



# Craig-Denver Route

Bustang Outrider

October 13, 2020



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation

# Background

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- Bustang, CDOT's branded bus service, began in 2015 with routes from Denver to Glenwood Springs, Fort Collins and Colorado Springs
- In 2018, Bustang expanded to include Outrider – a regional bus network designed to connect rural Colorado with a single, easy-to-navigate service
  - Before Outrider, rural areas relied on a fragmented bus service – individual routes, each with different schedules, vehicles and fare structures



# Benefits

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## **The purpose of Outrider is to offer the following benefits:**

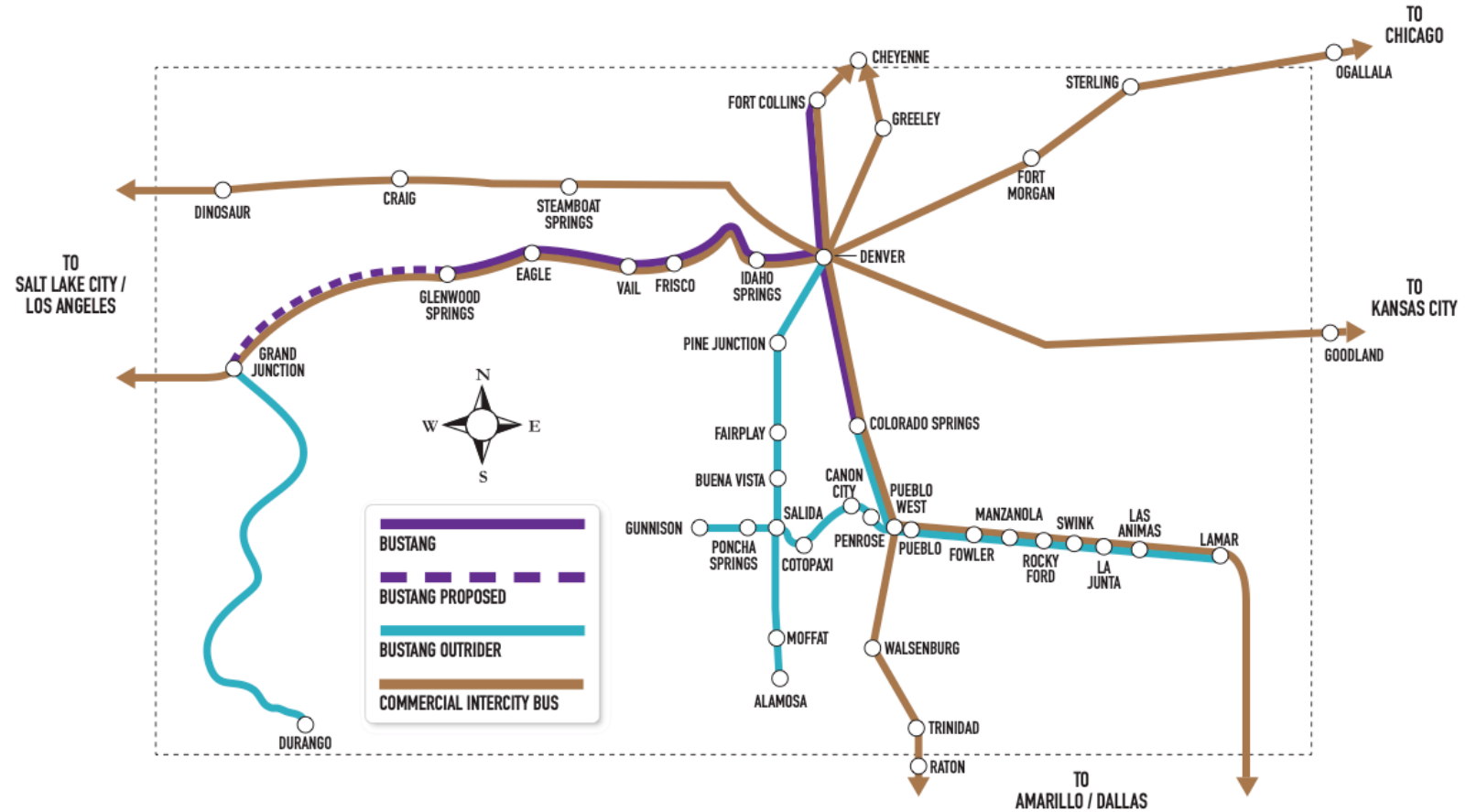
- Gives riders reliable service, new buses, consistent schedules, reduced fare costs, convenient connections and reliable, on-time service
- Offers travel for seniors, students, disabled citizens, and others without personal transportation means
- Provides options for travel between rural communities for medical appointments, shopping, or connecting to the broader transportation system for longer trips to Denver, Denver International Airport, etc.
- Drives traffic to smaller, rural communities
- Provides jobs for residents in rural communities
- Affordable and convenient travel for tourists



