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Study: Moving Colo. Rail routes could save \$1.4B

DENVER - A Colorado Department of Transportation study says moving freight trains away from the Denver-to-Pueblo corridor and onto the Eastern Plains could have up to \$1.4 billion in benefits over 19 years.

The study, released Tuesday, examines moving BNSF Rail and Union Pacific Railroad trains to new or upgraded tracks on one of two routes.

The new routes extend roughly between Brush and Wiggins on the north and Las Animas on the south.

Rail traffic through Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo would drop from 31 trains daily to 13.

Most of the rerouted traffic would be trains carrying coal from Wyoming's Powder River Basin to power plants in Texas. Those trains can be up to 2 miles long.

CDOT is examining whether taxpayers should help pay for the plan.