



FasTracks

I-225 Rail Line

**I-225 Corridor
Minimum Operable Segment
Environmental Assessment
Public Meeting**

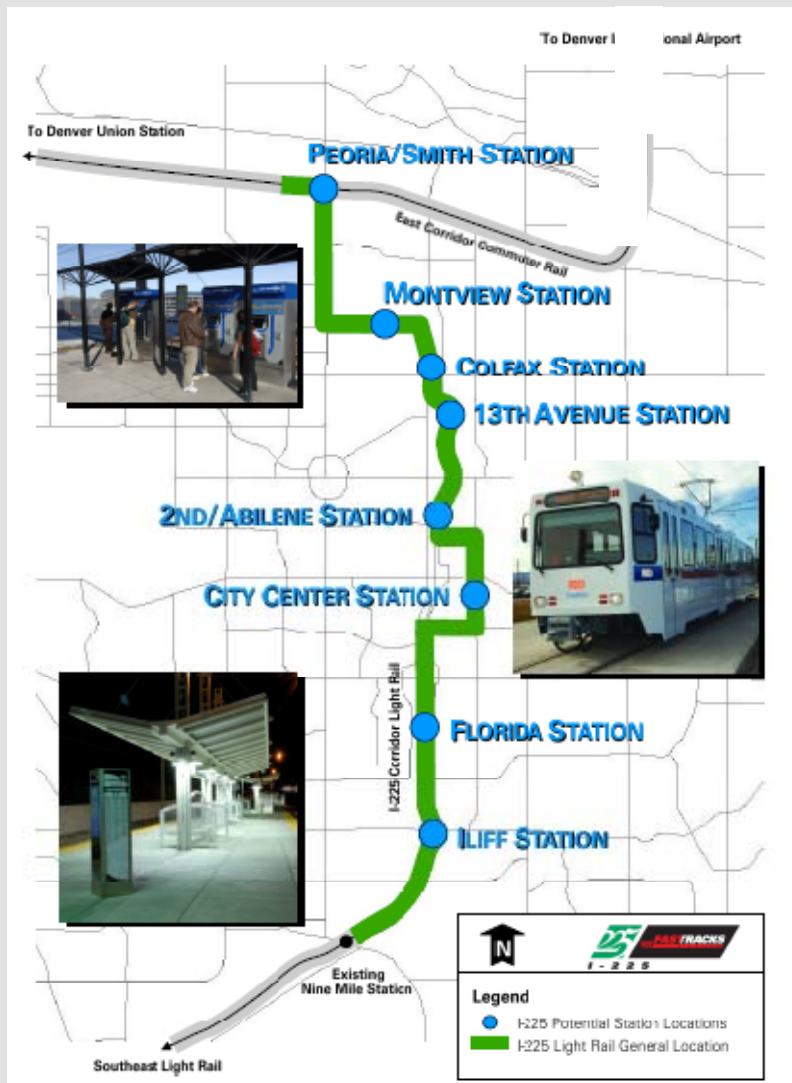
Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011

The RTD FasTracks Plan



- 122 miles of new light rail and commuter rail
- 18 miles of Bus Rapid Transit service
- 31 new Park-n-Rides; over 21,000 new spaces
- Enhanced Bus Network & Transit Hubs
- Redevelopment of Denver Union Station

I-225 Corridor: Full Buildout



- 10 ½ mile light rail transit extension
- 8 stations
- Starts at existing Nine Mile Station
- Serves the Aurora City Center
- Serves the Anschutz / Fitzsimons Campus
- Provides a transfer to the planned East Corridor at a station near the intersection of Peoria Street and Smith Road

I-225 Corridor: Nine Mile to Iliff



- The proposed project
 - Extends light rail from the current Nine Mile Station to Iliff
 - Constructs a bridge over Northbound I-225
 - Reconstructs the Yale Avenue Bridge
 - Provides a 600 space surface park-n-Ride
 - Includes a light rail station and bus plaza at Iliff
 - Serves 1,400 new transit users daily
 - Provides service every 15 minutes during peak travel times

Iliff Station



Why is the I-225 Transit Project Being Phased?

