

Ride to Dream School Program



Description

As the primary consultant to the Regional Transportation District (RTD) for expanding the FasTracks I-225 Corridor, Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (Baker) developed the I-225 School Program to involve local students in RTD's FasTracks Program. The School Program focuses on the I-225 light rail corridor in Aurora and involves 8th, 10th, and 11th grade students from four local schools during the 2007-2008 school year. The four schools include:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College in Denver
- Montbello High School in Denver
- Aurora Central High School in Aurora
- North Middle School in Aurora

Ten students were selected by staff from these schools based on their interests in pursuing careers in engineering, planning, or construction management. These students selected the name **Ride to Dream** to represent this year's school program.

Goals

Staff from Baker's I-225 Consultant Team work with students to attain the following goals:

- Educate students about the I-225 Corridor.
- Identify career opportunities in planning, engineering and construction.
- Provide mentoring opportunities with transportation professionals as well as with other students.

Opportunities

The Ride to Dream School Program provides students opportunities to become involved with the planning, environmental, and preliminary engineering processes surrounding the FasTracks I-225 Corridor. It demonstrates to students how they can apply the fields of math, science, and problem solving to careers in planning and engineering. It also provides connections to other schools and to future opportunities.

Activities

The school program includes approximately 36 hours of field trips, presentations, and other activities that may be applied toward school credit. These activities include:

- Student/Parent Kick-off Meeting
- Field Trip # 1 – Tour the Southeast Light Rail Corridor
- Field Trip # 2 – Engineering challenges along the I-225 Corridor
- Field Trip # 3 – History and construction of the Anschutz Medical Campus
- Field Trip # 4 – Assist at the second public meeting for I-225
- Field Trip # 5 – Visit a Transportation Construction Site
- Graduation

Please visit www.rtd-fastrack.com/i225_54 for a slide show of activities listed above.

Future Plans

Baker plans to carry out the I-225 School Program during the 2008-2009 school year. These students will work with the Baker Team as it completes the planning, environmental, and preliminary engineering phases of the I-225 Transit Corridor Expansion.

Acknowledgements

The following organizations, companies, and firms are volunteering their services to help Baker carry out the Ride to Dream School Program:

- RTD FasTracks Team
- RTD's Small Business Opportunities Office
- Global Transportation, LLC
- CER and Associates
- Felsburg, Holt, & Ullevig
- Aurora Public Schools
- Denver Public Schools
- Doss Technical Services
- Burns & McDonnell
- Regnier & Associates, Inc.

Michael Baker, Jr. Inc

Baker



Martin Luther King, Jr.
EARLY COLLEGE



RTD FasTracks I-225 Corridor

