



**Front Range Passenger Rail District
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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Webinar ID: 846 0703 5098

Friday, August 23, 2024, 9 a.m. MST

AGENDA

1. Call to Order; Roll Call, Establish Quorum

2. Public Comment

Advance registration is required to speak during Public Comment. The order of speaking is on a first-come, first-served basis. Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes per person. People wishing to make a comment must sign-up before the start of the meeting at https://bit.ly/FRPRD_PublicComment.

3. Approval of Minutes July 26, 2024 Regular Meeting (Pg. 3 - 5)

4. General Manager's Report

A. District Updates

i. Grants Process Memo (Pg. 6 - 8)

ii. City of Longmont Letter of Support Request for Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant (Pg. 9 - 10)

iii. Upcoming Board Engagement (Pg. 11)

iv. Sept – Dec 2024 Board Calendar (Pg. 12)

v. SB24-184 Update

B. Recent Briefings and Presentations

C. Upcoming Business

5. Service Development Plan Report (Pg. 13)

6. State Report

7. Committee Reports

A. Government Affairs/Communications (Pg. 14 - 16)

B. Executive (Pg. 17 - 18)

8. Adjourn



Front Range Passenger Rail District Board of Directors

Need 9 voting members present for a quorum.

Representation	Name	Executive	Finance	Planning	GA/Comms
DRCOG	Chris Nevitt	Chair	X	X	X
Colorado Springs ~ PPACG	Jill Gaebler	Vice Chair		X	
SCCOG	Luis Lopez	Treasurer	Chair		
DRCOG	Joan Peck	Secretary		X	X
<i>Union Pacific</i>	Nathan Anderson				
NFRMPO	Tricia Canonico			X	X
PPACG	Lynette Crow-Iverson				X
Govt. Appt.	Daneya Esgar				X
PACOG	Dennis Flores		X		
<i>New Mexico</i>	David Harris				
<i>RTD</i>	Debra Johnson				
NFRMPO	Will Karspeck			X	
Govt. Appt.	Josh Laipply	X	X	Chair	
Govt. Appt.	Claire Levy				X
DRCOG	Deborah Mulvey	X		X	Chair
<i>Amtrak</i>	Dennis Newman				
DRCOG	Sarah Nurmela			X	
Govt. Appt.	Sal Pace	X	X	X	X
Govt. Appt.	John Putnam	X	X	X	
Govt. Appt.	Jose Soto			X	X
<i>Wyoming</i>	Dale Steenbergen				
CDOT	Herman Stockinger			X	X
<i>BNSF</i>	Jim Tylick				
<i>I-70 Coalition</i>	Randy Wheelock			X	

Directors in italics are non-voting.



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT (THE “DISTRICT”)

Held: Friday, July 26, 2024; 9 a.m.
(Virtual)

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the District was convened in accordance with applicable statutes of the State of Colorado, with the following Directors present:

Attendance: Tricia Canonico, Lynn Crow-Iverson, Daneya Esgar, Dennis Flores, Jill Gaebler, Debra Johnson, Will Karspeck, Alex Khaflin, Josh Laipply, Claire Levy, Luis Lopez, Deborah Mulvey, Chris Nevitt, Sarah Nurmela, Sal Pace, Joan Peck, John Putnam, Jose Soto, Dale Steenbergen, Herman Stockinger, Randy Wheelock

Not Present: David Harris

Chair Nevitt called the meeting to order @ 9:07 a.m.: Chair Nevitt welcomed meeting attendees and took roll. A quorum of voting Directors was established.

Public Comment: No public comments received in advance of the meeting. Chair Nevitt opened the floor to public comments and no attendees provided public comment.

Approval of Minutes June 28, 2024, Regular Meeting: Chair Nevitt made a motion to accept the June 28, 2024, meeting minutes and Director Mulvey seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. No comments or clarifications.

