

## Gold Line Preferred Alternative Refinements

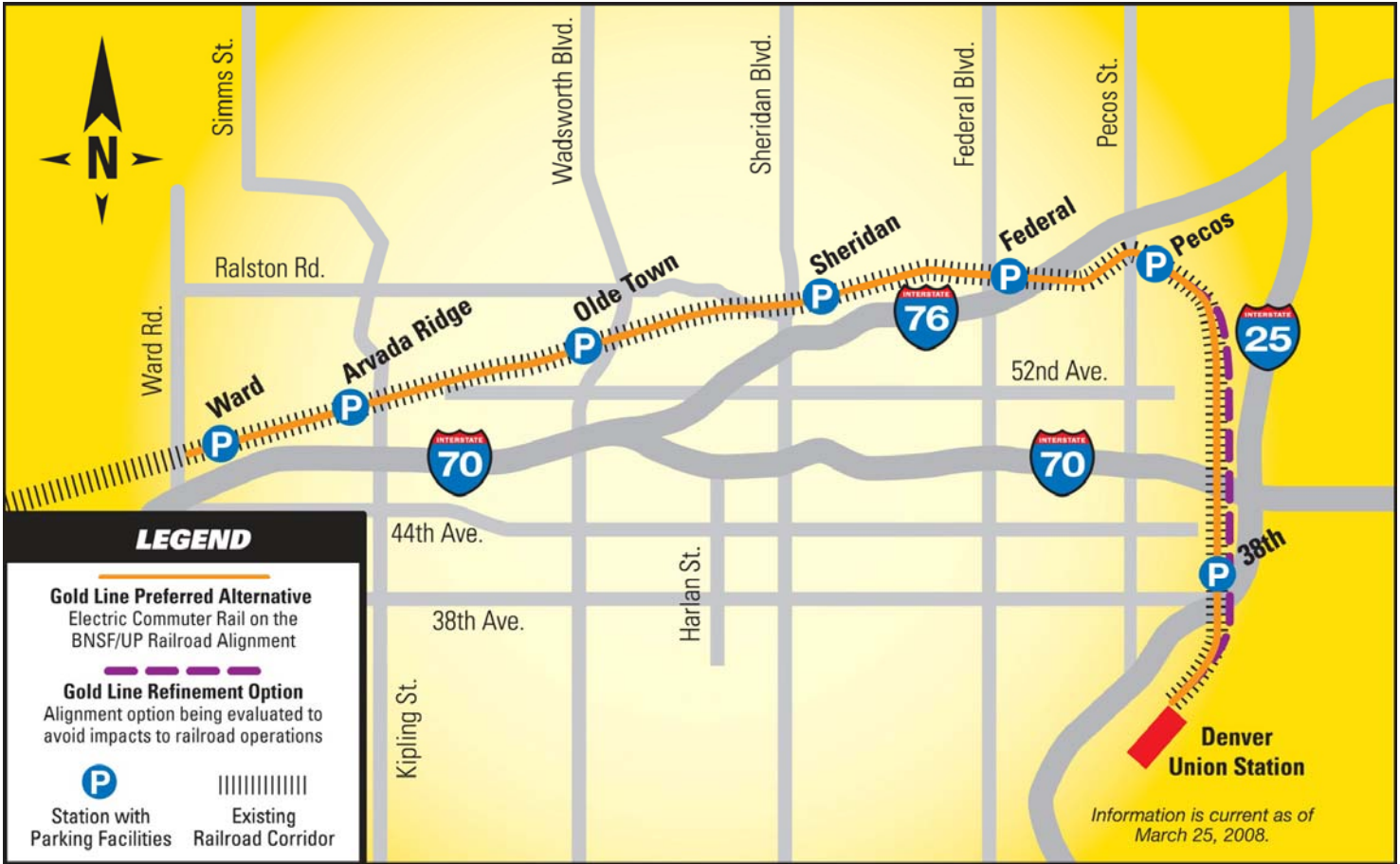
Last year, the RTD Board selected electric commuter rail in the BNSF/Union Pacific Railroad alignment as the Preferred Alternative for the Gold Line. RTD has been negotiating with both railroads regarding all properties needed for FasTracks, including the Gold Line. During these negotiations, the cost of right-of-way was much higher than anticipated. In an effort to reduce the project costs, the Gold Line Team is evaluating refinements to portions of the Preferred Alternative between Denver Union Station and Pecos Street that would not require significant amounts of railroad right-of-way and would not affect railroad operations. RTD is still negotiating with the railroad companies and will select a final alignment that provides the public with the best alternative.

### EFFECTS ON THE GOLD LINE EIS

- The Gold Line Team will evaluate in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) both the Board-approved Preferred Alternative and the recommended refinement option - the east direct alignment (see map on reverse).
- The refinements to the Gold Line alignment parallel the rail yards from Denver Union Station to Pecos Street and travel through industrial areas.
- RTD identified four potential refinement options that parallel the railroad alignment in this area, one of which is recommended for further evaluation, because it appears to be the most feasible and has fewer impacts.
- The recommended refinement option is immediately east of the railroad property and will be evaluated using the same criteria and level of detail as was used for the original Gold Line Preferred Alternative. Analysis of both the original alignment and the recommended refinement option will be included in the DEIS.
- As we have done throughout the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, local government, public and agency input will be considered at key milestones in our analysis of these refinements.

### SCHEDULE

Phase	Description
<b>Initial Feasibility Studies</b> <i>Jan/Mar 2008</i>	Evaluate options that minimize the need for Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. Recommend options to be evaluated in DEIS. <i><u>Public Involvement Opportunities:</u> Public Workshops</i>
<b>Preliminary DEIS Analysis</b> <i>Mar/Apr 2008</i>	Engineer feasible option and begin DEIS-level analysis in 20 resource categories (the same that were used to evaluate the Preferred Alternative). Share preliminary impact findings and proposed mitigations for the recommended refinement option. <i><u>Public Involvement Opportunities:</u> Community Listening Sessions, Issue-Focused Teams</i>
<b>Complete DEIS Engineering &amp; Analysis</b> <i>Spring 2008</i>	Finalize DEIS-level engineering and analysis of the recommended refinement option. Complete the DEIS. <i><u>Public Involvement Opportunities:</u> Community Listening Sessions, Issue-Focused Teams, Initial Station-Design Workshops</i>
<b>Publish DEIS</b> <i>Summer/Fall 2008</i>	Complete the analysis of impacts and mitigation recommendations for the Preferred Alternative and the recommended refinement option. Public comments on the analysis and recommendations will be accepted for 45 days. <i><u>Public Involvement Opportunities:</u> Public Hearing, Community Listening Sessions</i>
<b>Publish Final EIS</b> <i>Early 2009</i>	Final recommendations on all elements of the project – including recommendations about the recommended refinement option – will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration. <i><u>Public Involvement Opportunities:</u> Public Workshops, Comments can be submitted to FTA</i>



Option	Potential Property Impacts	Length	Engineering Feasibility	Estimated Construction Costs
<b>Gold Line Preferred Alternative (PA)</b>	2 full 4 partial 0 residential	18,800 ft.	Best	\$135 Million
<b>Refinement Option East Direct</b>	13 full 11 partial 0 residential	19,670 ft.	Above Average	\$145 Million

Your input will help inform our continued refinement and analysis.  
 For more information on the RTD FasTracks Gold Line, please call (303) 299-2000 or visit our website at [www.rtdgoldline.com](http://www.rtdgoldline.com).