



Front Range Passenger Rail District

***A NEW TRANSPORTATION OPTION
FOR COLORADO'S FRONT RANGE***



RIDETHEFRONTRANGE.COM

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LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) wouldn't be where it is today without the efforts of so many Coloradans working together to bring passenger rail to our great state.

I invite you to browse this annual report to learn how the FRPR District is advancing a future of reliable and efficient travel along the Front Range.

Accomplishments from this past year include:

- Establishing the administrative structure and processes for the largest special district in Colorado.
- Entering the federal Corridor Identification and Development Program, which unlocks once-in-a-lifetime sources of funding and technical support to implement new passenger rail corridors.
- Securing \$2 million from the state for additional FRPR District capacity building and outreach.
- Continuing our Service Development Plan to define the where, when, and how for our future rail service.
- Meeting with stakeholders and policy leaders across the state.

As we look ahead to 2024, the FRPR District is excited to broaden our outreach and engage in deeper coalition-building. It will take all of us to start a new passenger rail service, and we'll continue to rely on your support.



Andy Karsian

**FRPR District
General Manager**

Our Mission

AS THE LARGEST SPECIAL DISTRICT IN COLORADO, THE FRPR DISTRICT WILL PLAN, DESIGN, FINANCE, CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN A NEW PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEM ALONG THE FRONT RANGE.

How Intercity Rail Connects Us All



Check out this video to learn more about FRPR

[BIT.LY/FRPRVIDEO](https://bit.ly/frprvideo)



Our Team



ANDY KARSIAN
GENERAL MANAGER

Andy is eager to shape a transformative investment that will benefit Coloradans for generations to come. Andy takes pride in his history of working

together with local governments to advance the goals of communities throughout our state. Prior to joining the FRPR District, Andy served as CDOT's legislative liaison, forming coalitions with legislators and local representatives to progress much-needed transportation policy. Previously, Andy was the political liaison for Colorado's county commissioners' association, served in the Peace Corps in Armenia, and managed a jazz bar in Lower Downtown Denver.

 Andy.Karsian@FRPRDistrict.com



CHRISSEY BREIT
CHIEF OF STAFF

Chrissy was initially exposed to rail while supporting the CREATE Program, a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership to improve

the fluidity and performance of Chicago's railroads. Through her work with CREATE and living at the nexus of America's rail network, Chrissy discovered the joy of traveling by train. As a fifth generation Coloradan, Chrissy is excited to apply her expertise and experiences to help realize passenger rail in her home state. Outside of transportation, Chrissy is passionate about presidential libraries and is working toward visiting each one.

 Chrissy.Breit@FRPRDistrict.com



NANCY BURKE
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Nancy is honored to be a resource and communicator for FRPR. She chose to join the FRPR District to champion intercity rail

as the connective backbone for expansive growth along the Front Range. An award-winning public relations strategist, Nancy led government affairs and communications for industry organizations throughout the Denver metro region before joining the FRPR District. Outside of work, Nancy likes to climb 14ers (nine so far), be a judge for the American Homebrewers Association, and cheer on Nebraska Cornhusker football.

 Nancy.Burke@FRPRDistrict.com



DUANE SAYERS
DIRECTOR OF RAIL PLANNING AND OPERATIONS

Duane is ready to make a positive community impact through FRPR, which he feels will change the face of transportation for the

people of Colorado. With 30 years of experience working on rail systems across the United States, Duane previously managed operations for the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District, Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, and RTD. Duane grew up on a ranch in southern California and served as a reserve police officer and volunteer firefighter. Duane enjoys playing the drums and riding motorcycles.

 Duane.Sayers@FRPRDistrict.com



Connecting People to Opportunities, Adventure, and Each Other

FRPR is a passenger train service that will initially offer service from Fort Collins through Denver and south to Pueblo. The intercity 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.

WHO DO WE SERVE?

- Working Professionals
- College Students, Staff and Visitors
- Military Personnel
- People with Disabilities
- Families
- Sports Fans
- Festival-Goers
- Tourists
- Older Adults
- Public Transportation Users
- Urban Explorers
- Sustainability Advocates



The FLIRT H2 Train, a hydrogen-and battery-powered train, developed by Stadler Rail.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



CDOT Executive Director Shoshanna Lew speaking at the December CIDP celebration.



Colorado Springs Mayor Yemi Mobolade and FRPR District General Manager Andy Karsian connect at the FRPR District CIDP celebration.



FRPR District directors were excited to ride a first-of-its-kind hydrogen-and battery-powered train at an event hosted by Governor Polis at the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo in September.