General Manager’s Report: Front Range Passenger Rail District (District) General Manager, Andy Karsian gave an overview of the District’s internal HR and workplan for 2026. The District is transitioning from a sprint to ’24 and changing focus to defining staff roles and responsibilities to ensure a successful ballot initiative. Planning also includes a strategic model for the Board’s role in the next two years to be discussed at this year’s board retreat. Outreach efforts along the corridor, including Pueblo, Boulder, Adams County, and Transportation Legislation Review Committee (TLRC), have been positive, with high-level and detailed questions demonstrating strong engagement. Senate Bill 184 (SB-184) discussions are underway and include the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), the Regional Transportation Department (RTD), and the District. These discussions aim to create positive messaging and clarify the next steps for delivering service between Denver and Fort Collins.

During the GM update Director Pace mentioned an Energy Impact Grant that the District could apply for that would help with planning efforts for service to Trinidad. Board members stressed the need to go through a decision-making process and it was unanimously decided that the conversation will be tabled to committee discussions for it was not on the agenda for this meeting.

Board Engagement Lookahead: Higher level policy discussions such as Board roles and responsibilities will be part of upcoming workshops. The Board will discuss internal processes and the steps necessary to succeed at the 2026 ballot initiative. Additionally, the Board has more detailed discussions including renewing the GM contract, updating District bylaws, incorporating media training,

and finalizing a communications plan to effectively engage the public. Staff will provide clear direction on integrating Board efforts at the tentatively scheduled October Board Retreat.

The District is discussing the FRA Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant (RCE) grant NOFO. District staff are evaluating the best use of the RCE, which closes at the end of August, to determine if it is more beneficial for the District to dedicate limited funds.

Service Development Plan (SDP) next steps include working on the Alternative Analysis document with a goal to present high-level alternatives by early Q4. The Operations Analysis has progressed, marked by a productive meeting in June with the District, BNSF, FRA, CDOT, and UP, focusing on future modeling adjustments and stakeholder involvement planned for September.

Senate Bill 184 (SB-184) discussions are about to begin to determine the best implementation strategies to maximize effectiveness. GM Karsian is optimistic about the possibility of SB-184 towards creating clarity instead of confusion. Additional funding and benefits could come from SB-230, as well. Through SB-230, CDOT and CTIO are laying the groundwork for fund allocation, with GM Karsian emphasizing the importance of being involved in CTIO rule-making and ongoing discussions. Funding from SB-230 fees will start around the end of '25/beginning of '26.

Committee Updates:

Government Affairs and Communications

Director Mulvey mentioned the District's TLRC presentation, highlighting productive conversations and valuable feedback. She stated that the GA/Comms meetings will be held bi-monthly or as needed, potentially more frequently than initially planned to discuss government requirements.

Planning

District Planning and Rail Operations Director, Duane Sayers gave an overview of the District's past planning progress and mentioned that staff will outline the future direction including insights on SB-184 conversations and input from the Board. Conversations around the SDP and Corridor ID will be discussed in future meetings, focusing on how to integrate these processes. The ongoing status of the SDP and updates will be shared with the Board.

Executive

Chair Nevitt stated that the Executive Committee had conversations around fielded updates from the other committees. He applauded the presentation information from the AIPRO Workshop in July and stated that there was great conversation, and it was a strong learning experience.

Director Updates:

Director Karspeck introduced and welcomed Fort Collins City Council Member, Tricia Canonico to the District Board. He also mentioned that he conducted an Economic Development Analysis for the Town of Berthoud and would be happy to share it with the District Communications Director, Nancy Burke, for formatting and costing purposes.

Director Levy mentioned that the Norwest Mayors and Commissioners Committee (NMCC) meeting agenda has space for District updates. While GM Karsian has presented to this group, they are interested in updates about the District's and Northwest Rail Peak Service Study's (NWR PSS) work as they progress.

Adjourn:

Chair Nevitt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Soto seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

MEMORANDUM

Date: Friday, August 16, 2024

To: Front Range Passenger Rail District Board of Directors

From: Andy Karsian, General Manager

Subject: District Grant Process

OVERVIEW

Per statute, the District is required to maximize opportunities for federal funding. At the same time, the District has fiscal and administrative constraints that impact grant strategy and pursuits. This memo informs the Board of federal grant funding currently available to the District and lays out a Board decision-making process for determining whether the District pursues an application for grant funding.

