

FasTracks Annual Program Evaluation Gold Line Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Annual Program Evaluation?

The Annual Program Evaluation is a very comprehensive evaluation of costs, revenues, financing options and delivery methods. As part of the Annual Program Evaluation, the FasTracks team has examined various elements of each FasTracks project (including the Gold Line) individually and as part of the overall FasTracks program, including:

- Scope, schedule and costs
- Material and labor price trends
- Revenue estimates
- Contingency levels
- Interest rate savings
- Financing options
- Construction delivery methods

How do RTD Board decisions/recommendations related to the Annual Program Evaluation get incorporated into the Gold Line Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process?

The RTD Board provides policy direction. Their policies are considered along with the other decision-making criteria that are analyzed during the EIS process, including environmental impacts, cost, etc.

I heard the RTD Board is evaluating selecting one commuter rail technology (either diesel-powered or electric-powered) for all commuter rail corridors in FasTracks. The Gold Line EIS already ruled out diesel-powered commuter rail, so how can you bring it back now?

At this time, the Gold Line EIS is evaluating electric commuter rail and streetcar technologies for the corridor. The RTD Board's evaluation provides input to the EIS process. Due to the cost and revenue challenges FasTracks is facing, the RTD Board is analyzing the cost impacts/savings of using a single commuter rail technology program-wide. The Board will be taking input and provide a final



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policy recommendation on technology in the near future. If the board's policy in any way impacts the Gold Line's current alternatives, we will come back to you with that information, incorporate it into the EIS process and ask for your input.

Who makes the final decision on vehicle technology?

The RTD Board provides policy direction about FasTracks, including technology, after considering a number of criteria. Public input is one of those criteria and is a vital part of the process. Since RTD is planning for half of the Gold Line to be paid for by federal funds, any decisions (including technology) must be approved the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The FTA must review the Environmental Impact Statement and RTD's recommended plans for moving forward before issuing a Record of Decision, based upon that review.

How can I provide input to the RTD Board about the Annual Program Evaluation?

You can provide input to the RTD Board via multiple channels. Public comment will be accepted at the FasTracks Citizens Advisory Committee's Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, June 14, at 6 p.m. and also at the RTD Board meeting on Tuesday, June 19, at 5:30 p.m. Both meetings are in Rooms T and D of the RTD Headquarters, 1600 Blake St. You can also submit comments by emailing comments@rtd-fastracks.com. While public comment will not be accepted at the RTD Board's FasTracks Monitoring Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 12, at 5 p.m. (also held in Rooms T and D of the RTD Headquarters, 1600 Blake St.), the meeting is open to the public and the committee will be discussing the vehicle technology issue.

You can also contact your elected board members directly. The Gold Line Study Area includes Districts C, L and M. The Board members representing those districts are Juanita Chacon, District C (720-297-3005, juanita.chacon@rtd-denver.com); Wally Pulliam, District L (303-421-9803, wally.pulliam@rtd-denver.com); and David Ruchman, District M (303-238-8424, d.ruchman@comcast.net).

How does this impact the Gold Line EIS Schedule?

The Gold Line Team is currently still on schedule to complete the engineering and environmental studies needed to prepare and publish the Draft EIS in late 2007 or early 2008. The Draft EIS will summarize the impacts of the Preferred Alternative and the team's recommended methods to mitigate them. Any delay in selecting a preferred alternative will delay the publication of the Draft EIS.