Starting Ahead of the Curve:

Corridor Identification and Development Program

In December, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) selected the FRPR District to be part of its Corridor Identification and Development Program (CIDP). This acceptance signals that FRPR is a priority corridor for federal investment.

CIDP is a three-step program specifically designed to create a pipeline of passenger rail projects ready for implementation. By being selected, the FRPR District receives an initial half of a million dollars for start-up support and is now in a preferential position to secure additional dollars through discretionary grants with minimal local match requirements of only 10-20%.

Colorado enters CIDP ahead of the curve – many other states are at the starting line when it comes to developing new passenger rail corridors while Colorado began working with the FRA and developing its Service Development Plan (SDP) in 2020. The SDP is the second step in the CIDP. 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.



Governor Polis addresses attendees at the celebration of the FRPR District's acceptance into CIDP.



Federal Railroad Administrator Amit Bose, center, chats with FRPR District Chief of Staff Chrissy Breit, left, and FRPR Director Sal Pace, right.

Working Together:

Service Development Plan

The FRPR District and Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) are working together on a Service Development Plan (SDP) for the 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.

WHAT THE SDP DEFINES:



ROUTE



**STATION
LOCATIONS**



**SERVICE
SCHEDULES**



**ONBOARD
AMENITIES**



**COST AND
FINANCING**



FARES



**RAILROAD
PARTNERSHIPS**



**INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS**



**PHASING AND
IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN**



Building Upon Support: \$2 Million Secured in State Budget

During the 2023 legislative session, lawmakers dedicated state revenues as matching funds for local governments interested in applying for infrastructure grants through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

In Senate Bill (SB) 23-238, the legislature also set aside \$2 million for the FRPR District. The governor signed the bill, alongside CDOT and FRPR District representatives on May 22.

Building upon the support of SB 23-283, the FRPR District is maximizing federal funding opportunities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Three immediate opportunities exist in the Railroad Crossing Elimination Program, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program, and CIDP. General Manager Andy Karsian is working with RTD, the Governor's office, CDOT, local governments, regional partners, and others to further grant applications toward a successful outcome.



Governor Polis, FRPR District General Manager Andy Karsian, CDOT Executive Director Shoshanna Lew, and other CDOT staff following the signing of the bill.

Rail of the Future:

FRPR Directors, Governor Polis Ride Hydrogen-Powered Train

On Sept. 19, Governor Polis hosted elected officials, state transportation leaders, FRPR District directors, and other key stakeholders to ride a first-of-its-kind hydrogen-and battery-powered train (the FLIRT H2 Train, developed by Stadler Rail) at the Transportation Technology Center (TTC) in Pueblo.

Colorado is honored to be the home of the world-renowned TTC, which provides the state strategic opportunities to preview emerging technologies.



FRPR District directors lined up to ride a first-of-its-kind hydrogen-and battery-powered train with Governor Polis at the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo in September.

Revitalizing Our Online Presence:

New Website Launched

[About the District](#) [District Meetings](#) [Procurement](#) [Jobs](#)



[Home](#) [Service Development Plan](#) [FAQs](#) [Library](#) [Get Involved](#)

Front Range Passenger Rail

A new transportation option for
Colorado's Front Range.

[See What's New](#)

In the spring, FRPR launched a new and improved website. The user-friendly site features the vision of FRPR, provides helpful information about current planning work, and houses a library of informational materials.

It also provides a one-stop-shop for ways to get involved and stay informed, including signing up for various listservs, submitting comments and questions, public and stakeholder engagement opportunities, job openings, and procurement opportunities.

**Check Out Our
New Website**

[RIDETHEFRONTRANGE.COM](https://www.ridethefrontrange.com)



Stakeholder and Policy Leader Engagement



WASHINGTON D.C.

General Manager Andy 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.



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.

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.



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.



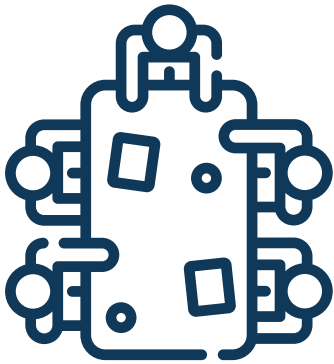
NORTHWEST METRO AREA

Commuting Solutions held a Sustainable Transportation Summit on Aug. 30. Local, state, and national thought leaders convened to discuss issues that interplay between Colorado's growth, land use planning, and opportunities to make passenger rail a reality in Colorado.