EXISTING FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING

Currently, the District is participating in two federal grant programs and has supported others' open grant applications.

FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS

The Southwest Chief and Front Range Rail Commission (Commission) received a 2021 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to complete track improvements on the BNSF line used by Amtrak's Southwest Chief service in southeast Colorado. As the successor organization to the Commission, the District is now the administrator of the grant. Local match for the grant consists of \$12M federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars the state legislature put forth for the project. This funding currently resides in an interest-bearing account for the District. These funds will be obligated by the end of the year.

Additionally, the Commission received a 2020 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant to fund the project's Service Development Plan (SDP). As the successor organization, \$1.62M was transferred from the Commission to the District for the SDP. We entered into an agreement whereby the District is making four installments of \$405K to CDOT for completion of the SDP and CDOT pledged \$2.67M for the SDP, for a total SDP cost of \$4.3M. The District will pay the final of the four installments by the end of 2024.

In December 2023, the District was accepted into the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program (CIDP). Established through IIJA, CIDP is a three-step program for developing new passenger rail corridors across the country. Due to pre-existing work with FRA on our SDP, the District has been accepted into the program on step two (Service Development Plan). District staff are currently completing a "gaps analysis" to scope and complete any new SDP requirements specific to CIDP. The out product of this effort will be a

grant agreement with FRA. Following the completion of the SDP, the project will be eligible for federal support for NEPA at a 20% (local) to 80% (federal) match. The District intends to solidify NEPA roles and responsibilities and funding support with the state through SB24-184 negotiations.

In February 2024, the District applied for a RAISE grant to support advanced station planning, including environmental clearance and preliminary engineering, for passenger rail stations in Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Trinidad. The District did not receive the grant.

DISTRICT SUPPORT FOR OTHERS' FEDERAL GRANT REQUESTS

In addition to the federal grants the District is directly involved in, we have supported partners' grant applications:

- City and County of Denver's CRISI grant application in 2023 for the Alameda Railroad Underpass Project to replace aging rail infrastructure and facilitate passenger rail opportunities.
- Joint application by City of Fort Collins and City of Loveland for a 2024 CRISI grant to advance passenger rail station planning.

ONGOING FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In discussions with District Board committees, municipal leaders, freight railroads, the state and others, the District decided not to pursue an application for a Railroad Crossing Elimination (RCE) grant in 2024. Internal capacity, available funding, tight timelines and competing priorities shaped this decision.

Looking into the future, the remaining [2024 FRA NOFO](#) will be for the Federal-State Partnership grant. Typically, projects are competitive for this program after they've advanced through environmental clearance (NEPA), which is the step after the SDP.

RECOMMENDATION

Given the project's status, limited District funding and staff capacity and the organizational priority of communications and coalition-building in advance of a 2026 ballot initiative, the District needs to be strategic in right-sizing grant pursuits. It is recommended the District focus grant efforts on advancing the project through step 3 of CIDP by completing the gaps analysis and securing federal funding for NEPA.

DISTRICT GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

Based on discussions in the July 2024 Board meeting and subsequent August 2024 Government Affairs and Communications Committee meeting, a process for Board engagement and approval is proposed below.

If a Board director, staff member or external party believes the District should apply for a future grant opportunity, federal or otherwise, the interested party must notify the General Manager and

Board Chair three months prior to the release of the anticipated NOFO. At that time the Board Chair will assign the request to a committee to review its merit. Merits worthy of moving an application request forward include but are not limited to applicability to entire project or inter-regional benefits, value to ongoing District processes around delivering Front Range Passenger Rail, internal capacity of District to administer the grant and degree of fiscal support.

If the initial committee deems the grant opportunity worthy of pursuit, the item is moved to Finance Committee for review. Finance Committee must review grant application requests to ensure adequate District funding for matching funds, grant administration and any contingencies. If Finance Committee approves the pursuit, Executive Committee will review the application request and provide a recommendation to the entire Board at that month's Board meeting. The Board of Directors will receive a memo detailing the grant request in the meeting packet and a decision will be made at the Board meeting.

