

Paper: Greeley Tribune

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

CDOT railroad study finalized

Staff reports,

The Colorado Department of Transportation has completed the Rail Relocation for Colorado Communities study, which examined the economic feasibility of moving through-freight rail traffic from the Front Range to Colorado's Eastern Plains.

The study offers two alternatives, one building a new rail line from Brush south to Las Animas, the other involves building a new line from a point in southeast Weld County to Las Animas. The Brush-Las Animas line would be 178 miles; the second would be 220 miles. Currently, the existing route from Brush to Las Animas is 300 miles and follows the Interstate 25 corridor from Denver to near Pueblo.

The final report provides an updated and enhanced analysis of the benefits, costs and issues associated with the possible implementation of a potential rail bypass project. It does not recommend any specific future alignment. The study's recommendations and next steps are based on input from a technical advisory committee and the public.

Participants in the study included the BNSF Railway, the Union Pacific Railroad, the Regional Transportation District and other regional and local stakeholders.

The study is available at www.dot.state.co.us/railroadstudy/default.asp.