



January 21, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: CDOT Submission to the FY 2024-2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity - National Railroad Partnership Program (NRPP) / Federal-State Partnership (FSP) for Intercity Passenger Rail Program

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I am writing to express my strong support of the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Safe, Agile, Fast, and Efficient Rail Travel (SAFER Travel) Project: Rockfall Mitigation, Hazmat Safety, and Grade Crossing Improvements on the Western Slope.

The Moffat rail corridor that crosses through the Rocky Mountains in Colorado experiences regular delays due to rockfall, landslide, and hazardous material (hazmat) incidents. The mountainous terrain creates a windy and steep alignment that makes access for hazmat crews difficult and lengthens the time of ongoing and emergency maintenance. The pressures on the corridor continue to grow as corridor freight volumes increasingly transport oil and coal, which when spilled or discharged could pose a potential harm to nearby communities and the integrity of the region. Additionally, unprotected grade crossings pose risk of crashes and injury from existing passenger rail and freight services.

The Project will implement a multi-pronged approach to improving the corridor. The first is to manage and mitigate rockfall through countermeasures such as barriers, fencing, and attenuators along the railroad corridor. The second is to install hazmat and emergency management caches available to both the rail and highway corridors that can be quickly deployed to resolve crashes in difficult mountain terrain. Other safety improvements, such as converting grade crossings from passive to active in numerous locations along these rail corridors, will help ensure safer travel for railroad passengers, crew, and motorists.

These activities will improve safety, travel times, and reliability for freight service operated by Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) and BNSF Railway on UPRR-owned tracks; and well as intercity passenger rail passengers on Amtrak's California Zephyr and Winter Park Express lines, future extensions of Mountain Rail passenger rail service, and the Rocky Mountaineer's Rockies to the Red Rocks route.

With FY24 - 25 NRPP/FSP funding, this new infrastructure will support the movement of current and future intercity passenger rail through the Rocky Mountains while supporting national commerce and movement of goods. With the increase in passenger rail slotted for Fraser and the surrounding areas, the Town of Fraser wholeheartedly supports this project and requests USDOT to prioritize NRPP/FSP funds for this worthy proposal.

Sincerely,

Brian Cerkvenik
Mayor
Town of Fraser