# Existing Routes

Outrider currently services four routes:

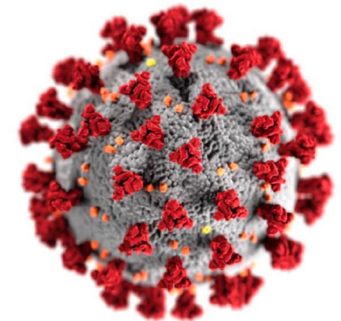
1. Gunnison-Denver (daily)
2. Alamosa-Pueblo (daily)
3. Lamar-Colorado Springs (five days per week)
4. Durango-Grand Junction (daily)



# COVID-19 Precautions

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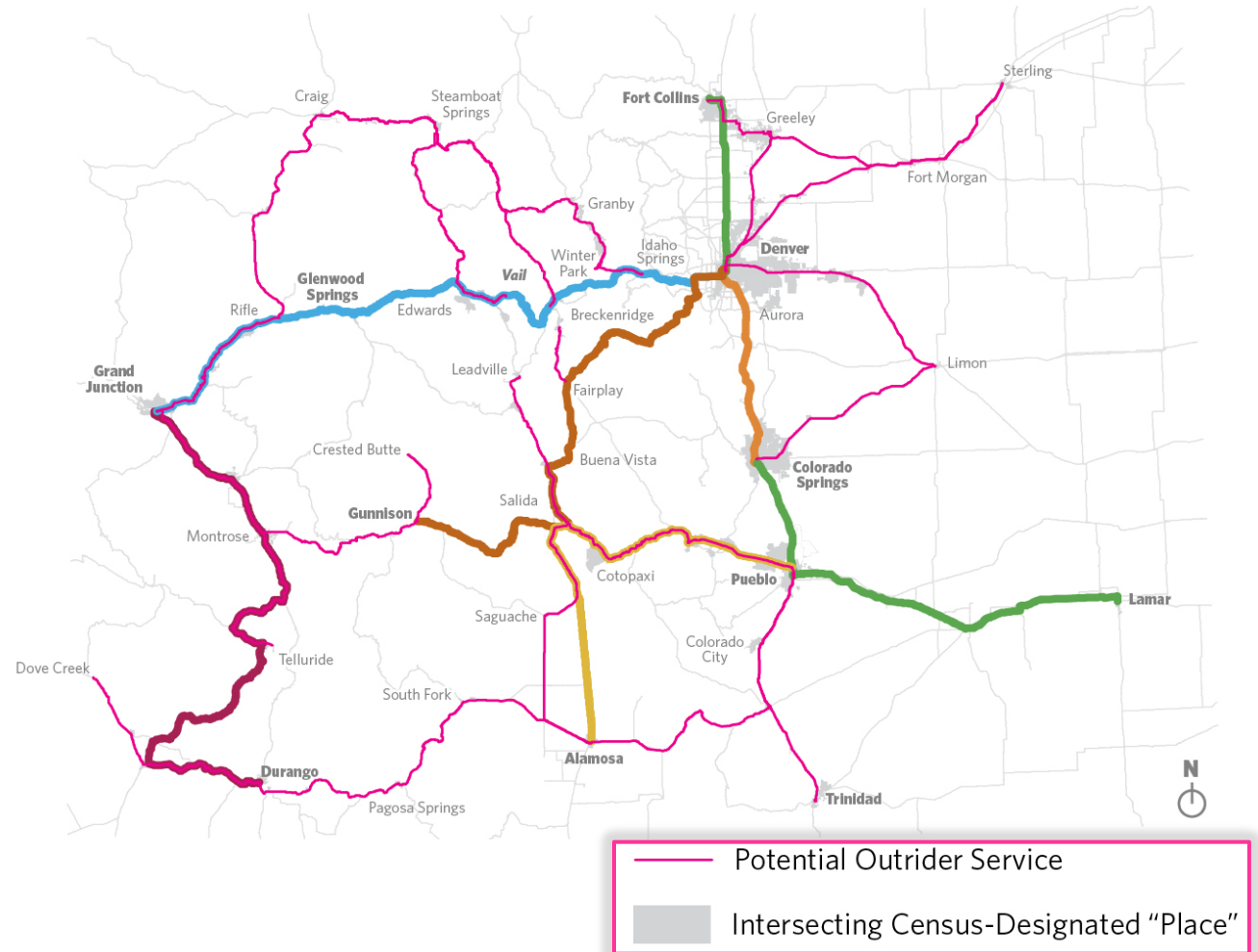
- **In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regulations, Outrider operators will take the following precautions to keep drivers and passengers safe:**
  - All buses will undergo daily enhanced cleaning and sanitizing
  - Selected seats onboard will be physically blocked to ensure proper social distancing
  - Drivers will be issued proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)
  - Each bus will be supplied with face masks (for personal use), latex gloves and personal hand sanitizers
  - Each bus will have a “security driver door” when available
  - Riders will be offered free hand sanitizer wipes while boarding the bus
  - Face masks are required for drivers and passengers



