

Media Contact:
Pauletta Tonilas
Public Information Manager
303-299-2469 (Office)
303-461-2021 (Pager)

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RTD FasTracks Program Honored for WTS Small Project of Year, Diversity

Denver, February 28, 2011—Two elements of the Regional Transportation District’s (RTD) FasTracks program were honored at the 2011 WTS (Women in Transportation Seminar) Awards Gala held Thursday, Feb. 24 at Mile High Station. The WTS awards gala recognizes public and private sector professionals for excellence in all modes of transportation.

The RTD Systems Engineering Division received the Small Project of the Year Award for an innovative systems upgrade solution as part of a four-car platform extension project that was completed in December 2010.

“This was a very challenging project because we had to work around an existing operating light rail system,” said Pranaya Shrestha, RTD’s Senior Manager of Systems Engineering & Construction. “Our goals were to minimize inconvenience to our customers, maintain a high level of safety and quality, while meeting the schedule and budget.”

The project consisted of expanding power and signal system needs allowing RTD to operate four-car light rail trains to increase rider capacity. This work entailed relocating signal, communication equipment and associated duct banks at the Pepsi, INVESCO Field at Mile High, Oxford at City of Sheridan and Littleton Mineral stations.

The WTS Diversity Leadership Award was presented to Jacobs Engineering, the prime contractor serving as RTD’s FasTracks Program Support Consultant. In recent years, Jacobs has shown commitment and dedication through its inclusion of small and disadvantaged businesses as well as a diverse team as it provides flexible, innovative services to RTD in implementation of the FasTracks program.

“Jacobs is humbled to receive both the nomination and the diversity award,” said Brian Middleton, Project Manager of the Jacobs team. “Our achievement is made possible by our partner RTD who encourage diversity and make it possible for us to engage both a diverse staff and a broad spectrum of subcontractors each of whom bring a different perspective to the issues, adding value to the FasTracks program. Jacobs is proud to be part of the vision of FasTracks”.

WTS, founded in 1977, is dedicated to the professional advancement of women in transportation. The Colorado chapter has more than 200 members. It provides networking, educational and career advancement opportunities for its members.



FasTracks is RTD's voter-approved transit program to expand rail and bus service throughout the RTD service area. FasTracks will build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county District. The FasTracks investment initiative is projected to create more than 10,000 construction-related jobs during the height of construction, and will pump billions of dollars into the regional economy.

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