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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2009

Federal Transit Administration Issues Record of Decision Approving RTD Gold Line Project

DENVER, November 2, 2009 – After more than three years of in-depth alternatives screening, detailed impacts analysis and extensive community outreach, the RTD FasTracks Gold Line project has been approved by the Federal Transit Administration. The FTA’s approval marks the end of the Gold Line Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and the beginning of a new phase for the project: final design and construction.

“We are thrilled to reach this milestone,” said Liz Telford, RTD project manager for the Gold Line EIS. “This is great news for both RTD and the community, and it marks a very important step in making the Gold Line a reality.”

The 11.2-mile-long Gold Line is proposed to run along the BNSF/Union Pacific railroad route from Denver Union Station to Ward Road in Wheat Ridge, passing through northwest Denver, Adams County and Arvada along the way. The line has seven stations, located at 41st Avenue, Pecos, Federal, Sheridan, Olde Town, Arvada Ridge and Ward Road.

Since the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) comment period ended on September 21, RTD has been hard at work addressing the comments and preparing the Record of Decision. Forty individuals and entities submitted comments on the FEIS, which was published in August. Responses to all FEIS comments are available on the Gold Line Web site (www.rtdgoldline.com).

The approval from the FTA means that the Gold Line can now move into final design and construction. RTD will contract with a team of private partners to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the Gold Line, the East Corridor and the commuter rail maintenance

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facility as a public-private partnership called the Eagle P3 Project. RTD is scheduled to select a private team in June 2010.

With the recent approval from the FTA, the \$590.5 million Gold Line project is still on schedule to open to the public in 2016.

About Gold Line Corridor EIS

The Gold Line is an 11.2-mile electric commuter rail corridor extending from Denver Union Station in downtown Denver to the vicinity of Ward Road in Wheat Ridge. The Gold Line and the Northwest Rail project share the alignment from Denver Union Station to Pecos Street. In the 2004 FasTracks election, voters approved funding for the Gold Line, serving Denver, Arvada, Wheat Ridge and unincorporated Adams County. The three-year Environmental Impact Statement analyzes transit alternatives in this corridor and includes extensive public involvement.

About FasTracks

FasTracks is RTD's voter-approved, transit expansion program to expand rail and bus service throughout the RTD service area. FasTracks will create six new commuter rail and light rail corridors, extend three existing corridors, add 21,000 new parking spaces, and redirect bus service to better connect the entire District.

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