The FRPR District staff, directors and advocates joined the conversation, including General Manager Andy Karsian, directors Joan Peck, Claire Levy, Dennis Newman, Debra Johnson, and John Putnam, and FRPR partner David Singer. Several FRPR representatives participated in presentations and panel discussion about building partnerships and leveraging forward-thinking policy to realize passenger rail as a transformational transportation option for the Front Range.

OUTREACH

Important 2023 Milestones



7

**BOARD OF
DIRECTOR
LUNCH-N-
LEARNS**



9

**STATUTORILY
REQUIRED
UPDATES**

1



COLORADO
Department of Transportation

2



**TRANSPORTATION
LEGISLATION REVIEW
COMMITTEE**

4



Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments
Communities Working Together

5



**SOUTH CENTRAL
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

6



7



8



9





35

BRIEFINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS AND COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT

- North Front Range Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Denver Regional Council of Governments
- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Pueblo Area Council of Governments
- South Central Council of Governments

LOCAL AND REGIONAL

- City of Fort Collins
- Larimer County
- Longmont Transportation Panel
- Northwest Mayors and Commissioners Coalition
- Commuting Solutions
- Broomfield Transportation Forum
- North Area Transportation Alliance
- Greater Denver Transit
- Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council
- Transportation Solutions Arapahoe County
- Highlands Ranch Metro District
- Douglas County Subregional Transportation Forum
- Douglas County Economic Development Collaborative
- Northwest Douglas County Chamber and Economic Development Corporation
- Colorado Springs Chamber and Economic Development Corporation

STATE-WIDE AND SPECIAL INTEREST

- CDOT Transportation Commission
- Colorado Counties, Inc.
- Colorado Science and Engineering Fellows
- Colorado Transportation Symposium
- ColoRail
- I-70 Mountain Corridor Coalition
- Joint Colorado House and Senate Transportation Committees
- Move Colorado
- Transportation Legislation Review Committee

NOTE:
Some of the organizations listed were briefed more than once.

Board of Directors

JIM SOUBY

CHAIR

Governor Appointment –
Transportation and Public
Finance

JILL GAEBLER

VICE CHAIR

City of Colorado Springs, on
behalf of Pikes Peak Area
Council of Governments

CHRIS NEVITT

TREASURER

Denver Regional Council of
Governments

**JULIE DURAN
MULLICA**

SECRETARY

Denver Regional Council of
Governments

NATHAN ANDERSON

EX OFFICIO

Union Pacific Railroad

DANEYA ESGAR

Governor Appointment –
Environmental Conservation

DENNIS FLORES

Pueblo Area Council of
Governments

JOHN GRAHAM

Pikes Peak Area Council of
Governments

DAVID HARRIS

EX OFFICIO

State of New Mexico

DEBRA JOHNSON

EX OFFICIO

RTD

WILL KARSPECK

North Front Range
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

DENNIS NEWMAN

Amtrak

JOSH LAIPPLY

Governor Appointment –
Transportation and Public
Finance

CLAIRE LEVY

Governor Appointment –
Resident from City/County
within FasTracks

LUIS LOPEZ

South Central Council of
Governments

DEBORAH MULVEY

Denver Regional Council of
Governments

JOHNNY OLSON

North Front Range
Metropolitan Planning
Organization

SAL PACE

Governor Appointment –
Passenger Rail System
Development

JOAN PECK

Denver Regional Council
of Governments

JOHN PUTNAM

Colorado Department of
Transportation

JOSE SOTO

Governor Appointment –
Statewide Employee
Organization

DALE STEENBERGEN

EX OFFICIO

State of Wyoming

JIM TYLICK

EX OFFICIO

BNSF Railway

RANDY WHEELOCK

EX OFFICIO

I-70 Mountain Corridor
Coalition

Committees

Executive

JIM SOUBY
CHAIR

JILL GAEBLER
VICE CHAIR

CHRIS NEVITT
TREASURER

**JULIE DURAN
MULLICA**
SECRETARY

JOSH LAIPPLY

DEBORAH MULVEY

JOHN PUTNAM

JOAN PECK

Finance

CHRIS NEVITT
CHAIR

DENNIS FLORES

JOSH LAIPPLY

LUIS LOPEZ

SAL PACE

JOHN PUTNAM

Planning

JOSH LAIPPLY
CHAIR

JILL GAEBLER

WILL KARSPECK

**JULIE DURAN
MULLICA**

DEBORAH MULVEY

CHRIS NEVITT

JOHNNY OLSON

SAL PACE

JOAN PECK

JOHN PUTNAM

JOSE SOTO

JIM SOUBY

**RANDY
WHEELOCK**

Government Affairs/ Communications

DEBORAH MULVEY
CHAIR

DANEYA ESGAR

JOHN GRAHAM

CLAIRE LEVY

**JULIE DURAN
MULLICA**

SAL PACE

JOAN PECK

JOSE SOTO



The FRPR District Board of Directors.