If a grant is approved, the District will hire a consultant to write and administer the grant (if awarded). Following a successful ballot measure, we anticipate grant writing and administration becoming an internal staff role.



LONGMONT'S SOAR PROJECT

The City of Longmont is looking to partner with BNSF to advance our Safety, Operations, And Reliability (SOAR) study for two very important rail crossings in the community. Specifically, the city is looking to create grade-separated crossings of the BNSF railroad at CO-66 and at CO-119 to help improve safety and mobility in these two critical corridors.

Consistent with the city's goals for safe mobility for all roadway users, the grade-separations also advance major local and regional efforts to enhance multimodal transportation for the community. At a regional level, investments are being made for regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service that these improvements will help accommodate. Additionally, as the Front Range Passenger Rail service advances to implementation, this work will allow the City to be ready for this new state and national investment in passenger rail services. Locally, Longmont has public safety and neighborhood connection needs that will be examined and integrated into these projects as well.



For questions, please contact:

Phil Greenwald

Transportation Planning Manager, City of Longmont

phil.greenwald@longmontcolorado.gov

August XX, 2024

Name, Title

Organization Name

Letter Writer Name, Title

Organization Name

Address

Re: 2024 RCE Grant Letter of Support for Longmont, Colorado

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of [insert entity name] to share our support for the City of Longmont's Safety, Operations, And Reliability (SOAR) Rail Crossing Elimination (RCE) project, a partnership between the City of Longmont, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway.

Longmont seeks RCE grant funding to advance SOAR planning activities and design efforts to grade-separate two highway/railroad at-grade crossings. The grade-separations are needed to improve safety on two busy highways, enhance community connectivity, and advance efforts to implement Colorado's Front Range Passenger Rail program in Longmont. These projects will directly impact regional economic growth and provide for safe and transformative change for the community. Longmont is strategically positioned to substantially support a potential boost in passenger rail activity along the Colorado Front Range and enhance intermodal rail freight within the state and nation, while leveraging the plans and needs of the BNSF Railway with the transcontinental growth in trade occurring worldwide.

Longmont is actively pursuing RCE grant funding to support the planning phase, which aims to 1) develop a safe system of transportation infrastructure to facilitate extensive transit supportive development; 2) determine and mitigate the factors that contribute to the serious injuries and fatalities within and near the project area; 3) identify new connections that promote economic growth by facilitating more efficient and safer movement of goods; 4) improve intermodal connections that can enhance freight flows through the community; 5) create job opportunities; 6) support safer and equitable multimodal access to employment and other critical resources; and 7) further support mountain safety evacuation routes by removing potential high-volume occupied crossings connecting mountain communities with Interstate 25.

The goals of the RCE grant, our mission, and the proposed grade separation improvements align in a number of ways, including:

- Creating a unique opportunity to support intermodal national freight movement.
- Improving community and regional safety through strategic infrastructure investments.
- Improving quality of life including climate and sustainability.
- Enhancing our communities' connectivity, improving multimodal mobility.
- Promoting economic development and investment in our City.

This project advances our mission to develop Longmont as a mobility hub for the northern Denver metropolitan area, provide the means for employers to invest in Longmont with our available land to create economic opportunity for our residents, and create safe and effective connectivity to the transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and roadway multimodal transportation system.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you will join us in supporting Longmont and this project. Please contact me with any questions at [enter phone number] or [enter email address].

Sincerely,

Name, Title

Organization Name

MEMORANDUM

Date: Friday, August 16, 2024

To: Front Range Passenger Rail District Board of Directors

From: Chrissy Breit, Chief of Staff

Subject: Upcoming Board Engagement

PURPOSE

To facilitate director participation, this memo provides a preview of key near-term Board activities.

