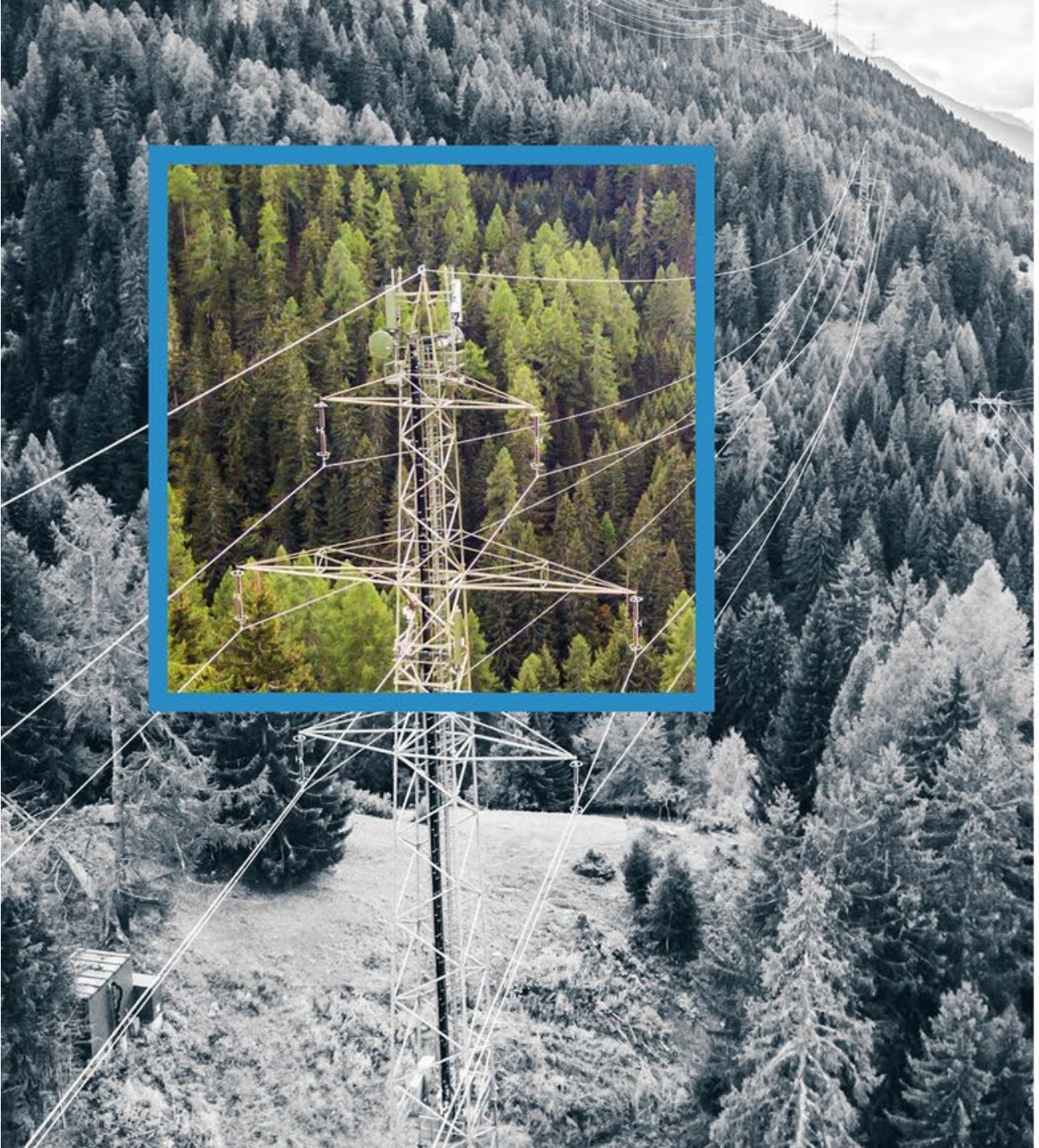


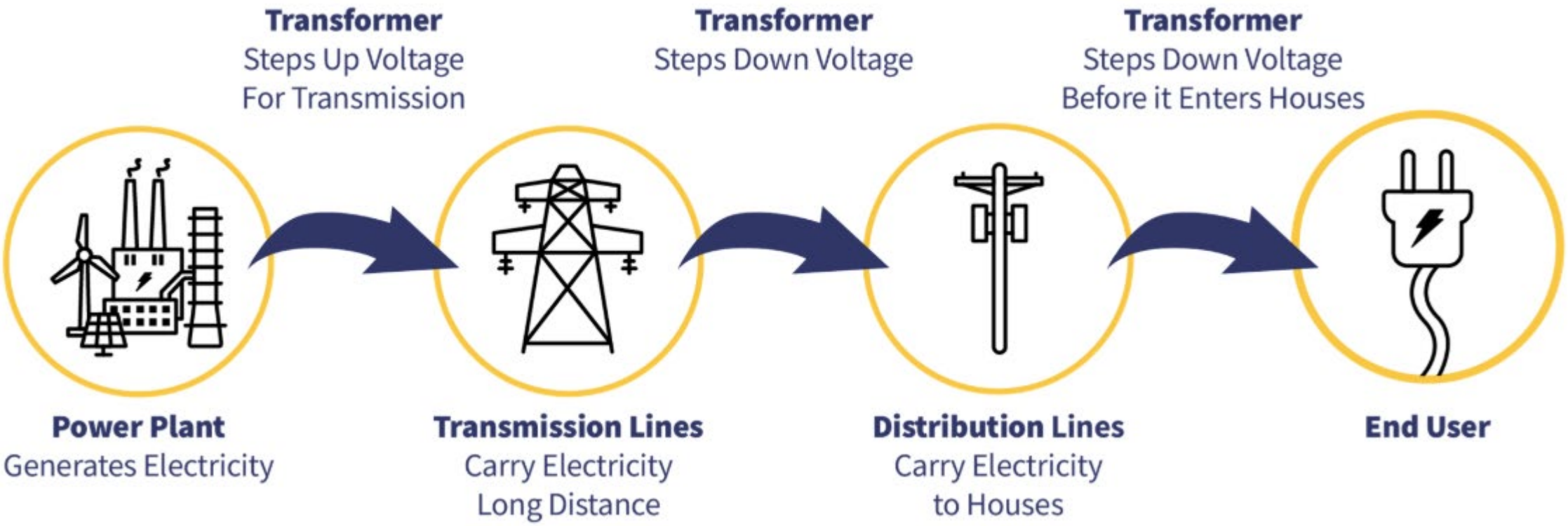
Colorado Electric Transmission Authority

Montana Legislature –
Energy and Technology Interim Committee

January 15, 2026

COLORADO
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

Transmission – The Electric Highway



COLORADO
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
AUTHORITY

CETA is a Transmission Developer with a Public Purpose

Mission: To plan and develop electric transmission in Colorado to 1) increase grid reliability, 2) help Colorado meet its clean energy goals, and 3) aid in economic and community development.

Organizational Structure:

- Independent special purpose authority and subdivision of the state
- Not subject to direction by a state agency or commission
- 9-member independent board appointed by governor and legislature

Powers:

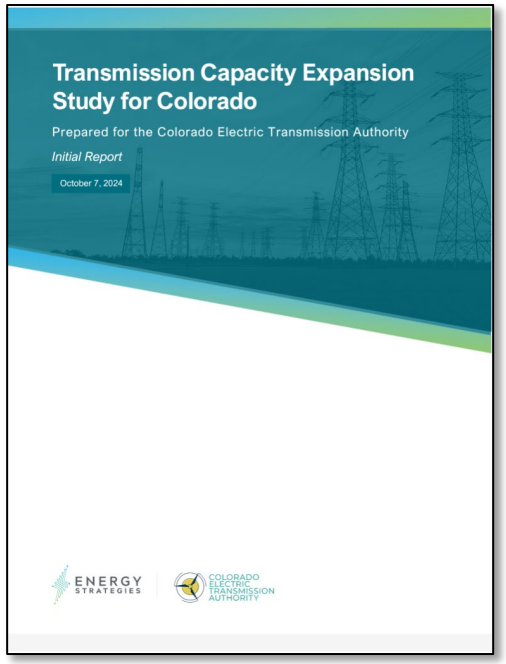
- Enter into public-private partnerships for transmission expansion
- Identify and establish transmission corridors in the state, subject to local use permits
- Issue revenue bonds to finance development and construction
- Use eminent domain for right-of-way acquisition

COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

Source: Sect. 40-42-104, CRS

CETA 2024 Transmission Study

- In 2023, the State of Colorado directed CETA (SB23-016) to study the need for expanded transmission capacity in the State.
- In response, CETA conducted an RFP process seeking an independent consultant to conduct a transmission planning study that analyzes the need for expanded capacity in Colorado to:
  - Help meet forecasted demand for electricity
  - Achieve the State's emission reduction goals
  - Improve power flows on the system
  - Improve grid reliability
- CETA hired Energy Strategies & Team to conduct the study.



COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

ENERGY STRATEGIES

Colorado Has an Urgent Need for Transmission

Transmission Portfolios: Reference Case (+ Reconductoring)

- Reference Case portfolio meets the 20-year reliability, deliverability and economic needs of high-voltage system in Colorado

Capital Investment ($M)

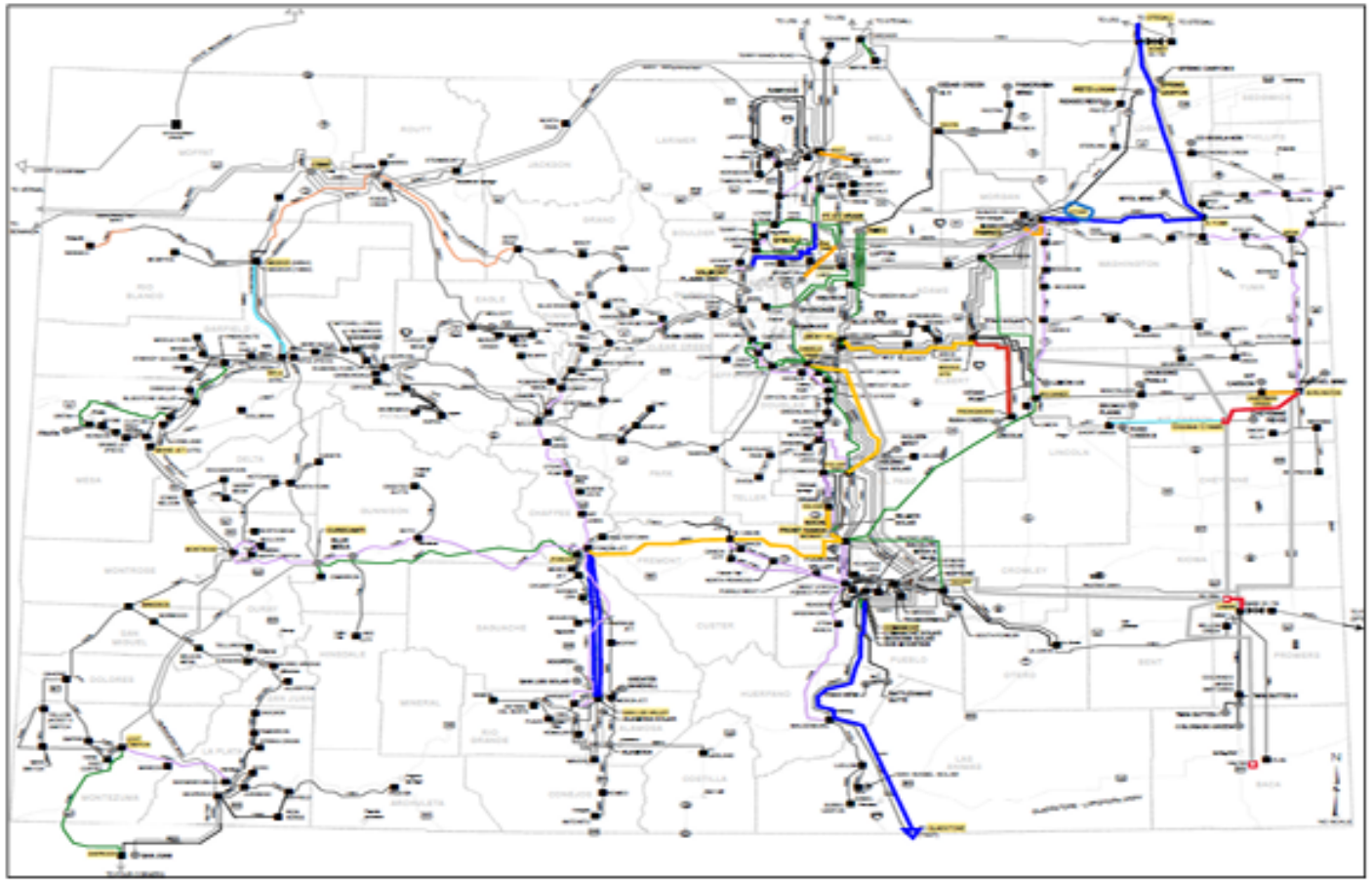
$4,503

Portfolio Line Miles

Greenfield	548
Rebuild	269
Reconductor	2883

Build Categories

- New 230kV Lines
- New 345kV Lines
- Conceptual Projects
- Rebuild to Double Circuit
- Reconductor 345kV
- Reconductor 230kV
- Reconductor 138kV
- Reconductor 115kV