# Proposed New Routes

Outrider is proposing to expand service to four new routes starting in 2021:

1. Sterling-Greeley
2. Telluride-Grand Junction
3. Trinidad-Pueblo
4. **Craig-Denver**



# Funding (Federal)

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- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – Intercity Bus Program 5311(f)
  - Outrider is the re-branding of the current 5311(f) program administered by CDOT for several years
  - 5311(f) seeks to support the connection between nonurbanized areas and the larger regional or national intercity bus service systems
  - Outrider is funded from the 5311(f) requirement to expend 15% of its apportionment for an intercity bus program
  - CDOT currently receives approximately \$1.8M/year in FTA Section 5311(f) funds



**Federal Transit  
Administration**



# Funding (State)

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- **FASTER Statewide Program**

- Signed in 2009, the FASTER Act generates about \$200 million every year for state transportation projects through vehicle registration fees
- Allows the state of Colorado to improve roadway safety, repair or replace deteriorating bridges, and support and expand transit
- Allocates \$2.5M/year to operating funds for rural regional service run by local agencies



# Transit Agency Partners

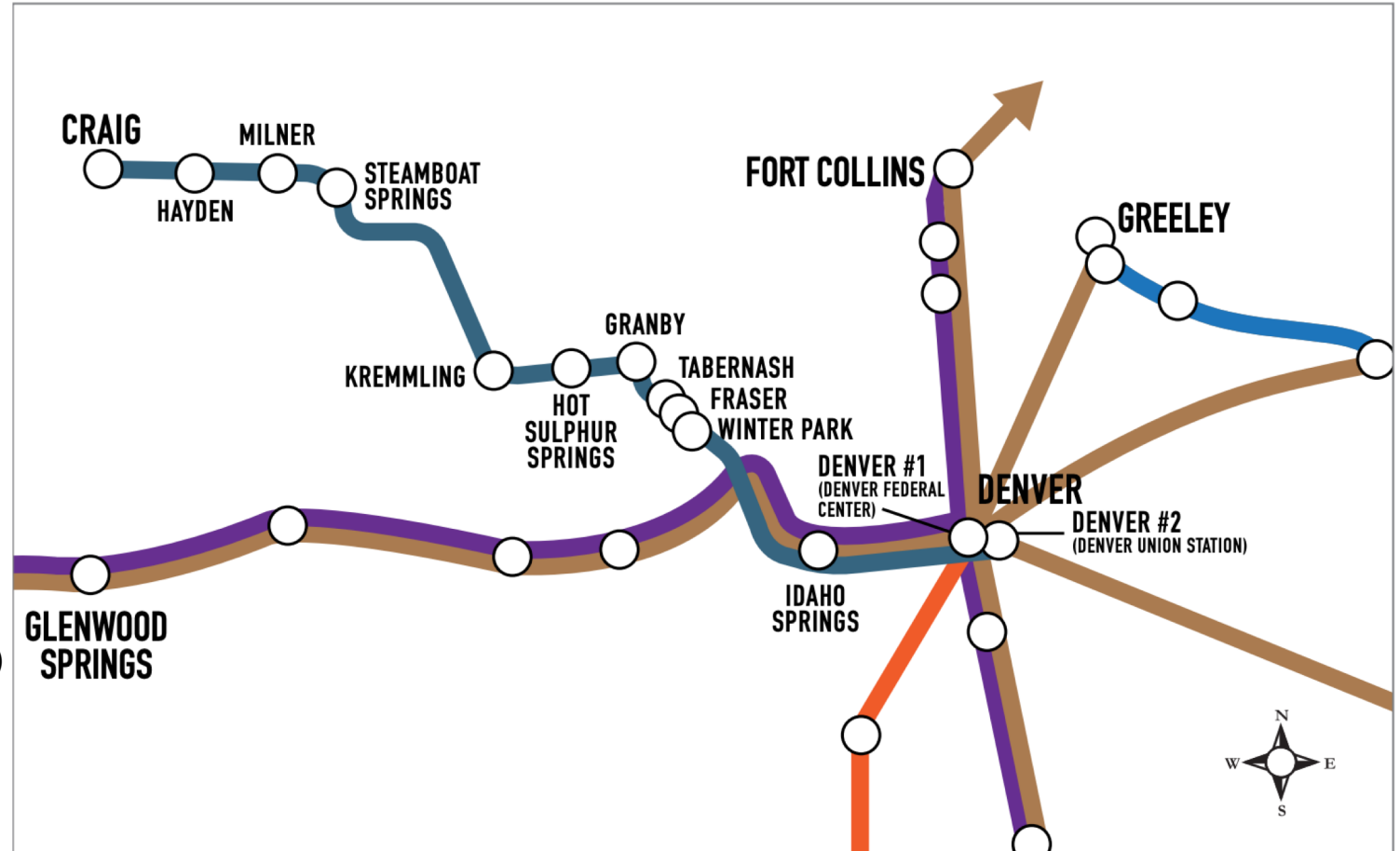
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- Partnerships with local operators allow for agencies to take ownership of their regional bus system and manage them according to what makes the most sense for their communities
- Existing Outrider routes operate through contracts with local transit partners like Pueblo SRDA, Alpine Express, and SoCoCAA
- CDOT will choose the Craig-Denver operator through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The operator for this line has not yet been determined

