

**Welcome!**

**FasTracks**  
**I-225 Light Rail Corridor**  
**Public Meeting No. 4**

**Wednesday, July 22, 2009**

# Meeting Objectives

Presentation of the  
Environmental Evaluation findings:

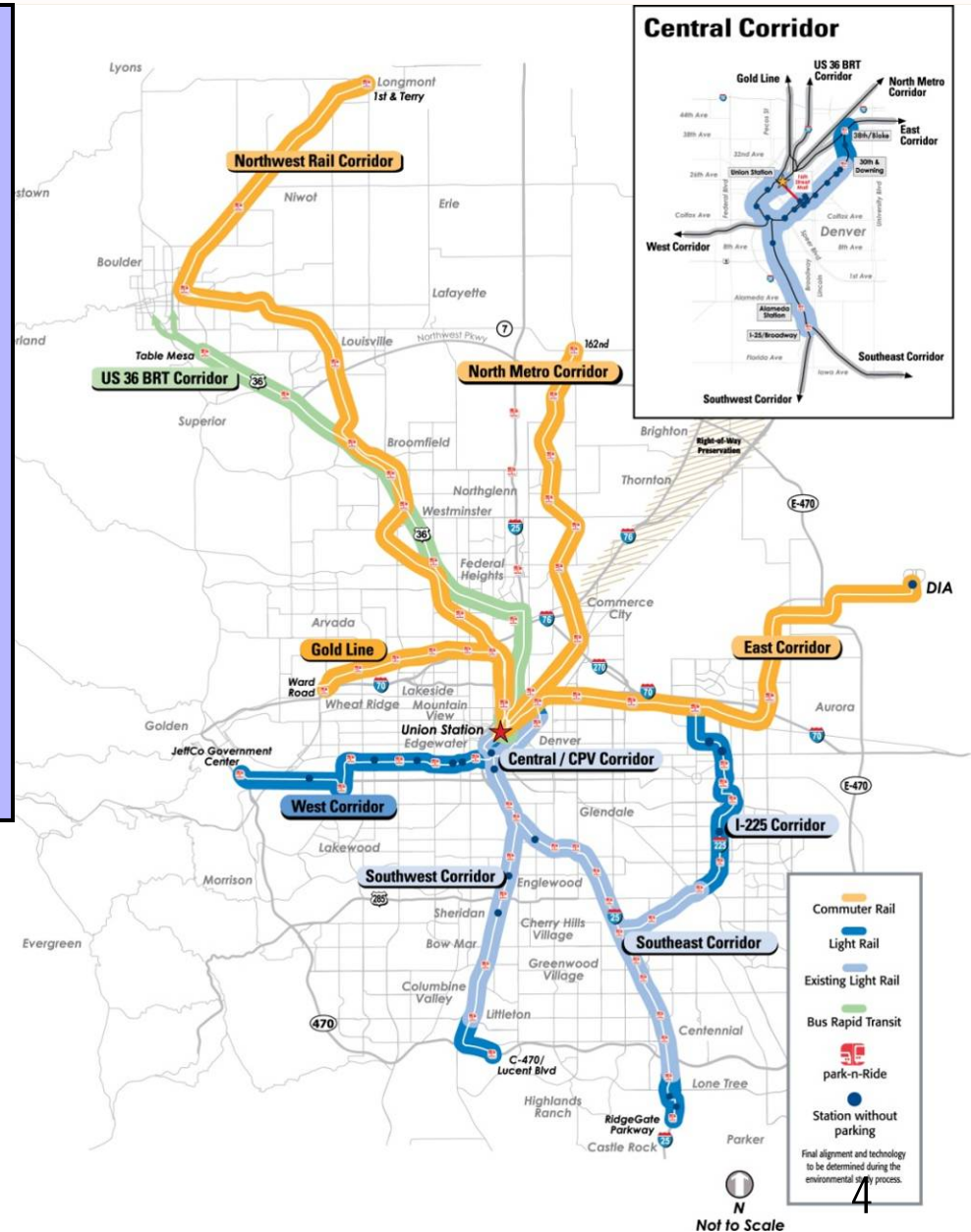
1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Purpose of Meeting
3. RTD FasTracks Program Update
4. I-225 Light Rail Corridor Update
5. Environmental Evaluation Overview
6. Questions & Answers