BACKGROUND

Following the Board's decision in late May 2024 to pursue a ballot measure in a future year, District staff have been developing a programmatic schedule and workplan. The workplan identifies 2-year strategic priorities for the District, how staff will advance these priorities and additional funding needs to support this work.

Through a September Board workshop and October retreat, District staff and facilitators will lead the Board in strategic sessions to:

- Confirm the programmatic schedule and workplan,
- Discuss financial strategy,
- Deepen Board chartering and
- Train the Board on new communications tools and processes.

DETAILS

Please see event details below. Agendas will be shared as they are available.

Board Workshop

- Thurs., Sept. 19 from 1 to 3 p.m.
 - The timeframe may be extended slightly past 3 p.m. As this is solidified in the next 2 weeks, the calendar invite will be updated.
- Location: Virtual
 - To facilitate in-person attendance at the retreat, the workshop will be virtual.

Retreat

- Thurs., Oct. 17 from 1 to 5 p.m. and Fri., Oct. 18 from 9 to 4 p.m.
- Location: Varone Market Venue: 1800 W 33rd Ave, Denver, CO 80211
- Meals and lodging will be provided.
- In-person attendance is important. If you need special accommodations and have not already done so, please inform Ashica Smith, Operations Specialist for the District.
- Directors seeking mileage reimbursement can do so through the [Board Reimbursement Procedure](#).

**FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT
2024 BOARD CALENDAR**

SEPTEMBER 2024

5	Finance Committee	12:00 p.m.
11	Planning Committee	8:30 a.m.
17	Executive Committee	1:00 p.m.
19	Board of Directors Workshop	1:00 p.m.
27	Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 2024

3	Finance Committee	12:00 p.m.
9	Planning Committee	8:30 a.m.
14	Gov't Affairs/Comms Committee	10:00 a.m.
17	Board of Directors Retreat	1:00 p.m.
18	Board of Directors Retreat	9:00 a.m.
25	Board of Directors Meeting and Budget Hearing	9:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER 2024

7	Finance Committee	12:00 p.m.
13	Planning Committee	8:30 a.m.
19	Executive Committee	1:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 2024

2	Gov't Affairs/Comms Committee	10:00 a.m.
5	Executive Committee	12:00 p.m.
11	Planning Committee	8:30 a.m.
13	Board of Directors Meeting	9:00 a.m.