# Proposed Craig-Denver Route

- **Regularly Scheduled Stops:**

- Craig
- Hayden
- Milner
- Steamboat Springs
- Kremmling
- Hot Sulphur Springs
- Granby
- Tabernash
- Fraser
- Winter Park
- Idaho Springs
- Denver #1 (Denver Federal Center)
- Denver #2 (Denver Union Station)



# Proposed Craig-Denver Route

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- **Opening:** Outrider is proposing to expand service to four new routes starting in early 2021, including the Craig-Denver route
  - Timing could be delayed if COVID-19 or other unforeseen issues impact ridership
- **Schedule:** The route will run seven days per week
- **Cost:** This route will follow the same payment model as the other routes
  - Seniors ride the bus at half price
  - Prices vary based on distance:
    - Craig-Denver Bus Center (\$34)
    - Craig-Kremmling (\$16)
    - Craig-Hayden (\$3)

# Proposed Craig-Denver Route

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- **Payment:** CDOT is finalizing a digital sales platform that will allow riders to purchase tickets through the Bustang mobile app
  - Riders can also purchase single ride tickets when paying with cash onboard
- **ADA Compliant:** All bus stops will be ADA compliant and accessible for individuals with disabilities
- **Flag Stops:**
  - Outrider will implement flag stops, where buses will only stop if requested by passengers

# Proposed Craig-Denver Route (Bus Amenities)

- **Bus Amenities:**

- Wi-Fi
- Power outlets
- USB ports
- Bike racks
- Luggage bays
- Co-branding allowed
- Restrooms
- Seats 38 passengers
  - Seats 18 passengers to accommodate social distancing guidelines

- **COVID-19 Related:**

- HVAC internal sanitation system
- HVAC air filtration
- Security driver door



# Outreach

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- CDOT is contacting key stakeholder groups to promote the Outrider service and its benefits
  - Highlighting the value of establishing a statewide, connected network
  - Marketing the new routes once the lines are open
- CDOT will solicit feedback and inputs on:
  - Potential bus stop locations
  - Schedules

# Next Steps

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- **Fall 2020:** CDOT will send out a survey soon to collect feedback
- **Fall 2020:** First round of individual meetings with key stakeholder groups:
  - Answer questions and obtain feedback on bus stop locations and schedules
  - Solicit input on additional stakeholders to meet with
- **Winter 2020/2021:** Second round of individual meetings with key stakeholder groups:
  - Present final bus stop locations, schedules and answer any outstanding questions

# Group Discussion

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- We would love your input! Please enter your name in the chat and we will call on you to share your feedback about:
  - Where should we locate a bus stop in your town?
  - What inputs do you have about the bus schedule?

# Contact Information

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If you'd like to be added to our email list, please type your name and email in the chat.

- **Staff:**
  - **Jeffrey Prillwitz:** [jeffrey.prillwitz@state.co.us](mailto:jeffrey.prillwitz@state.co.us), (720) 467-6075
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# Questions?

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## Thank You!

