



COLORADO
Department of Transportation

Mountain Rail Study Project Open House Meetings September 2024



Agenda



- Project Background
- Funding Opportunities For Mountain Rail On the Near Horizon
- Mission and Objectives
- Project Benefits
- Mountain Rail Service Development Plan
 - SDP Elements Completed, in Progress, and Next Steps Timeline
 - Three Key Themes Prioritized in Developing Service Options
 - Fatal Flaws and Location Screening Criteria
- How to Provide Your Input



Project Background

What is the Mountain Rail Project?



The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is exploring a new initiative to enhance transportation options in the central Rocky Mountains.

The plan involves developing a rail line that connects the mountain towns and regions with urban centers and recreational locations.

This project aims to use existing rail infrastructure to meet the growing demand for passenger rail service.



Funding Opportunities

Two key funding sources for Mountain Rail, approved in last legislative session, to begin collecting in the next 18 months:

- 1. SB24-184 Support Surface Transportation Infrastructure Development**
 - Daily fee applied to rental cars
 - Funding goes to Colorado Transportation Investment office (CTIO) applicable to transit, congestion reduction
 - Begins January 2025
- 2. SB24-230 Oil & Gas Production Fees**
 - Fee on the production of oil and gas
 - Funding goes to Clean Transit Enterprise (CTE) applicable to clean transit
 - Begins Jan 2026

CDOT & State Officials are working closely to allocate funds from fees collected towards Mountain Rail and other eligible projects

CDOT is exploring Federal grants & financing programs to amplify state funds



Mission and Objectives

Enhance passenger rail connectivity between Denver and Craig



Improve reliable, safe and congestion free, mobility and multimodal travel option



Connect diverse communities with unique needs



Foster economic vitality through improved transportation equity and a Just Transition away from fossil fuels



Support environmental goals including greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction



Project Benefits

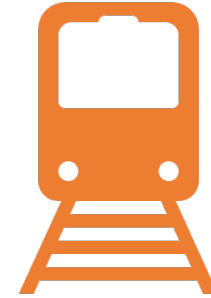


Mountain Rail provides a better transportation option for our environment and economy.

Creating alternative transportation will help Colorado meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals to ensure we have cleaner air and environment, while also supporting local mountain economies along the corridor.

Why is Mountain Rail good for Colorado?

This rail corridor will provide congestion free, safe and reliable service to mountain towns, recreational opportunities, and Just Transition communities to spur economic development within these communities and throughout Colorado. The corridor may also provide the local workforce with more transit options to get to and from work.



Why is Mountain Rail planning to use freight tracks?

Mountain Rail will utilize existing freight tracks to provide passenger service, this allows for service to be operational in the near term and costs less than building an entirely new rail line.



What is a Service Development Plan (SDP)?

- Determines operational and financial feasibility
- Defines all essential elements of planning and operations
- Includes an alternatives analysis
- Leverages industry best practices, including FRA's planning process
- Streamlines the subsequent permitting process

