



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 29, 2010

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RTD's West Corridor Light Rail Line Celebrates "Halfway to Opening Day"

**CONSTRUCTION OF FASTTRACKS LINE TO GOLDEN IS 50 PERCENT COMPLETE;
FEDERAL AND LOCAL DIGNITARIES GATHER FOR MAJOR MILESTONE**

DENVER – The Regional Transportation District (RTD) reached 50 percent completion of the West Corridor Light Rail Line, the first project to enter full construction in RTD's voter-approved FasTracks program. RTD celebrated this major milestone on Wednesday, Sept. 29, with the ceremonial opening of the Hazel Court Pedestrian Bridge across Lakewood Gulch. The ceremony commemorated the halfway point of construction on the West Corridor and celebrated enhanced livability within Denver communities. The event was held at Paco Sanchez Park, just west of Federal Boulevard.

"The progress on West Corridor marks the halfway point on the long-awaited train to connect downtown Denver and the Jefferson County Government Center, and will boost the agency's efforts to complete the entire \$6.7 billion FasTracks program," said RTD General Manager Phil Washington,

Federal and local officials spoke at the ceremony, including Noel Busck, RTD Board Second Vice Chair; Angie Malpiede, RTD Director for District C; Bill Vidal, Deputy Mayor; City and County of Denver; Terry Rosapep, Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Regional Administrator, Region 8; Rick Garcia, U.S. Department of Housing of Urban Development (HUD) Regional Administrator, Region 8; and James Martin, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator, Region 8. In addition to the officials, Nettie Moore, a long-time community member of the area, shared her stories about the area prior to the major roadways and the improvement the light rail line will offer the community.

"The 50% completion of the West Corridor construction represents one giant step in fulfilling the RTD board's unwavering commitment to completing the entire FasTracks network. Before we know it, this first FasTracks line will be in operation," said Noel Busck, RTD Board Second Vice Chair.

FTA Administrator Terry Rosapep spoke about the Partnership for Sustainable Communities initiative. The initiative was formed by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), HUD and the EPA. These three agencies have pledged to ensure housing and transportation goals are met while simultaneously protecting the environment, promoting equitable development and helping to address the challenges of climate change.



The ceremonial ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Phil Washington, who was joined by representatives from the local communities of the West Corridor, including Paula Sandoval, Denver City Council; Paul Lopez, Denver City Council; Bob Murphy, Mayor of Lakewood; Karen Oxman, Golden Mayor Pro Tem; and Faye Griffin, Jefferson County Commissioner.

Following the ribbon-cutting, attendees were led across the Hazel Court Pedestrian Bridge by the John F. Kennedy IB World School Marching Band.

“We want you to know that we are working on each and every corridor to make them construction-ready as soon as possible so that we can build as funding opportunities become available. Today’s event is a milestone in expanding our RTD system and connecting the communities of the Denver metro area,” said Angie Malpiede, RTD Board of Directors, District C.

The West Corridor FasTracks project is a 12.1-mile light rail transit corridor between Denver Union Station in downtown Denver and the Jefferson County Government Center in Golden. The West Corridor will serve Denver, Lakewood, the Denver Federal Center, Golden and Jefferson County by 2013. The West Corridor is the first [RTD FasTracks](#) corridor to enter full construction. Construction is visible all along the West Corridor and crews have progressed rapidly since Denver Transit Construction Group (DTCG) was given the full Notice to Proceed in June 2009.

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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