

## ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON THE STATE RAIL PLAN JANUARY 17, 2012

1. Support the good items in the draft state rail plan, and commend them for making this plan for the future that would guide both passenger and freight rail service in the state.
2. This plan is not just a state plan, but Colorado planning for regional and national rail transportation that is safe, efficient, user friendly and convenient.
3. Keep railroad rights of way for future uses, even if there are not viable present uses.
4. Continue to emphasize and carry out connectivity plans and links for various modes in the state. This would include connections from [RTD's FASTRACKS](#) to the rest of the state transportation infrastructure, [DUS](#) connections and Rail transit and intercity bus linkages at Amtrak stops throughout the state.
5. Have an [intermodal](#) connection or station designated in every one of Colorado's towns and cities. This could include pedestrian paths, bicycle facilities, trains, local busses, intercity buses, snowmobiles or other modes. Create a statewide on-line transit, intercity bus and passenger rail information website that helps passengers plan travel throughout Colorado and into neighboring states.
6. Include major transportation planning of all modes in the Governor's TBD process looking toward future opportunities in the state. This should include energy efficiency and green projects, too. Any new funding mechanism should provide a minimum of 10% for trains and transit.
7. A financing package for state wide transportation should be developed that includes train and transit services. The passenger rail commuter service envisioned for the I-25 North corridor linking with FasTracks should be expedited and become the model service for the state on its major corridors.
8. Future passenger train plans should include the big X in the middle of Colorado so that passengers would have increased destination opportunities by transferring between the South West Chief and the California Zephyr. This also creates service along the front range, south of Denver.
9. Colorado has many possibilities for using trains and transportation to increase tourist attractions via Amtrak, private rail car charters and tourist lines in the state. There are many potential markets such as tours for foreign visitors that would create jobs in local communities.. [CDOT](#) should be coordinating such projects with Economic Development and local communities.
10. Colorado should take the lead in coordinating trains and bus transportation with all of the adjoining states. There are opportunities there that would benefit each other.
11. Problems of indemnification and liability coverage need to be addressed and resolved so that projects can move forward. This might need federal or state legislation or other actions.
12. Colorado should look at the possibility of having "Colorado" passenger rail cars on both of its Amtrak trains. Additional sleeper cars would create new opportunities for tourists and Colorado residents. This is a relatively low cost maneuver. This will lead to additional national and international tourists.

13. Ask the governor to proclaim "Colorado Train Day" in conjunction with the national event the first Saturday in May, which will be May 5, 2012. Arrange local proclamations and even some type of special celebration at each train station in the state with music or speeches, etc. This should include Denver Union Station. This will help to educate Coloradans about the growing advantages of passenger rail and transit services.