# FasTracks Program Update

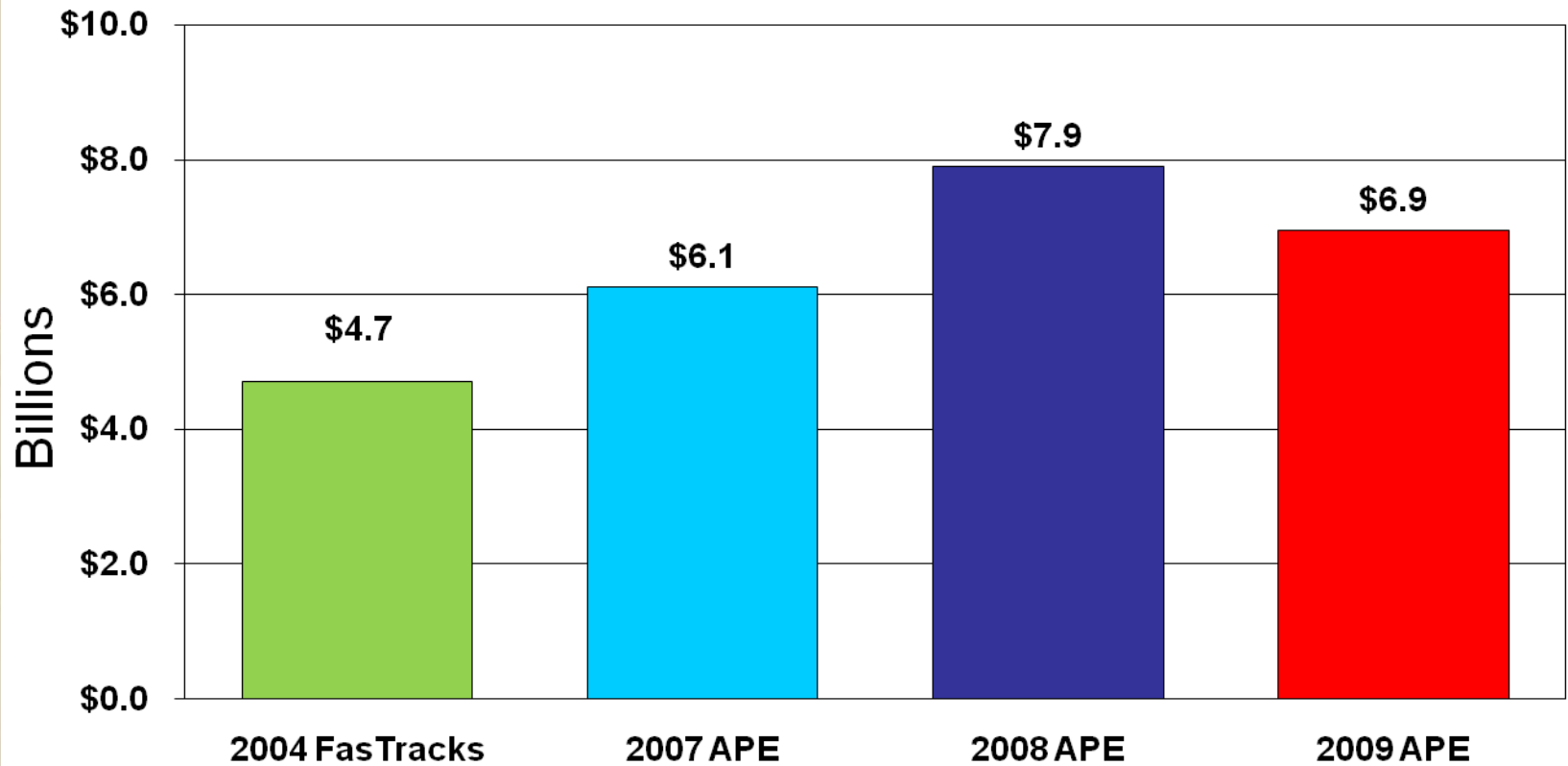
# The RTD FasTracks Plan

**FASTTRACKS**  
RTD

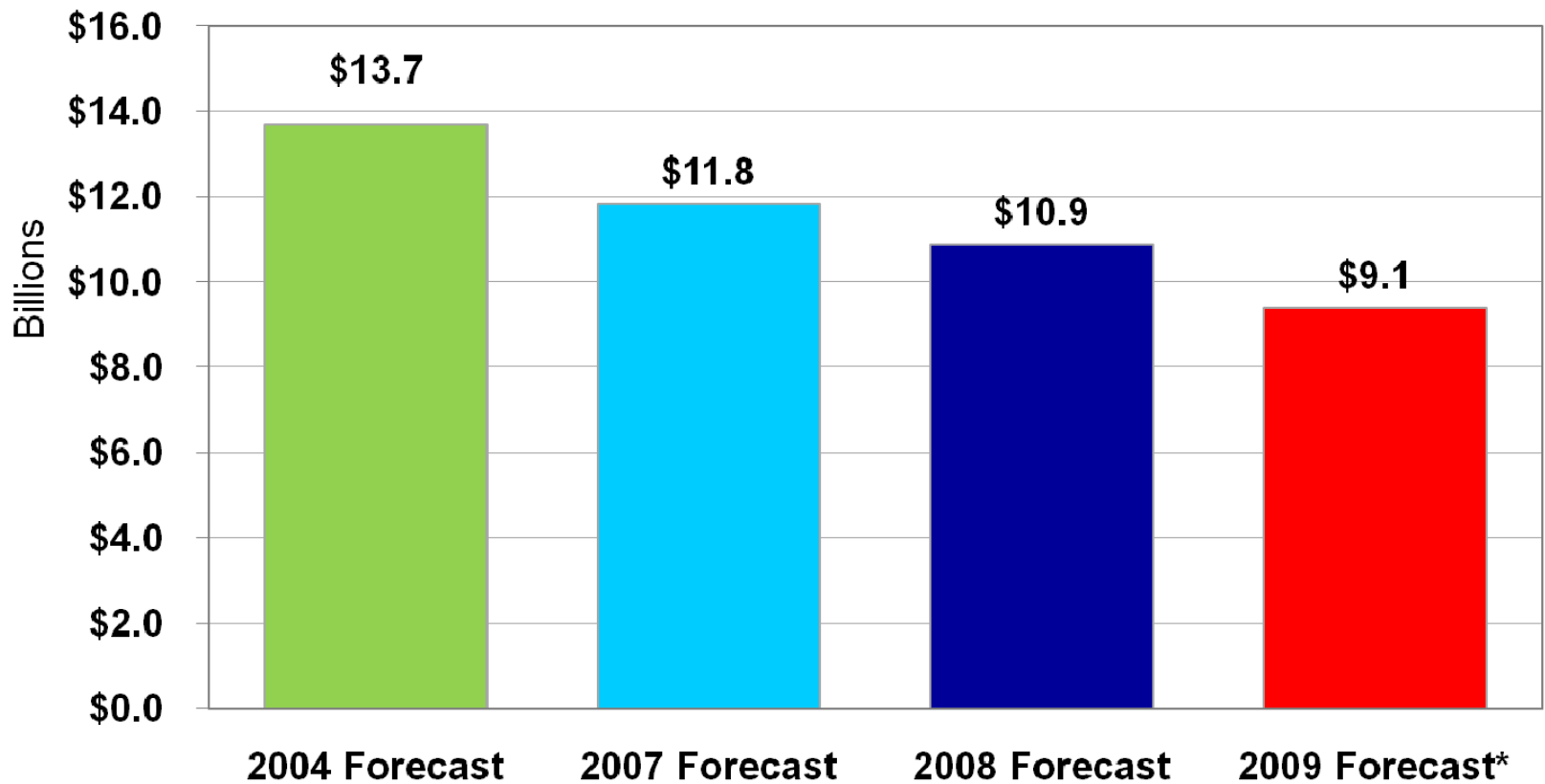
- 122 miles of new light rail and commuter rail
- 18 miles of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service
- 31 new park-n-Rides; over 21,000 new spaces
- Enhanced Bus Network & Transit Hubs (FastConnects)
- Redevelopment of Denver Union Station



# FasTracks Capital Cost Summary



# Reduced Revenue Forecasts (2005 – 2035)



# Financial Challenge

- \$2.2 billion funding gap to complete FasTracks by 2017
- RTD Board and local/regional elected officials have worked together to identify how to move FasTracks forward
- Current Recommendations:
  - Continue to pursue \$1 billion in federal money to build East, Gold, maintenance facility with Eagle P3 project
  - RTD Board has decided not to seek a sales tax increase this November

