



Media Contacts:

Pauletta Tonilas
FasTracks Public Information Manager
303-299-2469 (office)
303-461-2021 (pager)

Angela Brand
Gold Line Public Information
303-299-2423

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2007

**Electric Commuter Rail on the Railroad Alignment
Selected as Preferred Alternative for Gold Line**

DENVER - The RTD FasTracks Gold Line team recently announced that the RTD Board has accepted the project team's recommendation to select electric commuter rail on the BNSF/Union Pacific Railroad alignment as the preferred alternative for the Gold Line.

Over the past month, input gathered from local governments, regulatory agencies and the community showed overwhelming support for the team's recommendation.

The RTD Board also accepted the Gold Line Team's recommendation to eliminate the streetcar alternative, which was proposed to run on arterial streets including 38th Avenue, Harlan and Ridge Road, from consideration for the Gold Line.

Over the past two months, the RTD Board was considering asking the Gold Line and East Corridor Teams to evaluate both electric and diesel powered commuter rail in their Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) due to cost impacts to the FasTracks program.

By accepting the Gold Line Team's recommendation, the RTD Board has determined that electric commuter rail will be the only type of train technology evaluated from this point forward in the Gold Line EIS.

The Gold Line Team will now begin the more detailed engineering and environmental analysis needed to get federal approval for the project. Another round of public meetings will be held in the fall to discuss the preliminary findings from the team's

-MORE-

Electric Commuter Rail Selected as Gold Line Preferred Alternative

Page 2

more detailed evaluations of the alternative. The analysis will be summarized in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that is expected to be published by early 2008.

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.

###