- The project can be phased because its usefulness as a transportation investment does not depend on future phases; this is a definition of an Minimum Operable Segment (MOS)
- Fortunately, some corridor contracts are coming in under budget allowing other corridors to start building projects in phases earlier than expected
- Contract savings have enabled construction of I-225 Nine Mile to Iliff as an initial phase

Why are we doing an Environmental Assessment?

- Federal funds have been identified for the project (\$7.5 M)
- Environmental Assessment is necessary to obtain Federal funding
- Environmental Assessment was initiated in February 2011
- Plans for a decision document by the Federal Transit Administration in September 2011

What is the Purpose and Need for the Project?

- **Purpose**
 - Extend transit service from the existing end-of-line station at Nine Mile to Iliff
- **Needs**
 - For improved regional connectivity
 - To meet travel demand
 - To provide a transit alternative to congested roadways
 - To provide a transit alternative compatible with the existing and future transit network

Why Do we Need the Project? (cont.)

- To relieve parking capacity issues at Nine Mile
- To meet the voter's 2004 mandate (FasTracks)
- To reflect community and regional plans
- To attract new transit riders while serving traditional users

Alternatives

Alternatives Evaluated

- I-225 Nine Mile to Iliff Alternative
- No Action Alternative

Screening Criteria (Three levels of screening)

- Does the project meet the criteria to allow phasing?
- Does the project meet the Purpose and Need?
- Is the project financially feasible?

Alternative Selected

- I-225 Nine Mile to Iliff Alternative

Environmental Resources Studied

RESOURCE STUDIED	RESULTS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM NO ACTION
Social Conditions	No
Environmental Justice	No
Land Use	No
Economic Conditions	No
Land Acquisitions	Yes
Cultural Resources	No
Visual Resources	Minimal
Parks and Recreation	No
Air Quality and Energy	No
Noise	Yes
Vibration	No
Biological Resources	Yes (Prairie Dogs – 2 locations)
Vegetation	No
Noxious Weeds	No
Mineral Resources, Geology, & Soils	No
Water Resources	No
Wetlands	No
Floodplains	No
Hazardous Materials	No
Public Safety and Security	No
Utilities	No
Transportation	Yes

Land Acquisitions

- A total of 13 acres from 11 parcels will be acquired, included 7.3-acres of CDOT right-of-way and 0.03-acre from the City of Aurora
- Potential impact to 35 – 45 parking spaces at nearby businesses
- No residential properties impacted

Mitigation

- Acquisition of property will be done in accordance with the Uniform Act
- Parking impacts will be avoided and minimized as much as possible

Noise

- Noise study indicates noise impact on the east side of Homestead Studio Suites

Mitigation

- A noise wall approximately 17-feet in height along the east and north side of Homestead Studio Suites will mitigate this impact

Noise Mitigation



Biological Resources

- Bald eagle, burrowing owl, and ferruginous hawk potentially present
- Black-tailed prairie dogs present at 2 locations, Iliff Station area and southeast side of track alignment, north of Heather Gardens, with approximately 8.5-acres impacted

Mitigation

- Conduct survey for nesting birds and, if present, consult with USFWS and/or avoid construction during nesting season
- Follow RTD Prairie Dog Mitigation Policy
- RTD has established the Prairie Dog Working Group to explore ways to achieve live relocation

Biological Resources – Prairie Dog Locations



Transportation

- Intersections at Harvard & Anaheim and Iliff & Blackhawk will operate at below Level of Service (LOS) D

Mitigation

- Harvard & Anaheim: Provide a signal or other mitigation measure determined acceptable in coordination with the City of Aurora
- Iliff & Blackhawk: Provide additional northbound left turn lanes on Blackhawk and a right turn lane southbound on Iliff

Temporary Construction Impacts

- Temporary closure of Yale Bridge and trail connection from existing bike lane to the east and Westerly Creek Greenway Trail to the west
- Traffic disturbances during construction
- Other construction impacts

