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## **CDOT begins study of relocating freight rails**

The Colorado Department of Transportation on Friday launched a feasibility study to investigate moving the rails carrying freight trains between Denver and Pueblo to the eastern plains of the state.

The study is called Rail Relocation for Colorado's Communities, or R2C2, and participants in the project include BNSF Railway, the Union Pacific Railroad and the Regional Transportation District.

The purpose of the R2C2 study is to evaluate preliminary rail alignments, determine the cost, investigate funding sources, figure out how to finance moving the rails and find out what steps need to be taken to create a public-private partnership.

The study builds on a benefits and cost report issued in 2005, which determined the public would benefit significantly by moving the freight rail traffic away from the Front Range corridor. Among the benefits: improved air quality in the metro area and fewer accidents involving vehicles and trains.