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**Gold Line Analysis of Four Remaining Transit Alternatives
Ready for Public Review**

DENVER – The public will have an opportunity during upcoming public workshops to review and comment on the analysis of the four alternatives still under consideration for the FasTracks Gold Line Corridor between Denver Union Station and Ward Road.

The Regional Transportation District project team will review its detailed evaluation of each alternative at two public meetings: Monday, Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. at the Highlands Masonic Center, 3550 Federal Blvd., Denver, and Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. at Arvada Center, 6901 Wadsworth Blvd., Arvada.

“This is an important step in our process and we encourage the public to help us make good transportation investment decisions,” said Liz Telford, project manager for the Gold Line Environmental Impact Statement. “We will carefully balance input from the public, and local, regional and federal agencies with the results of our detailed technical analysis to decide what alternatives move forward for further evaluation.”

The four alternatives undergoing a detailed evaluation include:

- Electric commuter rail: Railroad alignment.
- Light rail: 38th Avenue to Sheridan Boulevard to Ridge Road alignment
- Light rail: 38th Avenue to Harlan Street to Ralston Road alignment

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- Streetcar: 38th to Harlan Street to Ralston Road alignment.

Based on the input gathered at and since the last Gold Line public meetings in October, the project team refined the four alternatives to minimize their negative impacts and improve their effectiveness. Each alternative then underwent a more detailed technical, operational and financial analysis that will be summarized at the upcoming meetings.

Based on the technical analysis and input from local governments, regulatory agencies and the public, the Gold Line team will recommend removing some of the four proposed route/technology combinations in the next few months.

The project team is considering a number of factors while studying the four alternatives, which include: projected transit riders, the environmental benefits and consequences of each alternative, the avoidance of community and property impacts, the ability to implement the proposed alternatives, the affordability of each project within the approved FasTracks budget, and the ability to obtain federal funding.

A preferred alternative for the Gold Line Corridor will be identified in spring of 2007. Public meetings will occur during the identification of the agency preferred alternative. Public input can be submitted throughout the project during meetings, in writing or through the project Web site, www.rtdgoldline.com.

About Gold Line Corridor EIS

The Gold Line is an 11.2-mile rapid transit corridor extending from Denver Union Station in downtown Denver to the vicinity of Ward Road in Wheat Ridge. In the 2004 FasTracks election, voters approved a budget of \$463.5 million for the Gold Line, serving Denver, Arvada, Wheat Ridge and unincorporated Adams County. The two-and-a-half year Environmental Impact Statement will analyze transit alternatives in this corridor and will include extensive public involvement.

About FasTracks

FasTracks is RTD's voter-approved \$4.7 billion, 12-year program to expand rail and bus service throughout the RTD service area. Scheduled for completion in 2017, FasTracks will create six new commuter rail and light rail corridors, extend three existing corridors, add 21,000 new parking spaces, and expand bus service across the entire District.