



High-Speed Rail Study Underway on I-70 and I-25 Corridors

Nearly 50 Colorado cities, towns, counties and transit agencies are collaborating to determine whether high-speed passenger rail service is a feasible part of Colorado's transportation future.

The Rocky Mountain Rail Authority, a governmental body with 46 member entities, recently kicked off a year-long high-speed rail feasibility study of the I-25 and I-70 Corridors. The \$1.5 million study, funded by the Colorado Department of Transportation and RMRA member jurisdictions, will determine whether intercity, high-speed rail is technically, financially and economically feasible.

"This study will definitively answer the question of whether high-speed passenger rail should be considered as part of a comprehensive solution to Colorado's growing transportation crisis," said RMRA Chairman Harry Dale, also a Clear Creek County commissioner.

The study will consider the full range of high-speed rail technologies, various alignments and potential station location options to determine whether a feasible project exists on one or both corridors. Rail technologies being considered have top operating speeds ranging from 79 - 250 MPH. As part of the analysis, the study will identify projected ridership and revenue levels, potential local/regional/ statewide economic benefits, and the anticipated level of private/federal/state/local financial support that can be expected.

If the study determines that high-speed rail is technically, financially and economically feasible, the RMRA will work with state leaders to seek Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) designation as the nation's eleventh High-Speed Rail Corridor, establishing eligibility for specially targeted federal funding. The study would also develop an implementation plan that identifies the additional studies and other activities needed to make high-speed rail in Colorado a reality.

The RMRA is closely collaborating with governmental/transit agencies, the freight railroads and other ongoing planning studies and projects in both corridors, including the I-70 Coalition's land-use planning study, CDOT's Railroad Relocation Implementation Study, and RTD's FasTracks program.

To get involved in the study or get more information about it, please visit www.rockymountainrail.org.