High Demand Options

Transmission Portfolios: ***Additional*** Upgrades to Accommodate High Demand Scenario

- Portfolio captures *additional* 20-year upgrades needed to accommodate ~50% increase in peak demand growth (20 GW of total CO demand in 2045)

Capital Investment ($M)

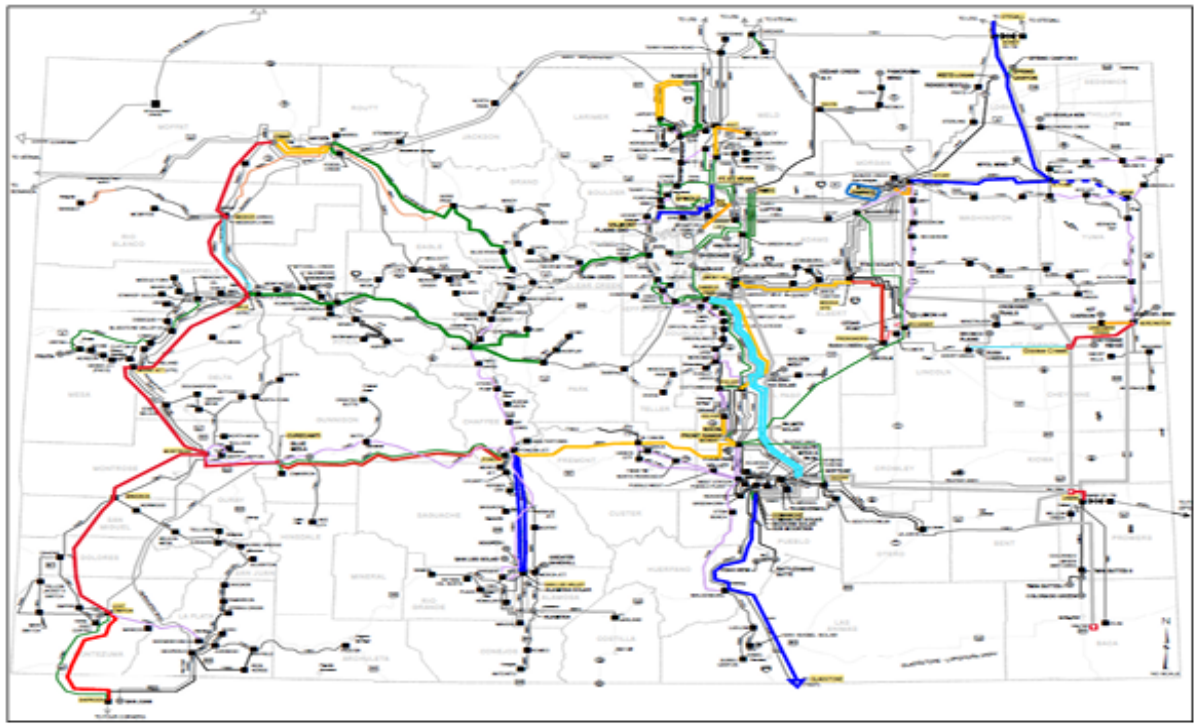
$3,800 + Ref. Case

Portfolio Line Miles

Greenfield	654
Rebuild	246
Reconductor	1153[1]

Build Categories

- New 230kV Lines
- New 345kV Lines
- Conceptual Projects
- Rebuild to Double Circuit
- Reconductor 345kV
- Reconductor 230kV
- Reconductor 138kV
- Reconductor 115kV



(1) Map does not show reconductoring required for High Demand scenario or transmission under 200kV.

COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

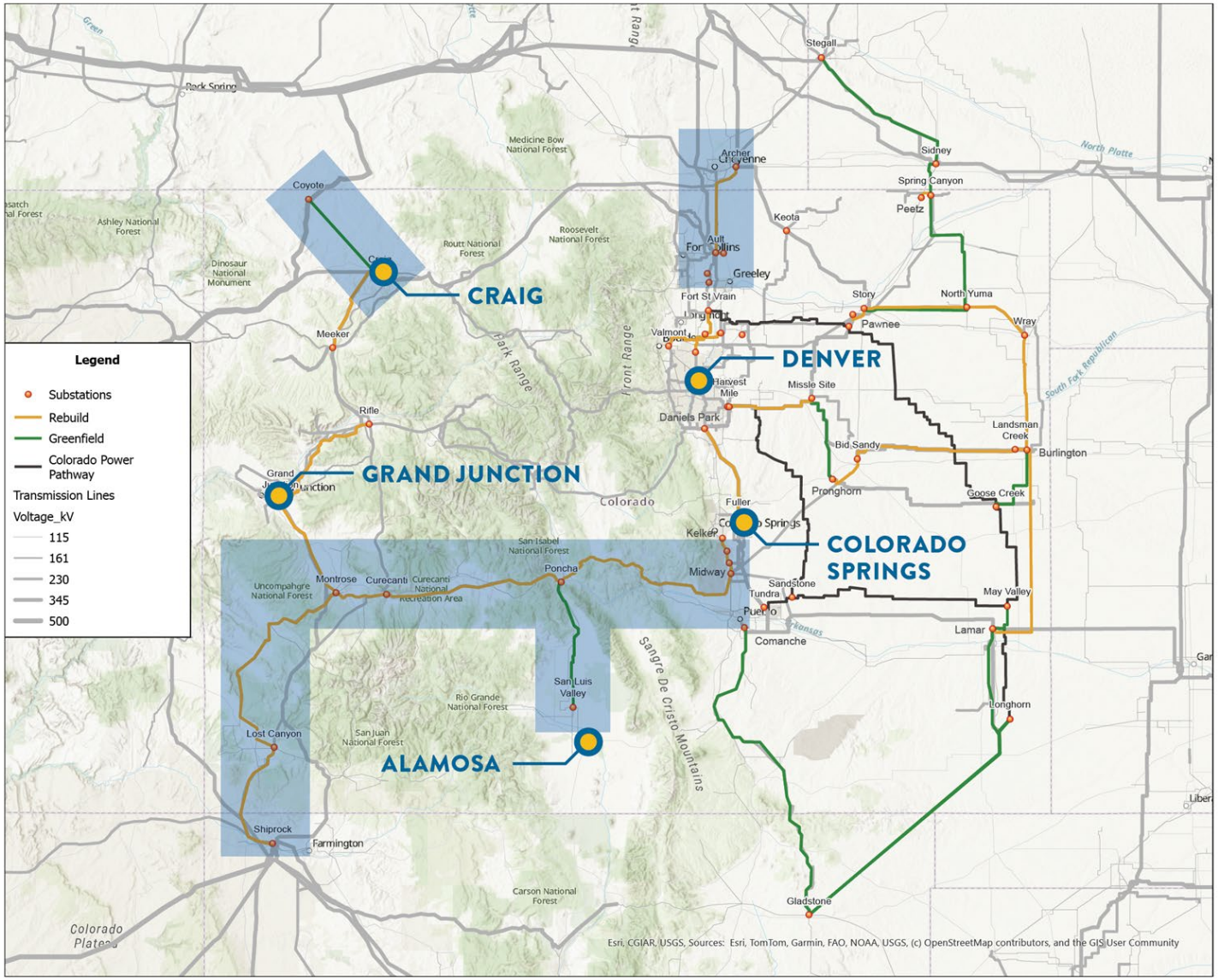
CETA's Work

Unique Tools

- Public-private partnerships
- Identify transmission corridors
- Revenue bonds
- Eminent domain

2026 Priorities

- Select a project(s) for development
- Revenue bonding policy
- Notification policy



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Community Engagement Principles

FINAL PRINCIPLES – AT A GLANCE

Information Sharing

Require a transparent, credible, and open process

Communication

Require meaningful engagement with local communities

Community Benefits

Advocate for public resources and both financial and non-financial benefits that support local communities

Accountability

Require long-term commitments to host communities

Principles adopted by the CETA Board in October 2024 to guide partnership agreements

COLORADO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

THANK YOU

Questions?

Maury Galbraith, Executive Director
mgalbraith@cotransmissionauthority.com

Written Materials

CETA website

CETA Fact Sheet

Priority Project Concepts