



RTD FasTracks Gold Line Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) ANALYSIS GLOSSARY

The Gold Line Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will evaluate the benefits and impacts of constructing and operating the proposed transit line. The following table summarizes the areas being evaluated.

CATEGORY	EXPLANATION
Air Quality	Analyzes the Gold Line's effect on carbon monoxide and particulate concentrations, both at specific "hot-spot" locations (e.g. park-n-Rides) and on the region as a whole.
Biological Resources	Analyzes likely impacts to the corridor's plants, animals and their habitats. Also looks at any endangered species that may inhabit the corridor.
Hazardous Materials	Evaluates sites in the corridor that could contain contaminants of concern (e.g. landfills). If any sites are likely to be affected, the team will recommend safe ways to work around these sites and avoid any harm to the public or workers during construction and operation of the Gold Line.
Historic, Archaeological and Cultural Resources	Reviews potential impacts to buildings, districts or other places listed in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places.
Land Use, Zoning and Economic Development	Considers how consistent and supportive the Gold Line is with current land use, as well as the local neighborhoods' and municipalities' documented plans for future development.
Land Acquisition, Displacements and Relocation	Identifies the temporary (e.g. access during construction) and permanent property acquisitions required to build and operate the Gold Line.
Natural Resources	Studies how construction of the Gold Line would impact water resources (e.g. ditches, rivers and lakes), wetlands, floodplains and drainage in the corridor. Also evaluates soil and bedrock to verify whether any special engineering must be done to mitigate adverse geological effects on the construction or ongoing operation of the Gold Line.

CATEGORY	EXPLANATION
Noise and Vibration	Identifies the existing noise and vibration levels in the corridor. Details the projected change in noise and vibration levels associated with the construction and operation of the Gold Line. Where the increase in noise and/or vibration levels exceeds allowable limits, the team will suggest mitigation measures for the impacted areas.
Parklands and Recreation Areas	Analyzes potential impacts to parks, trails and any public recreation areas (e.g. golf courses, pools, gyms).
Safety and Security	Evaluates the potential impact of the Gold Line on emergency services, including police and fire protection. Also reviews existing crime levels in the local communities and determines whether the Gold Line would have any effect.
Social Impacts and Community Facilities	Analyzes the corridor's demographics with a focus on low-income and minority populations to determine whether the Gold Line has equitable benefits and does not disproportionately affect these groups. Also analyzes potential impacts to community facilities such as libraries, schools and hospitals.
Transportation	Evaluates current and projected operation levels of existing transportation systems in the corridor, including major roadways and mass transit systems (e.g. bus service), and determines potential impacts the Gold Line may have on them.
Utilities	Identifies the location of all major utilities located near the Gold Line's stations and alignment to determine any potential impacts on the utilities.
Visual and Aesthetic Qualities	Assesses the visual impacts of the Gold Line (e.g. tracks, overhead wires, bridges, fencing) on the surrounding community.