



# Rocky Mountain Rail Authority

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAIL AUTHORITY RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY  
c/o GBSM  
600 17<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 2020 South  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 825-6100

The Rocky Mountain Rail Authority is conducting a one-year study of the technical, financial and economic feasibility of implementing high-speed intercity rail service within Colorado and into neighboring states that could provide seamless travel throughout the state's most populated corridors.

## TWO CORRIDORS

The study will evaluate the provision of high-speed rail train service connecting the cities and counties along the Front Range, the I-70 Corridor and other locations within the state.

If this service is found to be feasible and funding is obtained, not only would trips from Denver to the mountains and northern Colorado communities to Colorado Springs and Pueblo become a reality, but, so would trips from Grand Junction to Pueblo and Fort Collins to Summit and Eagle Counties. The study will not make decisions about specific alignments or station locations. Rather, it will identify the most feasible alignment(s) and station locations through a collaborative process with representatives from local communities.

- **Within the I-70 Corridor**, high-speed rail service would connect Colorado's most populated region and Denver International Airport to the mountains and the Western Slope, supporting some of Colorado's largest economic drivers – tourism, agriculture, and energy.
- **Within the I-25 Corridor**, high-speed rail service would connect Denver with the growing technology-driven and military communities in northern and southern Colorado, as well as with other burgeoning communities along the Front Range, and would generally focus on the use of existing rail corridors.



## STUDY OVERVIEW

With congestion on I-70, I-25 and other state highways already at unacceptable levels and projected to increase, Coloradans and visitors alike are looking for a faster, safer, more efficient way to commute to and from work, conduct business across the state, and enjoy the numerous recreational opportunities that make Colorado so unique.

The High-Speed Rail Feasibility Study will provide a fresh, independent, and objective evaluation of alignments, station locations and high-speed rail technologies to identify the most feasible alternatives for both corridors and develop an investment-grade business plan for their implementation. The most feasible alternatives will be

submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration for designation as High-Speed Rail Corridors which would make them eligible for specially targeted funding.



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## ABOUT HIGH-SPEED RAIL

The Federal Railroad Administration defines high-speed rail as rail lines that can travel at speeds greater than 90 mph. If a feasible high-speed rail solution is identified, the RMRA is committed to protecting community values and the environment. As part of that commitment, slower speeds would be used in densely populated areas and particular attention would be paid to issues like minimizing noise impacts and maximizing safety.



## THE STUDY WILL EVALUATE

- The full range of high-speed rail technologies.
- Alignments to identify those capable of supporting average speeds greater than 90 mph
- Cost-benefit and operating ratios
- Ridership and revenue levels
- Potential economic benefits to local communities and the state
- Expected levels of federal, state, and local financial support, as well as opportunities for private financing through Public-Private Partnerships
- Recommended next steps

## STATEWIDE COLLABORATION

The High-Speed Rail Feasibility Study will closely collaborate with 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.

The Rocky Mountain Rail Authority is working closely with governmental agencies and other strategic partners in each corridor to gather input on various aspects of the potential projects including alignment, station locations, community/social/economic issues, and more. Study information and opportunities for the public to comment are available at [www.rockymountainrail.org](http://www.rockymountainrail.org).

## HIGH-SPEED RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	July 2008	October 2008	January 2009	April 2009	June 2009
Identification of Potential Alignments & Technologies	█				
Alternatives Analysis		█			
Feasibility Determination			█		
Implementation and Business Plan			█		

## ABOUT ROCKY MOUNTAIN RAIL AUTHORITY

Rocky Mountain Rail Authority (RMRA) is a multi-jurisdictional government body created to explore passenger rail as part of a viable transportation solution for Colorado. RMRA members include 45 counties, municipalities and other organizations along the I-70 and I-25 corridors. For more information, visit [www.rockymountainrail.org](http://www.rockymountainrail.org).