



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 16, 2007

Media Contact:
Pauletta Tonilas
303-299-2469 (office)
303-461-2021 (pager)

RTD celebrates first FasTracks construction-related activity

PULLING UP OF OLD RAIL BEGINS DECADE OF CONSTRUCTION

Denver, May 16, 2007 – The signs of progress on the Regional Transportation District’s (RTD) FasTracks transit expansion program are now visible along the West Corridor. Earlier today, RTD kicked off what will be a decade of construction on the nation’s largest transit expansion program. At a special event in Lakewood, RTD marked the first FasTracks construction-related activity with a ceremonial event that begins the removal of the old Associated Railroad trolley tracks along the West Corridor. This will be the first FasTracks corridor to be built and open to the public. Denver Transit Construction Group, the construction contractor for the West Corridor light rail project, provided pry bars and hard hats to assist dignitaries in an old-time “pullin’ up” of the rails.

Removing the tracks will make way for utility relocations that need to occur prior to the start of West Corridor general construction. Track removal will begin at 13th Avenue and Quail Street and move east, taking approximately four months. In mid-June, Xcel Energy will begin relocating its utility lines. Qwest and Comcast will follow Xcel’s utilities relocations.

The 12.1-mile West Corridor light rail project will operate between the Auraria Campus in downtown Denver and the Jefferson County Government Center in Golden; serving Denver, Lakewood, the Denver Federal Center, Golden and Jefferson County. The corridor is scheduled to open to the public in 2013.

FasTracks is RTD’s voter-approved, 12-year program to expand rail and bus service throughout the RTD service area. Scheduled for completion in 2017, FasTracks will create six new commuter rail and light rail corridors, extend three existing corridors, build 18 miles of bus rapid transit, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and expand bus service across the eight-county District.

###