Service Development Plan

Route

Service

Stations

Operations

Infrastructure

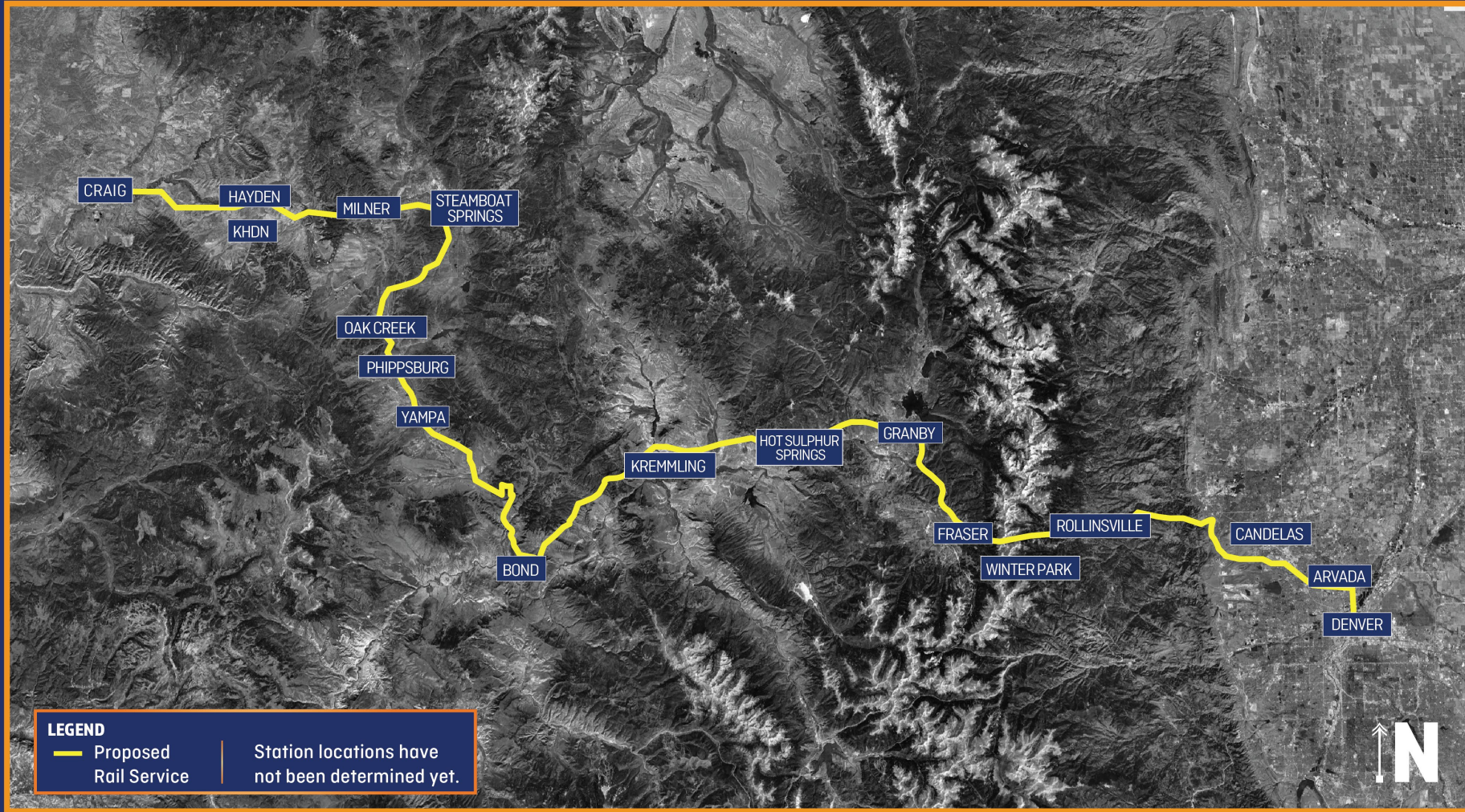
Fleet

Environmental

Finance



Selected Route for Mountain Rail





Three Key Themes Prioritized in Developing Service Options



Connectivity

- Linkages of important population centers
- Integration with current transportation options
- Creation of economic vitality and opportunities



Feasibility

- Operational feasibility
- Potential to serve likely riders
- Financial feasibility to support stable service



Equity

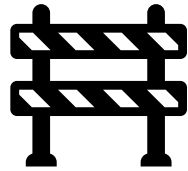
- Opportunity to support Just Transition
- Potential to reduce GHG and particulate matter pollution from mode shift



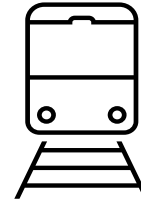
Service Plan
Options



Fatal Flaws and Location Screening Criteria



Station Constraints



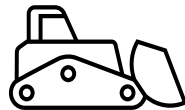
Railroad Operations

Regional Connectivity



Connections to Activity Centers

Economic Development



Development Potential

Environmental Sustainability



Natural and Built Environment

Multimodal Choice



Transit Access

Existing Infrastructure



Parcel Considerations



Access, Parking, and Circulation



Zoning Considerations



Social Equity and Resilience



Multimodal Connections



Construction Complexity



Next Steps Timeline

September 2024
Round 1 Public
Open Houses

October 2024
Round 2 Public
Open Houses

December 2024
Round 3 Public Open
Houses - Final SDP
Options

**September to
October 2024**
Continued SDP
Analysis

**October to
November 2024**
Continued SDP
Analysis

**Ongoing stakeholder engagement opportunities
continue past service plan development**



Stay Involved!

**Submit feedback and stay updated
on project website**

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