# FasTracks Facts

- **Short-term benefits**
  - Drives our economy through the recession
  - Creates more than 10,000 construction jobs at height of construction
  - Every \$1 invested returns \$6 to our local economy
- **Long-term benefits**
  - Reliable, safe regional transit system
  - Environmental – reduces emissions
  - Transportation – provides commuters with options

# **I-225 FasTracks Corridor Update**

**Dwight Schock, Consultant Project Manager**

# I-225 FasTracks Corridor Overview

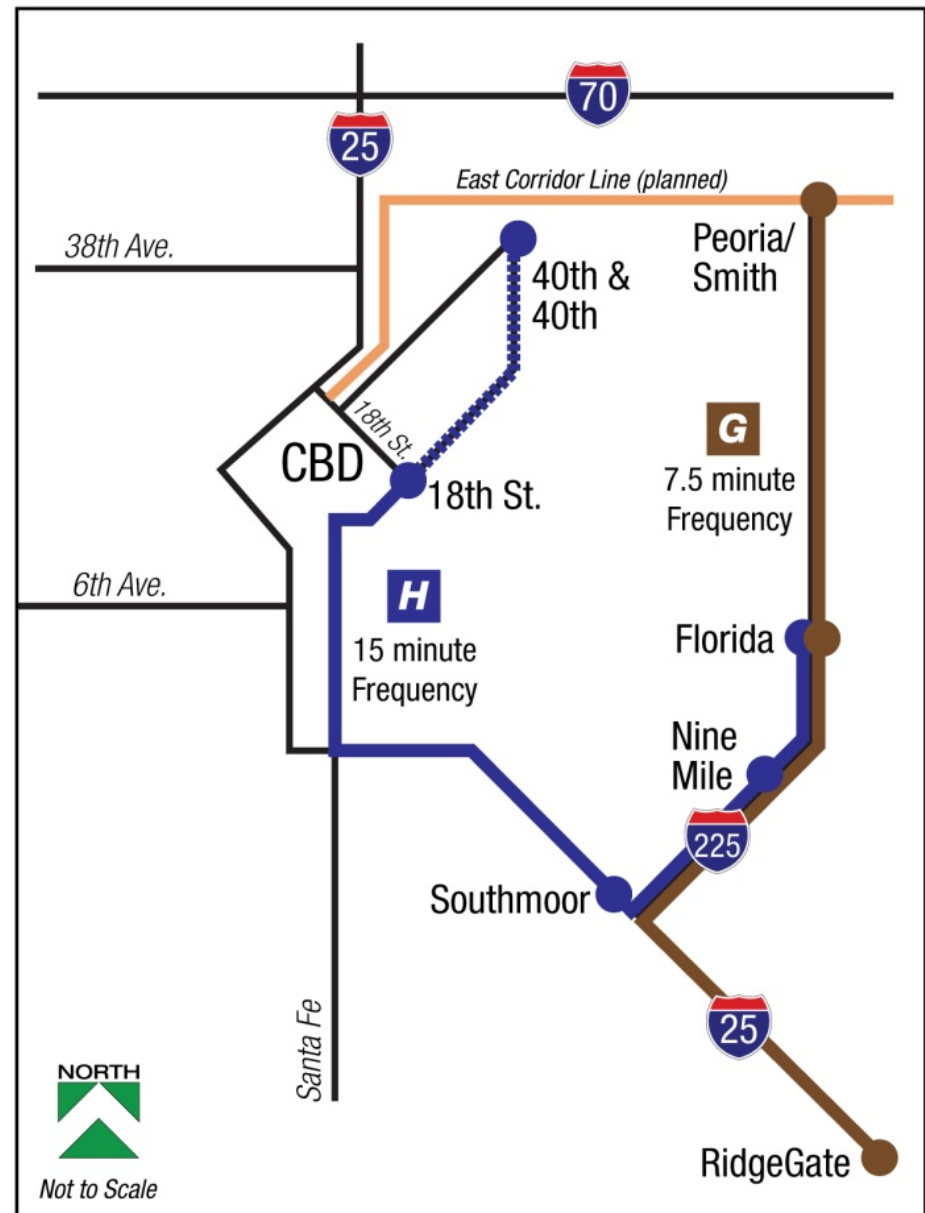


- 10 ½ mile light rail transit extension
- 8 stations
- Starts at existing Nine Mile Station
- Serves the Aurora City Center
- Serves the Anschutz / Fitzsimons Campus
- Provides a transfer to the planned East Corridor at a station near the intersection of Peoria Street and Smith Road

