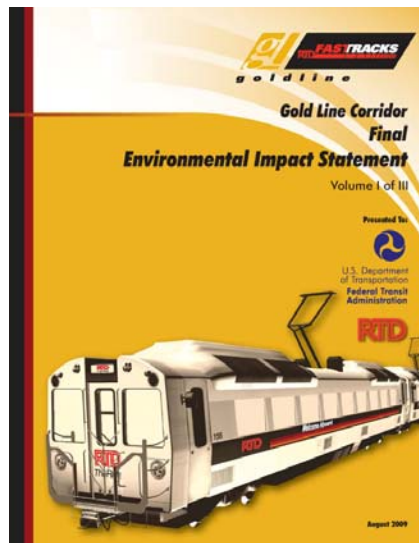


Gold Line Final Environmental Impact Statement Overview

The Gold Line Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) contains the comprehensive environmental analysis and proposed mitigation measures for the RTD FasTracks rail line proposed to run from Denver Union Station to Ward Road in Wheat Ridge. After three years of screening, analysis and public participation, the FEIS was made available to the public on August 21, 2009. The publication of the FEIS kicked off a 30-day public comment period that includes public hearings on September 9 and 17. Public comments on the FEIS will be accepted until September 21, 2009.



WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

In June 2006, RTD FasTracks began a comprehensive planning study of transit alternatives between Denver Union Station and Ward Road through Northwest Denver, Adams County, Arvada and Wheat Ridge. The results of this study are summarized in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Gold Line EIS selects a “Preferred Alternative,” identifies the impacts that may be caused by its implementation and recommends ways of mitigating those impacts where appropriate. The document also compares the impacts that may be caused by the project’s implementation with the impacts of a “No Action” Alternative. The No Action Alternative includes all the changes that would occur if the Gold Line is not built, and it provides a baseline from which all of the Gold Line’s potential impacts can be evaluated. Following the end of the 30-day public comment period, the Final Environmental Impact Statement will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for approval to begin final design and construction.

WHAT HAS CHANGED SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT EIS?

There have been several updates to the document since the release of the Gold Line Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) last summer. They include:

- More in-depth information and detailed engineering design on the Preferred Alternative.
- Incorporation of the Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility as part of the Preferred Alternative for the Gold Line.
- Responses to all public and agency comments received on the DEIS.
- Updates to the project’s impacts analysis and mitigation measures to account for refinements to the Preferred Alternative.
- Final decisions on all station locations and station design templates.
- Recommendations on fencing options for the corridor.
- Updates to reflect the selection of the East Direct design alignment option between Denver Union Station and Pecos Street.

HOW TO SUBMIT FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT COMMENTS*

Online

www.rtdgoldline.com

By Email

comments@rtdgoldline.com

By Mail

RTD Gold Line Comments
Dave Beckhouse, FTA
c/o GBSM, Inc.
600 17th Street 2020-S
Denver, CO 80202

In Person

At the public hearings:

Wednesday, September 9

6 p.m.
Arvada Center
6901 Wadsworth Blvd
Arvada, CO

Thursday, September 17

6 p.m.
Highland Masonic Center
3550 Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO



* *The FEIS comment period ends on September 21, 2009.*

WHERE TO REVIEW THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Gold Line Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is available for download at www.rtdgoldline.com and can also be reviewed at the following libraries and university campuses throughout the study area:

Denver Public Libraries

Central Library

10 W. 14th Avenue Parkway
Denver, CO 80204
720-865-1111

Smiley

4501 W. 46th Avenue
Denver, CO 80212
303-477-3622

Rangeview Libraries

Perl Mack

7611 Hilltop Circle
Denver, CO 80221
303-428-3576

Jefferson County Libraries

Arvada Library

7525 W. 57th Avenue
Arvada, CO 80002
303-403-5380

Standley Lake Library

8485 Kipling Street
Arvada, CO 80005
303-456-0806

Westminster Public Library

7392 Irving Street
Westminster, CO 80030
303-430-2400 ext. 2300

Wheat Ridge Library

5475 W. 32nd Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO 80212
303-463-3145

Universities

Regis University Library

3333 Regis Boulevard
Denver, CO 80221
303-458-4030

Red Rocks Community College – Arvada Campus*

5420 Miller Street
Arvada, CO 80002
303-914-6010

* *DEIS will be available at the front desk
of the campus lobby.*

NEXT STEPS

After the FEIS comment period closes on September 21, 2009, RTD will submit the project – along with responses to all FEIS comments – to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for approval to move into final design and construction. FTA issues its decision on the EIS in the form of a Record of Decision (ROD), which RTD expects to receive this fall. RTD will then continue to work with a private-sector partner to complete the engineering, design, construction and operation. The Gold Line is anticipated to open to the public in 2015/2016.