



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 24, 2025**

## **Sal Pace Named General Manager of Front Range Passenger Rail District**

*Former House Minority Leader and Nationally Recognized Rail Advocate to Lead Colorado's Passenger Rail Effort*

DENVER, CO — The Front Range Passenger Rail District (FRPRD) today announced the appointment of Salvatore “Sal” Pace as its new permanent General Manager. Pace, a former Colorado House Minority Leader and Pueblo County Commissioner, brings more than a decade of experience in passenger rail policy, coalition building, and public infrastructure development as the District enters a new era of planning and implementation for Front Range passenger rail service.

The Front Range Passenger Rail District — the largest special district in Colorado — is charged under state law with developing and operating intercity rail service from Wyoming to New Mexico, with planned stops in Fort Collins, Longmont, Loveland, Boulder, Westminster, Broomfield, Louisville, Denver, Littleton, Douglas County, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Trinidad.

*“Front Range Rail will benefit every Front Range resident by reducing traffic, improving air quality, and lowering household transportation costs. My priority is to build the broad, bipartisan coalition needed to advance this transformative project and refer a successful ballot measure to the voters of the District,” **said Sal Pace.***

*“Few leaders have accomplished more for passenger rail — and no one is better prepared to lead the Front Range Passenger Rail District than Sal Pace. From helping launch CDOT’s Transit and Rail Division to saving Amtrak’s Southwest Chief, Sal has demonstrated time and again to Coloradans that he can turn vision into reality. Colorado is fortunate to have his leadership, experience, and relationships at the table. Sal Pace is exactly the kind of results-driven, collaborative leader we need to make Front Range passenger rail a reality,” **said Colorado Governor Jared Polis.***

### **Proven Track Record in Rail Advocacy**

Pace has been a champion for Colorado passenger rail for more than a decade. His accomplishments include co-authoring the 2009 FASTER amendment that first funded CDOT’s Transit and Rail Division, leading negotiations during the pandemic to establish the Front Range Passenger Rail District itself and serving as co-chair of Governor Polis’ Transition Committee to advance rail initiatives.

Most notably, Pace co-founded the Southwest Chief Coalition and played an instrumental role saving Amtrak’s Southwest Chief route from discontinuation. His grassroots campaign across rural Colorado and Kansas helped raise \$100 million in funding commitments to repair the tracks, and Pace helped negotiate with BNSF to absorb \$100 million in maintenance costs. For this work, **Amtrak’s CEO awarded him the company’s highest honor, the President’s Service & Safety Award, in 2016.**

### **Coalition Building and Ballot Success**

Before serving as a State Representative and Pueblo County Commissioner, Pace served as chief political advisor to Congressman John Salazar. He has played a leadership role on numerous successful ballot

campaigns and negotiated 15 community improvement projects including funding the station-area plan currently contemplated for Front Range Passenger Rail.

### **Vision for the District**

As General Manager, Pace will focus on several key priorities:

- Preparing a district-wide referendum for voter approval
- Leading outreach to mayors, legislators, county commissioners, business leaders, labor unions and community organizations
- Building public trust through visible progress on the Northwest Route through Joint Service
- Ensuring comprehensive station area plans for all communities in the District

*“Front Range Passenger Rail needs a leader who understands Class I railroad negotiations, knows how to build winning coalitions, and has the political relationships to secure funding. Sal is that person,” said FRPRD Board Chairman Chris Nevitt. “We have tremendous momentum thanks to Governor Polis’ leadership on Joint Service. Sal will help deliver service to every community in the District, from north to south, leaving no one behind.”*

The District also extends its sincere appreciation to Chrissy Breit, Interim General Manager, for her dedicated service and leadership over the past several years. *“Chrissy has been an exceptional steward of the District during its formative years. Her professionalism, steady hand, and deep commitment to collaboration have positioned the District well for the work ahead. We thank her for her service and wish her continued success,” said Chris Nevitt.*

### **About the Front Range Passenger Rail District**

The Front Range Passenger Rail District was established to develop and operate passenger rail service connecting communities along Colorado’s Front Range. The District is working toward a voter approved ballot initiative to fund comprehensive passenger rail service that will provide sustainable, efficient transportation for residents and visitors while supporting economic development throughout the region. For more information visit: [RideTheFrontRange.com](http://RideTheFrontRange.com)

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