# I-225 Light Rail Service



- Light rail transit alternative to congested roadways
- 17,900 daily riders
- Access - walk, bike, bus, or car
- 40 minutes from Florida Station to 18<sup>th</sup>/California



## Milestones

- ✓ Prepared Purpose & Need
- ✓ Developed and Screened Alternatives
- ✓ Developed and Screened Station Locations
- ✓ Identified and Evaluated Preferred Alternative
- ✓ Completed DRAFT Environmental Evaluation
- ✓ Preparing Preliminary Engineering

## Next Steps

- Complete Preliminary Engineering – Fall 2009
  - ✓ Initial PE plan review – June 2009
  - ✓ Value Engineering – June 2009
  - Complete PE – Fall 2009
- Public Meeting No. 4 – July 22, 2009
  - Present Environmental Issues and Mitigation
  - Draft EE Review Period - July 10 through August 10, 2009
  - Complete and distribute Final EE – Fall 2009
- RTD Board Adoption of Final Environmental Evaluation
- Implementation

# **Environmental Evaluation Overview**

**Wendy Wallach, Environmental Process**

**Mary Keith Floyd, Community**

**Jessica Myklebust, Environment**

# Why an Environmental Evaluation?



- Locally funded project - not subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Environmental Evaluation (EE) comparable to NEPA
  - Purpose and Need
  - Alternatives developed
  - Resources evaluated
  - Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures
- Public and Agency Coordination
- Final EE to be submitted to RTD Board of Directors for adoption



# Resources Considered

Resources Considered	Key Environmental Resource Impacts
Land Use	No
Economic Considerations	No
Right-of-Way and Relocations	<b>Yes</b>
Social Impacts, Facilities, and Environmental Justice	<b>Yes</b>
Cultural Resources (Historic and Archaeological)	No
Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Open Space	No
Public Safety and Security	No
Visual and Aesthetic Resources	<b>Yes</b>
Air Quality and Energy	No
Noise and Vibration	<b>Yes</b>
Electro-magnetic Fields/Electro-magnetic Interference	<b>Yes</b>
Biological Resources	No
Mineral Resources/Geology/Soils	No
Paleontology	No
Hazardous Materials	No
Utilities	No
Water Resources	No
Floodplains	<b>Yes</b>
Wetlands/Waters of the United States	<b>Yes</b>

# How will the Project Benefit Our Community?



- Eight new stations
  - Access by walk, bike, bus, or car
  - 1,800 surface parking spaces provided by RTD on opening day
  - RTD and Aurora will continue to evaluate future parking needs
  - Supports transit oriented development (TOD) plans by Aurora
- Improved accessibility to light rail for all community members



# How will the Project Affect Our Community?



- RTD to purchase private property
  - No residential or community facility displacements
  - Business displacements near Colfax and along Peoria
  - 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 job loss with business displacements
  - Changes to business access along the corridor

# How will the Project Affect Our Community?



- Visual changes
- Minimal impacts to parks, where necessary, trails will be rerouted
- Relocation of utilities
- Minimal impacts to cultural resources, public safety, energy, and air quality



# How will the Project Affect Our Community?



- Minimal noise impacts. Additional detailed noise analysis as design progresses
- Vibration and Electro-magnetic Interference may impact sensitive equipment within Anschutz/Fitzsimons Medical Campus
- Construction Impacts
  - Temporary access modifications
  - Temporary noise, dust, and visual changes

# How will the Project Affect the Environment?

- Wildlife
  - Raptor nests
  - Prairie dog colonies
  - Habitat
- Vegetation
- Water Resources
  - Slight increase in floodplain levels
  - Loss of wetlands (less than 0.5 acres)
- Hazardous Materials
  - Various sites identified
  - Further evaluation will occur during final design



# **Questions & Answers**

**Nanci Regnier, Public Involvement Specialist**

## We Want Your Comments

- Submit comments using computer stations available at tonight's meeting or comments sheets provided
- All comments will be addressed in the FINAL Environmental Evaluation.
- Online: [www.RTD-FasTracks.com](http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com) and click on I-225 Corridor
- Email: [I-225@RTD-FasTracks.com](mailto:I-225@RTD-FasTracks.com)
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**Comment Period Ends Aug. 10, 2009**