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State engineers to begin study of Front Range rail congestion

DENVER — The first step in taking train traffic away from the congested Front Range will be considered by state engineers in coming months.

A study by the Colorado Department of Transportation will first focus on the area between Denver and Pueblo.

The project, titled Rail Relocation for Colorado's Communities, will explore whether it is feasible to move a majority of freight rail traffic away from the Front Range to the eastern plains.

Participating railroads include the BNSF Railway and the Union Pacific Railroad. In addition, the Regional Transportation District and regional and local governments will take part.

Agency officials hope the project will better define and evaluate alternative rail alignments, determine the costs of the project, investigate funding sources and determine what steps will have to be carried out to form a public/private partnership.

Public input will be sought during the course of the study, a release from the Department of Transportation states.

A study of Northern Colorado alternatives has not been planned.