

Subject: Resolution No. 7, Series 2026 — A Resolution Supporting a Downtown Louisville Station as Part of the Joint Service / Front Range Passenger Rail Project

Date: January 6, 2026

Prepared By: Kurt Kowar, Director

Presented By: Kurt Kowar, Director

Summary:

Adopt a Resolution to support the findings of several major planning efforts completed by the City and the Louisville Revitalization Commission, including the Comprehensive Plan, 2003 Highway 42 Revitalization Area Framework Plan, 2019 Transportation Plan, Future 42 Highway 42 Corridor Plan, and several joint planning efforts with the Regional Transportation District and Front Range Passenger Rail, to place a Joint Service/Front Range Passenger Rail Station in Downtown Louisville, north of the BNSF Underpass at South Street and Front Street.

Background / Prior Discussions:

Northern Front Range Joint Passenger Rail Service (Joint Service) is a collaborative effort by the Regional Transportation District (RTD), the Front Range Passenger Rail (FRPR) District, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and the Governor's Office to initiate a starter service from Denver to Fort Collins by January 2029. The service would be a hybrid between NW Rail (Peak Rail) and FRPR service but maintain intercity passenger rail classification for federal purposes. The proposed service will serve major communities along the route, including Denver, Westminster, Broomfield, Louisville, Boulder, Longmont, Loveland, and Fort Collins. The proposed Louisville station is located north of the BNSF Underpass at South Street and Front Street. Initially, three daily round trips would be provided starting in 2029.

The City has had a long-term interest and investment in providing rail service to Louisville. Key actions are summarized below.

- The City has invested in the BNSF Underpass, Short Street Intersection on Highway 42, and the current South Street planning and design adjacent to the Downtown Louisville station in anticipation of rail service. These investments have resulted in supplementing the existing surrounding neighborhood and retail with new multifamily residences, new businesses, and support efforts of the Louisville Revitalization Commission and Downtown Business Association. Additionally, several more significant developments are planned that will increase the number of residents and businesses to the Downtown Louisville station.

- The City has invested significantly in supporting transit-oriented development by participating in the Northwest Area Mobility Study and the Future 42 Highway 42 Plans completed in partnership with CDOT, surrounding counties, and municipal agencies.
- Per multiple Downtown Specific Plans, the addition of a regional rail stop is a cornerstone of mobility and connectivity in the area. The Station's travel shed would serve residents from Louisville, Lafayette, Superior, Boulder, Broomfield and Adams Counties.
- Per City Council direction, Staff has been actively working on planning and preparation for passenger rail service for Downtown Louisville.

The City will continue to partner with the State to bring passenger rail to the Northwest Corridor with the proposed Station in Downtown Louisville.

Development Proposal:

N/A

Analysis:

The proposed Resolution is intended to demonstrate the City's commitment to the Joint Service/Front Range Passenger Rail Station in Downtown Louisville (Station) and, if adopted, will be shared with key State decision makers as part of the City's advocacy efforts for a Front Range Passenger Rail Station in Downtown Louisville located on the north side of the BNSF Underpass at South Street and Front Street.

Council Work Plan:

This resolution indirectly supports Economic Vitality, Core Services, Safety, and Housing goals and associated lenses and is correlated directly to efforts in the Council Work Plan such as the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Vision Plan, Economic Vitality Committee, Building the Foundation, Accessibility, Transportation Infrastructure, and Advocacy.

Fiscal Impact:

This resolution does not commit to any current or future expenditures by the City.

Development of a rail station in Downtown Louisville will support downtown businesses and future City economic development and housing goals.

Alternatives:

Alternative options would be to take no action or not to support the Downtown Louisville train station or its location. By not supporting this resolution, the City Council would jeopardize decades of planning efforts and an aggressive window for planning and construction of a rail station with target service starting January 1, 2029.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution 7, Series 2026 - A Resolution Supporting the

Downtown Louisville Station as Part of the Joint Service / Front Range Passenger Rail Project.

Attachments:

1. Resolution No. 7, Series 2026

**RESOLUTION NO. 7
SERIES 2026**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A DOWNTOWN LOUISVILLE STATION AS PART
OF THE JOINT SERVICE / FRONT RANGE PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT**

WHEREAS, The City Council finds development of a Front Range Passenger Rail station within Downtown Louisville at the intersection of South Street and Front Street to be of great importance to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Louisville has invested in station connectivity infrastructure, including multiple pedestrian underpasses and State Highway intersection improvements adjacent to the proposed rail station, and these investments have attracted new private sector multifamily and commercial developments; and

WHEREAS, the existing Downtown Louisville is a historic, well established, vibrant, mixed-use urban center in the heart of Louisville; and

WHEREAS, per the Highway 42 Revitalization Area Framework Plan, the addition of a regional rail stop is a cornerstone of mobility and connectivity in the area. The Station's travel shed would serve residents from Louisville, Lafayette, Superior, Boulder, Broomfield and Adams Counties; and

WHEREAS, by this resolution the City Council desires to demonstrate the City's commitment to the Joint Service/Front Range Passenger Rail Station in Downtown Louisville (the "Station").

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF LOUISVILLE, COLORADO:**

Section 1. The City hereby expresses its commitment to the development of the Joint/Service/Front Range Passenger Rail Station in Downtown Louisville and will provide resources for planning, supporting and facilitating such Station.

Section 2. City looks forward to continuing its partnership and cooperation with other involved agencies as the state brings passenger rail to the northwest corridor with the Station in Downtown Louisville.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of January 2026.

Christopher M. Leh, Mayor

ATTEST:

Genny Kline, City Clerk