Mitigation

- Implement a detour plan with routes for both vehicular and pedestrian/bicycle traffic and install detour signs
- Implement commuter education and outreach, have plans in place, keep transit operating where possible and bike/ped facilities continuous
- Use Best Management Practices

Project Summary

Impacts to the Community

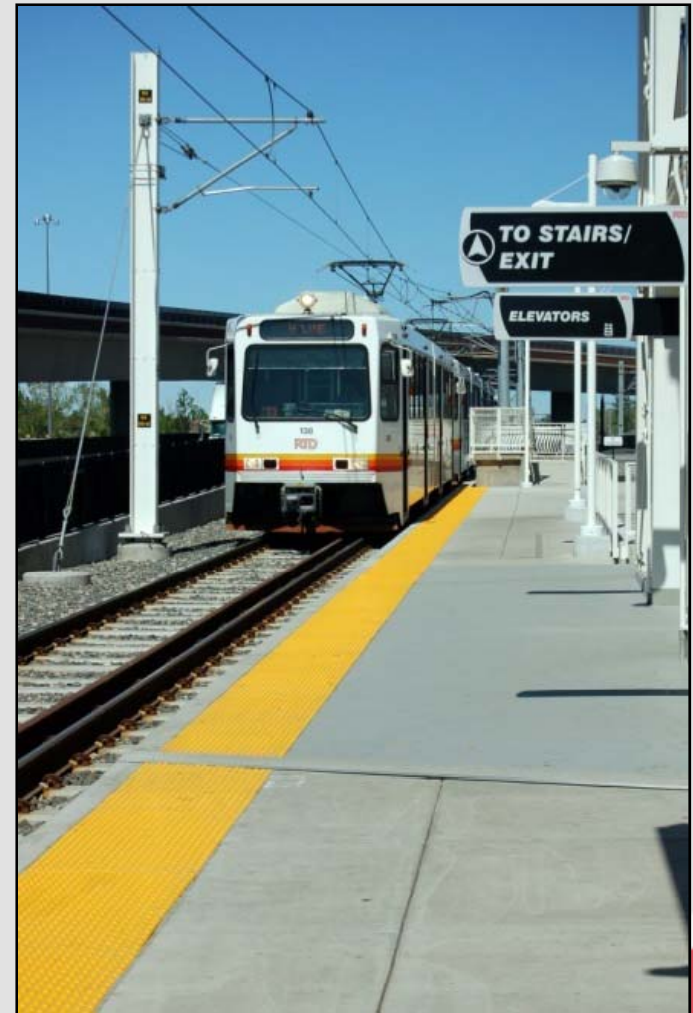
- Yale Bridge detour
- Bus detours
- Construction impacts
- RTD to purchase private property
 - No residential or community facility displacements
 - Acquisition and relocation assistance will be provided consistent with the Uniform Act.
- Economic and Business Effects
 - New jobs created to construct, operate, and maintain light rail
 - Potential changes to business access along the corridor



Project Summary

Benefits to the Community

- Improves regional connectivity
- Meets travel demand
- Provides transit alternative compatible with existing transit network
- Improves accessibility to light rail
- 600 surface parking spaces opening day at Iliff Station
- Supports Aurora Transit Oriented Development plan



Project Schedule

Environmental Assessment

- July 20, 2011 – Released Environmental Assessment
- August 20, 2011 – Comment period ends
- September 2011 (anticipated) – Federal Transit Administration issues a Decision Document

Next Steps

- Fall 2011 – Public Meeting to discuss construction project and Yale Bridge closure and detour plan
- Spring 2012 – Notice to proceed with construction of the CDOT highway and light rail envelope
- Spring 2013 – Begin light rail construction including the Iliff Station Area and Park-n-Ride
- 2014 – Light Rail open for revenue service from Nine Mile to Iliff
- 2014 – I-225 highway widening completed

Questions & Answers

Please provide your feedback

- Submit comments using computer stations available at tonight's meeting or comments sheets provided.
- Online: www.RTD-FasTracks.com and click on I-225 Corridor
- Email: I-225@RTD-FasTracks.com
- Mail: RTD-FasTracks
Attn: Tina Jaquez
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Comment period ends August 20, 2011