2024 PRIORITIES



SUPPORT

Capacity building through new staff and consultant support, helping us expand our technical work and public reach.



PROJECT ADVANCEMENT

Partner coordination to meet the SDP milestones and advance the environmental review process.



CAMPAIGNS

Launching coalition-building and public awareness campaigns to build support for passenger rail along the Front Range.



MODELING

Modeling to develop a financial plan for implementing the project and operating the service.



ENGAGEMENT

Engagement with state leaders on rail and transit discussions.



FUNDING

Pursuit of federal funding opportunities.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

**FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT
GENERAL FUND
2024 BUDGET
WITH 2022 ACTUAL AND 2023 ESTIMATED For the
Years Ended and Ending December 31.**

	ACTUAL 2022	BUDGET 2023	ACTUAL 8/31/2023	ESTIMATED 2023	BUDGET 2024
BEGINNING FUND BALANCES	\$ -	\$ 16,400,000	\$ 16,343,993	\$ 16,343,993	\$ 18,574,512
REVENUES					
Grant revenue	-	-	-	500,000	-
Intergovernmental revenues - Southwest Chief	12,000,000	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental revenues - Federal	2,500,000	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental revenues - State	1,900,000	348,480	348,480	2,348,480	-
Interest income	-	-	-	10,000	50,000
Other revenue	-	-	5,842	5,842	-
Total revenues	16,400,000	348,480	354,322	2,864,322	50,000
Total funds available	16,400,000	16,748,480	16,698,315	19,208,315	18,624,512
EXPENDITURES					
General and administrative					
Salaries & Wages	20,212	186,262	129,508	243,872	525,000
Benefits	-	15,525	4,998	6,000	6,000
Accounting	-	3,795	16,641	32,000	70,000
Auditing	-	-	-	8,000	10,000
Board meeting support	-	10,010	-	10,000	10,000
Dues and membership	1,015	590	4,090	4,090	5,000
Events/travel/outreach	9,273	6,065	72,616	17,000	22,500
Insurance	6,348	11,308	5,841	5,841	7,500
IT services	-	-	7,733	12,000	15,000
Legal	14,878	96,000	74,439	150,000	165,000
Miscellaneous	-	3,600	12,957	35,000	-
Office space	-	-	-	-	36,000
PR/Advocacy	-	-	-	-	99,996
Supplies	3,881	4,410	3,294	5,000	7,500
Website maintenance	400	10,398	28,814	55,000	60,000
Contingency	-	-	-	-	35,500
Consultant support					
Grant writing	-	137,500	22,819	50,000	100,000
Service development plan	-	1,640,000	12,941	-	1,640,000
Outreach/marketing	-	-	-	-	500,000
Financial modeling	-	-	-	-	250,000
Ballot costs	-	-	-	-	250,000
Contingency support	-	-	-	-	125,000
Total expenditures	56,007	2,125,463	396,691	633,803	3,939,996
Total expenditures and transfers out requiring appropriation	56,007	2,125,463	396,691	633,803	3,939,996
ENDING FUND BALANCES	\$ 16,343,993	\$ 14,623,017	\$ 16,301,624	\$ 18,574,512	\$ 14,684,516
EMERGENCY RESERVE	\$ 492,000	\$ 10,500	\$ 10,700	\$ 71,000	\$ 1,500
DEDICATED FUNDS	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
OPERATIONS RESERVE	-	-	-	-	135,000
AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS	3,851,993	2,612,517	4,290,924	6,503,512	2,548,016
TOTAL RESERVE	\$ 16,343,993	\$ 14,623,017	\$ 16,301,624	\$ 18,574,512	\$ 14,684,516

No assurance provided. See summary of significant assumptions.

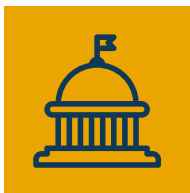
As we move into 2024, the FRPR District is prioritizing the following:

- Outreach Coalition Building
- Financial Modeling
- Service Planning
- Grant Writing
- Ballot Initiative Development

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.

***It takes all
of us working
together to
bring passenger
rail to the
Front Range.***



RIDETHEFRONTRANGE.COM



Voice Your Support

[RIDETHEFRONTRANGE.COM/GET-INVOLVED](https://www.ridethefrontrange.com/get-involved)

Go online to voice your support for FRPR, stay up to date on involvement opportunities, join our mailing list, and more!



FRPR

**FRONT RANGE
PASSENGER RAIL**

