

Thank you for attending today's Open House hosted by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to receive input on various elements of Colorado's State Freight and Passenger Rail Plan (SFPRP).

Why develop a State Rail Plan?

The SFPRP will present methods for improving the movement of freight and passengers in a safe, efficient and reliable manner. In 2008, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) enacted the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA). In order to be eligible for rail funding, states must develop statewide rail plans. These rail plans will set policies involving freight and passenger rail transportation within their boundaries, establish priorities and implementation strategies to enhance rail service in the public interest, and serve as the basis for federal and state rail investments within the State.

What will the Plan address?

PRIIA tasks states with producing a State Rail Plan to set policy involving both freight and passenger rail transportation. The Plan will also look at freight and passenger rail movements that provide critical connections to neighboring states.

There are 12 tasks identified in the Scope of Work for the SFPRP:

1. Identify and Review Best State Rail Planning Practices
2. Summarize CDOT's and Other Rail Planning Activities
3. Describe the State Rail Network and Inventory
4. Prepare Internal and External Stakeholder Outreach Plan
5. Conduct Stakeholder Outreach
6. Assess and Evaluate Rail's Impacts on the Economy, Environment and Safety
7. Assess and Evaluate Rail Transportation Related Needs
8. Create a Vision for Rail in Colorado
9. Identify Potential Rail Investment Opportunities
10. Develop Long Range Service and Investment Program
11. Integrate State Rail Plan into Long Range Transportation Plan
12. Prepare Final State Rail Plan

How is the Study being funded?

The Plan is being funded with a federal planning grant from the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) and is matched on a 50/50 basis with CDOT state funds.

Who is on the Steering Committee for the development of the Plan?

There are 17 members of the Steering Committee who are guiding the development of the SFPRP. There are representatives of the following groups: major railroads, short line railroads, Amtrak, Colorado Counties, Inc., Colorado Municipal League, State Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC), Progressive 15 (for Club 20 and Action 22), Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA), Colorado Dept. of Agriculture, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Regional Transportation District (RTD), Colorado Office of Economic Development and CDOT.

What about transit?

There are several passenger rail initiatives that have been studied or are underway. Information from these studies will be reviewed and findings will be considered and included while prioritizing projects for the SFPRP.

In July CDOT issued an invitation for proposals to complete the Interregional Connectivity Study which will assess recommendations for High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) alignments, technologies and station locations in the Denver Metropolitan Region. CDOT also anticipates beginning an Advanced Guideway System (AGS) Feasibility Study that will run concurrently and interface directly with the Interregional Connectivity Study.



