

**Please have a seat. We will  
be starting the presentation  
shortly.**

***Tome un asiento por favor.  
Estarémos empezando la  
presentación brevemente.***

*¿Alguien necesita  
traducción al Español?  
Por favor levante su  
mano.*



# Welcome

Central Corridor Extension

Public Meeting

December 16, 2009

# Agenda

- **What is the Central Corridor Extension (CCE)?**
- **What is an Environmental Evaluation?**
- **Alternative screening process**
- **Preferred Alternative**
- **Environmental resource evaluation and impacts**
- **Next steps**
- **Providing comments**
- **Question and Answer Session**



## What is an Environmental Evaluation?

- All FasTracks corridors are being evaluated for environmental impacts.
- Federally funded projects require the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process; locally-funded projects use an EE process.
- EE process, similar to NEPA, includes:
  - Report with description of Preferred Alternative.
  - Determination of environmental impacts and the associated avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.
  - Public involvement and agency coordination.
- Draft EE comment period Dec 9, 2009 through Jan 11, 2010.

## Alternative Screening Process

- Level one – transit alignments.
- Level two – transit technologies.
- Level three – comparative screening.
- Level four – alternative refinement.

# Preferred Alternative

- Rail transit operating in traffic
- Downtown light rail loop to East Corridor
- Single light rail vehicle



# Environmental Resource Evaluation and Impacts

## Resources not present in corridor

- Prime and unique farmlands
- Wild and scenic rivers
- Biological resources (including wildlife, vegetation, noxious weeds, and special status species)
- Waters of the U.S./wetlands
- Geology and soils

# Environmental Resource Evaluation and Impacts

## Resources present with no impacts

- Air quality - similar to light rail service already in the area, no additional emissions
- Floodplains and drainage/hydrology—built in existing street, no additional runoff
- Water quality—built in existing street, no additional water pollution
- Noise—increases don't meet impact thresholds
- Parklands and recreation areas—no park or recreation resources located within 300 feet
- Archaeological and paleontological—not surveyed because the majority of the project area has been disturbed by development

# Environmental Resource Evaluation and Impacts

## Impacts that don't require mitigation

Resource	Impact
Social and community facilities, land use, zoning, and economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Benefit from improved access to services/jobs</li><li>•decreased congestion</li><li>• potential for transit-oriented development consistent with local and regional plans</li><li>•137 estimated new jobs directly related and 315 new jobs indirectly related to project construction and operation</li></ul>
Energy	Insignificant consumption estimated at 20.9m BTU for construction, 8.7m BTU/day for operations
Parking	Net loss of 25 spaces on Downing Street and 13 spaces on 36th Street; alternative parking options available on nearby side streets
Historic and cultural resources	Transit addition introduces new visual element but doesn't negatively affect 41 historic properties

# Environmental Resource Evaluation and Impacts

Resource	Impact	Mitigation
Social impacts and community facilities	Temporary construction phase disruption—noise, dust, clearing/excavation, traffic detours	Construction mitigation and communication plan
Land acquisition	Temporary construction use	Temporary construction easement, coordination with property owner
Visual and aesthetic qualities	Minor impacts due to new overhead power poles, tracks, other light rail facilities, temporary disturbances during construction	Consider consolidation of street lights, traffic signals, overhead poles during final design; restore ground surfaces to original condition where feasible

# Environmental Resource Evaluation and Impacts

Resource	Impact	Mitigation
Hazardous materials	Moderate impact due to potential for encountering soils containing lead and arsenic during construction	Develop management plan prior to construction for remediation and disposal, if needed
Utilities	Temporary construction impacts to water lines, sanitary/storm sewers, energy lines (electric, steam, gas), fiber optics and communications lines	Avoidance, protection, interruption, relocation, and restoration during and after construction
Traffic / Transportation	Shared use lanes for vehicular and rail transit; conversion of Downing Street to 2-way; elimination of southbound left turn lanes at 36 <sup>th</sup> and 37 <sup>th</sup> Avenues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Provide southbound left turn at Lawrence Street</li> <li>•Add traffic signals</li> <li>•Add left turn lanes on Downing Street at California.</li> </ul>

## Next Steps

- **Draft EE public comment period - December 9, 2009 through January 11, 2010**
- **Respond to comments and release the Final EE – January 2010**
- **Submit the Final EE to the RTD Board of Directors for adoption - early 2010**
- **Project ready for final design and construction once funding is identified**

# Providing Comments

## Tonight

- Fill out a comment form
- Provide a verbal comment

## After tonight

- Mail comment forms to project team by January 11  
Central Corridor Extension Project  
c/o: PBS&J  
4601 DTC Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80237
- Visit the project website:  
[www.rtd-fastracks.com/cc\\_1](http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/cc_1)



Questions?