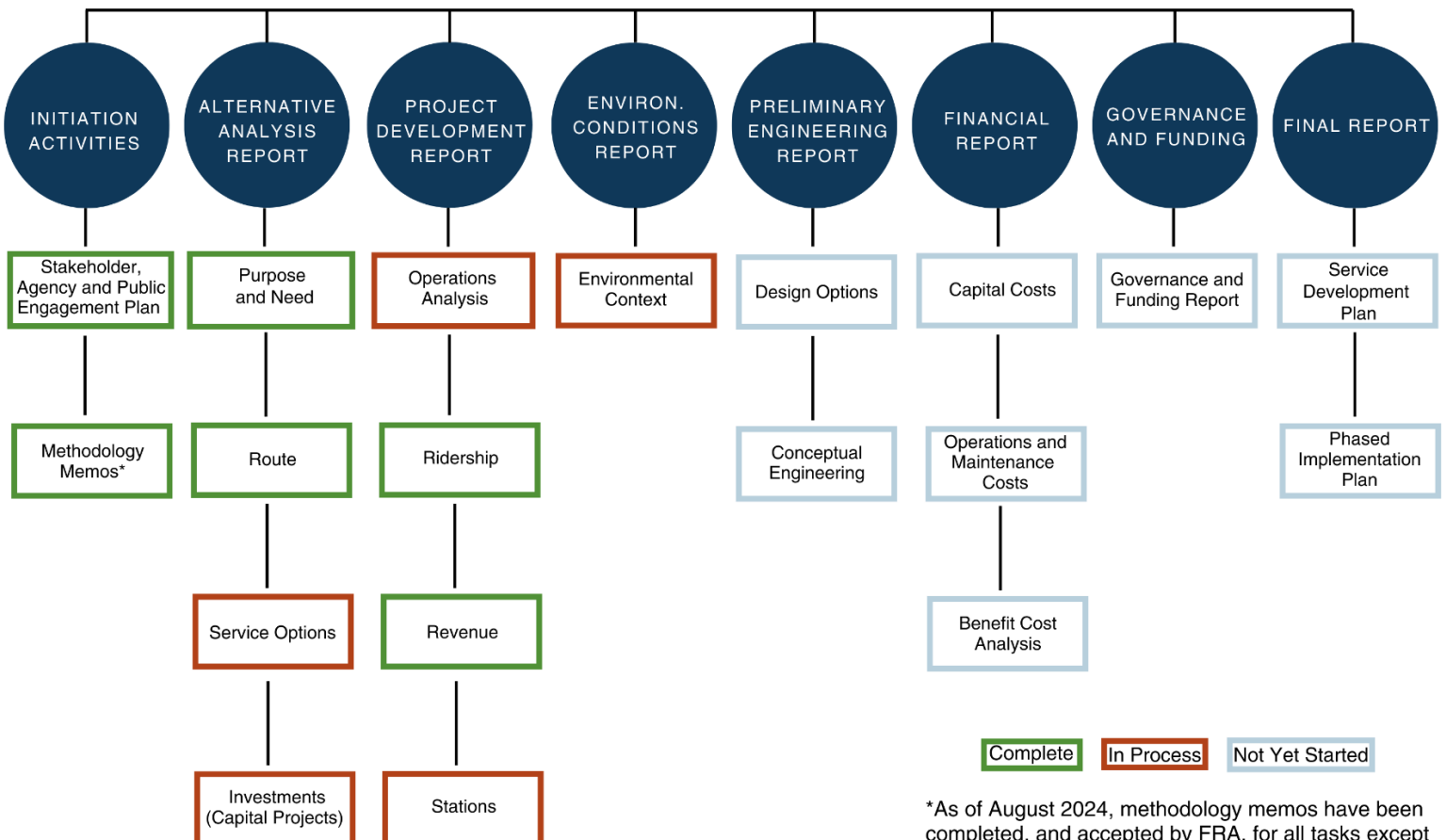
Service Development Plan Progress Report

August 20, 2024

Activity Overview

Advancing the operations analysis has been the primary focus of project team activities over the past month. The operations analysis consists of coordinated modeling with the host railroads to develop a common understanding of existing and future freight operations. Through the analysis, the project team is developing a model of the freight traffic and overlaying proposed passenger service options that vary in terms of number of trips, speed and schedule. This process informs the capital projects (investments) needed to accommodate passenger operations on the network. The capital projects are directly tied to the frequency, speed and schedule of passenger trips. Next month, the project team will meet with the host railroads to review initial results.

In addition to the operations analysis, the project team has advanced the stations report and public outreach planning for the Alternatives Analysis Report.



*As of August 2024, methodology memos have been completed, and accepted by FRA, for all tasks except those associated with Governance and Funding and Final Report. These methodology memos will be initiated in early 2025.

**FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday August 5, 2024; 10:00 a.m. (Virtual)

Roll Call:

- In attendance: Chair Mulvey, Directors Tricia Canonico, Claire Levy, Chris Nevitt, Jose Soto, Herman Stockinger
- Excused: Directors Lynette Crow-Iverson, Jill Gaebler, Directors Daneya Esgar, Sal Pace, Joan Peck John Putnam,
- FRPRD Staff in attendance: Nancy Burke, Andy Karsian, Ashica Smith

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Chair Mulvey called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was established, and the previous meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Reports*SB24-184 Collaboration Meetings*

Front Range Passenger Rail District (FRPRD), General Manager Andy Karsian, met with facilitator Diane Barrett, the Colorado State of Transportation (CDOT), the Regional Transportation District (RTD) and the Colorado Transportation Investment Office (CTIO), where they discussed the District's goals and responsibilities, funding, and the statutory process required for completing Phase 1 from Fort Collins to Denver. The District is currently awaiting the announcement of the first step in this process. There are two main steps involved: the first is the legislative report on the general operations idea from Fort Collins to Denver, and the second, involves entering an agreement on how the operations report can proceed.

