



FRPR DISTRICT INAUGURAL NEWSLETTER

As the FRPR District celebrates our first birthday, we're honored to provide an update on our progress and to share opportunities to stay connected. It will take all of us working together to make FRPR a reality – get on board!

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WHAT IS FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL?

Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) 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.

FRPR will use existing tracks shared with freight railroads to minimize costs and accelerate the service start date. The first train could be operational in the next 10-15 years.

[DOWNLOAD OUR FACT SHEET AND LEARN MORE](#)



CREATION OF THE FRPR DISTRICT

Building upon the visionary planning and advocacy of the Southwest Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission, the Colorado Legislature created the FRPR District in 2021 to bring passenger rail to Colorado's Front Range.

In the years ahead, the FRPR District will need voters within the district to approve a tax increase to fund the construction, start-up operations and maintenance of the new passenger rail system. Strong partnerships and voter support will be pivotal for FRPR's success.

READ THE FRPR DISTRICT ACT

The FRPR District is the largest special district in Colorado. An independent government agency, the FRPR District has the specified role of planning, designing, financing, constructing, operating and maintaining a passenger rail system.



Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed the FRPR District Act into law in June 2021.

SEE THE FRPR DISTRICT MAP



Spanning portions or the entirety of the 13 counties that border Interstate 25, the FRPR District is collaborating with local governments, FRA, CDOT, RTD and host railroads to:

- Plan the future passenger rail service.
- Support passenger rail station planning.
- Leverage Bipartisan Infrastructure Law opportunities.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The FRPR District and Colorado Department of Transportation are working together on a Service Development Plan (SDP) for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). An SDP is a process that defines the where, when, and how for our future rail service. This data-driven plan is key to secure new federal funding.

The SDP defines:

- Route
- Station Locations
- Service Schedules
- Onboard Amenities
- Costs and Financing
- Fares
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Railroad Partnerships
- Phasing and Implementation Plan

READ MORE ABOUT THE SDP

CORRIDOR IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In March of this year, the FRPR District submitted an application to the FRA's Corridor Identification and Development Program (CIDP). CIDP is a comprehensive program specifically designed to start new inter-city passenger rail services, just like FRPR. The program provides not only technical guidance and start-up support, but also opens up over \$1 billion in new discretionary grant opportunities with minimal local match requirements of only 10-20%. The rail planning and policy advancement that began through the Southwest Chief & Front Range Passenger Rail Commission has positioned FRPR to be accepted into the program.

With strong state support, the unprecedented funding opportunities established through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law make this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build, operate and maintain passenger rail along Colorado's Front Range.

READ OUR CIDP APPLICATION

2023 DISTRICT FIELD TRIPS

FRPR District Board Directors and General Manager Andy Karsian have had the pleasure of meeting with stakeholders and policy leaders throughout Colorado and Washington D.C. to advance FRPR.



FEBRUARY: WASHINGTON D.C.

General Manager Karsian joined RTD General Manager & CEO and FRPR Director Debra A. Johnson, FRPR Director Claire Levy, FRPR Director Joan Peck and other local elected officials and staff affiliated with the Northwest Mayors & Commissioners Coalition on an advocacy trip to Capitol Hill. The delegation briefed Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, Colorado congressional representatives whose districts intersect with the FRPR District and staffers from Amtrak, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the FRA and House and Senate transportation and infrastructure committees.

The successful visit provided the FRPR District with a unique opportunity to promote FRPR and the CIDP application with key leaders in Washington D.C.



JUNE: TRINIDAD

Las Animas County Commissioner and FRPR Director Luis Lopez organized a FRPR briefing at Trinidad State College for local leaders and elected officials from Las Animas and Huerfano Counties.

It was an honor to meet with the southernmost counties to discuss the path toward implementation and the concerns and aspirations unique to more rural parts of the FRPR District.



JUNE: PUEBLO

Pueblo and rail are inextricably linked. FRPR District staff and Directors Sal Pace, Daneya Esgar, Dennis Flores and Jose Soto gathered in Pueblo for a tour of the Historic Union Depot train station. The tour transported everyone back in time, to when the station actively served passenger trains.

The visit helped imagine a not-too-distant future when the station will once again serve travelers and provide an economic anchor for the city.

Contracting Opportunities

**VISIT OUR
PROCUREMENT
PAGE ONLINE**

The FRPR District is establishing a bench of pre-qualified professional consulting firms that will subsequently be invited to submit task order proposals to provide services ranging from planning, engineering, financial modeling, funding strategy, strategic communications, and government affairs. This process is currently in development. **We anticipate releasing the Request for Qualifications and holding a Pre-Proposal meeting in September.**

As information becomes available, it will be posted on our website on a new Procurement page and shared with our mailing list.

GET ON BOARD

WANT TO HELP BRING FRPR TO FRUITION?

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT FRPR?



CONTACT LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Building support at the local level is crucial. Tell your mayor, city council members and county commissioners that FRPR is a top priority. Don't stop there - talk with your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers about FRPR.



LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Connect the FRPR District with organizations that might write a letter of support for a future grant application. Chambers of commerce, environmental organizations, active transportation alliances and local elected officials are key examples.



PROVIDE INPUT

Throughout the Service Development Plan process, there will be opportunities to submit questions and provide input. Visit the Service Development Plan page on our website for the latest information.

**Stay in
the Know**

RIDETHEFRONTRANGE.COM

Visit our website to track FRPR's progress and events.

INFO@FRPRDISTRICT.COM

Email us to sign up for our mailing list and receive news, or to request a briefing or presentation.