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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **RTD Releases Gold Line Final Environmental Impact Statement**

DENVER – The RTD FasTracks Gold Line team today released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the last step in the environmental process before submitting the project to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for formal approval to move into final design and construction.

The FEIS is the culmination of a three-year process for the FasTracks electric commuter rail line proposed to run from Denver Union Station to Ward Road in Wheat Ridge, passing through northwest Denver, Adams County and Arvada.

The document is available on the project Web site and at public libraries in the study area. It will also be available at public hearings on September 9 and 17.

The release of the FEIS begins a 30-day public comment period that will end on September 21, 2009. The comment period will include two public hearings scheduled for 6 p.m. at the following locations:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 9** -- Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada
- **Thursday, Sept. 17** -- Highlands Masonic Center, 3550 Federal Blvd., Denver

“The Final EIS summarizes three years of screening, analysis and public participation,” said Liz Telford, project manager for the Gold Line. “The release of this document brings us one step closer to delivering a safe and reliable transit rail line that will improve mobility and provide enhanced access for communities throughout the corridor and the region.”

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The FEIS is an updated version of the Draft EIS (DEIS) that was published last summer. The FEIS describes the Gold Line team's screening process; responds to public and agency comments received on the DEIS; and provides more in-depth information on the team's recommendation (called the Preferred Alternative) to operate electric commuter rail train technology along the BNSF/Union Pacific railroad route, with seven station locations (41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Pecos Street, Federal Boulevard, Sheridan Boulevard, Olde Town Arvada, Arvada Ridge and Ward Road).

As part of the FEIS, the Gold Line project team completed more detailed engineering design, updated the project's impacts analysis and refined all mitigation measures. The FEIS includes all final station locations and decisions on station aesthetics and fencing.

The FEIS also includes a description of the Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility, including its anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

After the 30-day public comment period, RTD will submit the final document to the FTA. RTD expects to receive the FTA's decision in the form of a Record of Decision (ROD) this fall. The Gold Line is anticipated to open to the public in 2015/2016.

Public comments on the FEIS can be submitted at the public hearings, in writing (RTD Gold Line, Dave Beckhouse - FTA Region 8, c/o GBSM, 600 17th Street #2020-S, Denver, CO 80202), via email ([comments@rtdgoldline.com](mailto:comments@rtdgoldline.com)) or through the project Web site, [www.rtdgoldline.com](http://www.rtdgoldline.com).

**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 12-year 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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