Director Levy asked if there is an outline for the upcoming conversations, noting the need for clarity on the desired outcome for the agreement. GM Karsian replied that the District has developed an internal document outlining the roles and responsibilities of the three entities. The District is focused on securing the ballot measure and related tasks, while CDOT is responsible for technical assistance and planning. Historically, CDOT and RTD have not been interested in maintaining and operating the railroad post-ballot measure, leaving that responsibility to the District.

Chair Mulvey noted that work hasn't been presented to the board. The key question is our position on the process. It would be helpful for the Board and committee to have a clear elevator pitch. She requested an oral report or information in the packet, including next steps and a position. GM Karsian assured that the Board will be kept informed, though he is unsure about the timing of the next meeting or who will attend. While hypotheticals about stations, service, and connections have been discussed, the primary goal is to ensure SB-184 benefits political messaging.

Director Nevitt clarified that SB-184 involves two key parts. First, we need to determine the service details including how many trains, where they stop, etc. RTD is finishing their study, and the District is waiting for that information. The service we're aiming to achieve with other entities must be determined. Second, the right structure and governance to deliver that service needs to be established. These steps must be sequential, with the governance structure following the service goals. Since objectives are still being defined, the ideal structure hasn't been decided. Negotiations will involve aligning shared goals and values, though priorities may differ slightly. He emphasized the

importance of maximizing our chances of winning the 2026 ballot and ensuring that the governance structure clearly identifies FRPRD as responsible for the rail from Fort Collins to Pueblo, avoiding any confusion.

New Business

Local Government Funding/Grant Requests Process

When someone becomes aware of funding opportunities, such as station planning assistance, they should initiate a request for board funding. Timing issues may prevent immediate action and there is a need to develop a process.

GM Karsian suggested creating a bifurcated approach for future requests, including a calendar for FRA grants and NOFOs. Directors with funding ideas should first bring them to the planning committee to see how they fit within the larger mission. If approved, the request would then go to the executive committee. Director Nevitt added that any requests should first go through the Chair, who will then decide if it should be taken to the executive committee after the initial committee reviews it.

Chair Mulvey emphasized the importance of distinguishing between someone asking for money and when funding is available. All board members should be informed when a DOLA Grant becomes available. If someone has an idea, it should first go to the Chair, who will direct it as needed. Director Soto stressed the importance of involving everyone in the grant process, especially regarding labor and funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and justice initiatives. Post-ballot, the narrative could change. He urged the planning committee to work with local governments to identify their needs for station planning and ensure CDOT considers labor standards in current funding opportunities.

Chair Mulvey asked if station development planning is focusing only on Denver to Fort Collins or if it's considering the entire corridor, to properly target NOFOs. GM Karsian confirmed that the District is committed to working on the entire corridor, including Trinidad. He suggested sending the Board a draft proposal for the process. Requests should be made three months prior to allow sufficient time for discussion. He will provide current financials, pending grants, and future NOFOs and grants.

Initiative 284

The ballot measure is still under consideration. Signatures are due by the end of today, and it's a heavy lift. If enough signatures are not submitted by the deadline, the measure won't move forward.

Economic Impact Study

FRPRD Communications Director, Nancy Burke mentioned that the District is looking to engage in an Economic Impact Study to analyze benefits for local governments, businesses and passengers. The focus is to highlight the investment of passenger rail in Colorado. She added that the updated talking points strengthens what we have now and will to garner support along the corridor and create soldiers in the field to help support the project.

Information Items and Announcements

Director Soto mentioned a study by a CSU Pueblo professor that he'd like to share with FRPRD staff. The study examines the construction of the Black Hills Gas Plant under a project labor agreement (PLA) with trade unions. It compares the economic impact of building it under a PLA versus without one, focusing on tax revenues, job creation, and the effects on service, retail, food,

labor, and the workforce. The study highlights how PLAs contribute to livable wages, benefits, and community investment.

