



## **COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL ON TRACK TO BECOME REALITY**

### ***ACCEPTANCE INTO FEDERAL PROGRAM PROVIDES NEW FUNDING TO PLAN, IMPLEMENT NEW INTER-CITY RAIL SERVICE***

DENVER (December 13, 2023) — Last week, President Joe Biden announced Colorado's Front Range Passenger Rail is a priority rail corridor for federal investment and development. The Front Range Passenger Rail District (FRPRD) and Gov. Jared Polis were joined by federal and local leaders on Wednesday to celebrate the FRPRD's acceptance into the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development (ID) Program and discuss what's next for the rail service.

"The Biden Administration's recognition of Colorado as part of the Corridor Identification Program is a very important step to turn all of our hard work and planning into a Front Range Passenger Rail that's convenient, low cost and fast," said Gov. Jared Polis.

Coloradans have shown support for a passenger rail service for more than a decade, culminating in the 2021 state-legislated creation of the Front Range Passenger Rail District as the governing body to oversee development of the rail service. Since then, the FRPRD has worked closely with the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to advance a comprehensive Service Development Plan, which will be completed in 2024.

Acceptance into the Corridor ID Program provides FRPRD with an initial half a million dollars. Supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the program offers accepted projects significant funding: 80-90% federal match to 10-20% local contribution. Completing a Service Development Plan is the first in a 3-step process of the Corridor ID Program. Colorado's early coordination with the FRA puts FRPRD in a unique position—entering the Corridor ID Program a step ahead of its nationwide counterparts.

"We are thrilled to take this major step in bringing a passenger rail service to communities along the Front Range," said FRPRD General Manager Andy Karsian. "This marks a once-in-a-lifetime chance to expand Colorado's transportation options with safe, comfortable and reliable passenger rail. The service will provide new opportunities for Coloradans to connect with one another."

The FRPRD is putting plans into motion. In the coming year, the District will complete financial modeling to determine the best way to pay for the service while positioning the project to progress through an efficient environmental clearance process. The first train service is expected to begin operating in about a decade.

Front Range Passenger Rail will use 180 miles of existing freight lines to connect communities from Pueblo in the south to Fort Collins in the north with several stops in between. In the future, the rail is expected to connect to New Mexico and Wyoming. For more information, visit [ridethefrontrange.com](http://ridethefrontrange.com), [watch a video](#) introducing Front Range Passenger Rail or [view a recording](#) of Wednesday's press event.

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### **About Front Range Passenger Rail**

The Front Range Passenger Rail is a passenger train service that will connect Front Range Coloradans to opportunities, adventure and each other. Initially offering service from Fort Collins through Denver and south to Pueblo, FRPR inter-city train service has the long-term vision of connecting Colorado to New Mexico and Wyoming. As the largest special district in Colorado, Front Range Passenger Rail District has a mission to plan, design, finance, construct, operate and maintain the new passenger rail system. For more information, visit [ridethefrontrange.com](http://ridethefrontrange.com).