail Programs and Efforts
- Summarize Rail Related Programs Managed by Other State Agencies
- Summarize State Financial Support for Rail Programs



Task 3 – Rail System Description and Inventory

- **Physical Descriptions of Rail Lines and Rail Infrastructure; Trains/day, Million Gross Tons Carried**
- **GIS Based Formats Depicting Data Elements Graphically Where Appropriate**
- **Rail Carrier Profile for Class I Railroads and Short Line Railroads Operating in Colorado**
- **Describe Existing and Potential Passenger Rail Services Both Within the State as well as Interstate Connections.**
- **Commodity Flows Both Current and Projected**



Tasks 4 and 5 – Stakeholder Outreach

- **Develop Outreach Plan with Methods, Processes and Schedule**
- **Identify Stakeholder Group (currently 100 + members)**
- **Compile Lists of Rail Related Needs Identified by Stakeholders Utilizing Surveys, Interviews, and other Input**
- **Form State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan Steering Committee**



State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan Steering Committee Membership

- 2- BNSF and UP (Class I Railroads)
- 2- San Luis and Rio Grande (SLRG) and OmniTRAX (Short Lines)
- 2- Colo. Counties Inc. (CCI) and Colo. Municipal League (CML)
- 1- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- 1- State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC)
- 1- Amtrak
- 1 – Progressive 15, Action 22, Club 20
- 2- Transit (Colorado Assoc. of Transit Operators [CASTA] and RTD)
- 1- Agriculture – Colorado Dept of Agriculture
- 3 – CDOT Project Manager, Deputy PM and SW Planning Mgr.



Task 6 - Economic, Environmental and Safety Impacts of Rail Transportation

- **Assess Rail Related Accidents / Develop Cost Effective Recommendations**
- **Identify Short and Long Range Passenger Rail Needs; Including Stations, Connections to other Modes, and System Integration.**
- **Broadly Quantify Impacts of Rail Transportation on:**
 - **Congestion Mitigation, Safety, Traffic Operations, Noise, Air Quality, Economic Development, Community Impacts, Land Use, Energy Use**



Task 7 – Needs Assessment and Evaluation

- **Rail Carrier Identified Needs; Both Class I and Short Line**
- **Rail-User Identified Needs; Both Rail Freight Shippers and Rail Passengers**
- **Community/Stakeholder Identified Needs**



Task 8 – Create a Vision for Rail in Colorado

- Reflect Desires of Rail Stakeholders and Constituents
- Propose State Rail Policy
- Identify Performance Measures for Passenger and Freight Rail
- Discuss Rail's Role in an Integrated Transportation Network
- Express the Importance of Existing and Future Freight and Passenger Rail
- Relate to Railroad Impacts on the Environment, Energy Use, Economic Development and Land Use
- Identify Regional and International Connection and Opportunities; both Freight and Passenger



Task 9 – Identify Potential Investment Opportunities

- **Assign Costs, Timeframes and Priorities to Potential Rail Related Investments**
 - Freight System Bottlenecks
 - Rail Infrastructure Upgrades for Weight, Speed and Signal Improvements
 - Safety Upgrades : Grade Crossing Improvements and Grade Separations
 - Rail Facility Improvements; Stations, Rolling Stock, etc.
 - State Support for Short Lines/ Branch Lines
 - I-25 and I-70 Mountain Corridor Rail Passenger Related Investments



Task 10 – Long Range Service and Investment Program

- Describe and Quantify Public and Private Benefits of Proposed Projects
- Identify Project Costs, Timing and Priorities
- Determine State's Commitment to Projects
- Propose Future Rail Policy Direction
- Recommend Structure for Future CDOT Interaction with Railroads, Public, Neighboring States and Federal Agencies



Task 11 – Integrate Rail Plan into Statewide Transportation Plan

- **Determine the Appropriate Relationship Between Rail Plan and Statewide Transportation Plan**
- **Recommend Procedure for Integrating Rail Plan into CDOT 2040 Statewide Transportation Plan**



Task 12 – State Rail Plan Preparation

- **Prepare Draft Plan for Delivery to CDOT for Distribution to Steering Committee Members and Stakeholders for Review and Comment.**
- **Meet with CDOT to Review and Evaluate Comments**
- **Based on CDOT Guidance Related to Comments Received, Create Final Colorado State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan.**



Questions??