Adjourn

Chair Mulvey adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.



**FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL DISTRICT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday August 15, 2024; 2:00 p.m. (Virtual)

Roll Call:

- Director Attendance: Chris Nevitt (Chair), Luis Lopez (Treasurer), Joan Peck (Secretary), Deborah Mulvey, Herman Stockinger
- Staff Attendance: Chrissy Breit, Nancy Burke, Andy Karsian, Ashica Smith

Call to order

Secretary Peck called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

Committee reports

Government Affairs/Communications

Director Mulvey provided an overview of matters discussed during the August Government Affairs/Communications committee meeting. The committee discussed a Board process for making decisions about pursuing opportunities for external funding. The committee recommended that whenever a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) arises, it should first be sent to the General Manager and the Board Chair to be assigned through the committee structure. This discussion informed the *Grants Process Memo* under New Business in this Executive Committee meeting.

The Government Affairs/Communications Committee raised a desire for consistent messaging Directors can use about the SB24-184 process. Director Mulvey is working with District staff to develop this. Ms. Mulvey spoke to the additional public communications work that the District is developing, including a consumer-focused website.

Old Business

SDP Reporting to Board

Front Range Passenger Rail District (District) Chief of Staff, Chrissy Breit informed the committee that District staff have been working with the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) planning team to develop a Service Development Plan (SDP) progress report in the Board packet. The first update is anticipated for the August 2024 Board packet.

SB24-184

General Manager Karsian provided an update on SB24-184 conversations with CDOT, RTD and the Governor's Office. An initial charette will be held on August 19 to initiate discussions. Following this first step, the parties will work in committees to prepare an implementation plan due to the legislature by September 30. Successive requirements include a business model (due at end of year) and service plan for passenger rail service from Denver to Fort Collins (March 2025).

Director Mulvey expressed her appreciation to staff for developing the proposed roles and responsibilities table. She provided recommended edits including noting CDOT's role as contractor for the SDP. In the debt issuance section, she noted the District's role is listed differently for phase 1 and 2 of the service and sought clarification. She stressed the importance of clearly communicating the District's role in financing and policy efforts to ensure the District is accurately represented.



Director Peck added that instead of being listed as support in the SDP, the District should be recognized as a partner to ensure its voice is included in the development process. She emphasized that the District should not just adopt and support an SDP without actively contributing to it.

General Manager Karsian thanked Directors Mulvey and Peck for their input and reiterated the importance of the Board's ongoing involvement in finalizing the worksheet.

New Business

Grants Process Memo

Following the July 2024 Board meeting and August Government Affairs/Communications Committee meeting, General Manager Karsian developed a memo outlining a Board process for determining whether or not the District pursues a grant opportunity. Directors expressed support for the process. Directors Lopez and Mulvey recommended adding introductory language, inspired by SB21-238, that clearly articulates the District's identity and mission.

Informational Items and Announcements

Bylaws Update

Chair Nevitt is working with District staff and legal counsel to update the bylaws. They are anticipated to be presented to the Executive Committee at the September or October committee meeting.

Upcoming Board Workshop and Retreat

A Board workshop will be held on September 19, followed by the Board Retreat on October 17 and 18. These strategic sessions will cover the programmatic schedule, workplan, financial strategy, Board chartering and updated communications tools and processes. These are important Board activities and director attendance is crucial.

District Workplan

Ms. Breit noted that significant progress has been made developing a workplan, which will be presented to the Board at the October retreat. The workplan identifies how staff will implement the identified needs of the District. The goal is for the workplan to clearly demonstrate what the District aims to accomplish, along with the additional budget needed to complete this work. Director Mulvey requested that District needs clearly be highlighted in the workplan and that this be expressed in full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing if the District is looking to hire additional employees.

Director Updates

Director Stockinger expressed his appreciation for being able to be part of the committee meeting. Director Lopez thanked Director Stockinger for joining and expressed the benefit he will bring to the Board.

Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

[The meeting recording and transcript can be found here.](#)