



Community

Information Line:

303-299-2401

rtdwestcorridor.com



The \$511.8-million FasTracks West Corridor project consists of constructing a new 12.1-mile, double-track light rail line, extending west from the existing light rail line at Auraria West Station in downtown Denver, through Lakewood along 13th Avenue, continuing along 6th Avenue (U.S. 6) and ending at the Jefferson County Government Center.

E - NEWS



WELCOME!

We are excited to welcome our readers back once again! As we enter the fall season, plenty of encouraging transitions and positive changes will continue to occur. The West Corridor project team has been working diligently to meet the many goals and objectives for the upcoming months. Community meetings held this summer produced outstanding feedback and ideas. In turn, the team looks forward to sharing the most recent project developments and hearing your additional thoughts related to these milestones during our combined Public Open House and Urban Design Committee (UDC) meetings at the end of September. We are excited to have you on board and encourage you to remain as involved and committed to this project as you have been thus far.

September 2006

In this issue you will find:

[Combined Public Open House and Urban Design Committee September Meetings](#) - Find out about what will be presented at the combined Public Open House and UDC September meetings.

[Coffee with Dennis Small Group Meetings Successful](#) - Learn about the topics and trends showcased in our second Coffee with Dennis series.

[Bells, Whistles and Gates at Roadway Crossings](#) - Learn about the use of audible systems and gates at roadway crossings.

[Noise Analysis Update](#) - Find out what you should expect at our upcoming meetings surrounding this summer's noise analysis.

[Environmental Assessment Update](#) - What's next in the EA process?

[Where Can I Get More Information?](#) - Find out where to get more information on meetings and events, and the best ways to have your questions answered.

[Communication Assistance Available](#) - How to obtain communication assistance for public meetings.

Combined Public Open House and Urban Design Committee September Meetings

Our September series of community outreach meetings will provide an important opportunity for public comment at our combined Public Open House and UDC meetings. This will be an opportunity to gain a wealth of focused information in one evening. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as the design process is still underway, and your thoughts and comments are needed.

As part of these meetings, West Corridor project team members and designers will offer information focused on updated designs and the construction timeline. Presentations and discussions will also provide the chance to comment on bridge designs at Wadsworth, 6th Avenue, Kipling, Eldridge and Federal Boulevard. The same presentation will be made at each meeting so select the date that works best for you and join us.

Additionally, with station and structure design nearing the 65 percent

completion mark this fall, feedback from the public on these important areas is necessary. Public input from the August Coffees with Dennis, our September meetings and other public forums will be vital to achieving this milestone.

Other areas of interest will include discussions related to walls, fences and railings and barriers between stations. For those of you particularly interested in the location of the bicycle path location along the corridor, we will have additional updates on this topic.

Additional details will be available on our Web site and we look forward to seeing you soon! If you are unable to make it to these meetings, or you would like to provide additional feedback prior to these dates, you are encouraged to submit your comments, questions or concerns by visiting the [West Corridor Web site](#). Submit your thoughts to the design team today!

West Corridor Combined Open House and Urban Design Committee Meeting #1

Wednesday, September 27, 2006, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Denver Human Services Building
Rooms #3110 and #3112
1200 Federal Boulevard, Denver

West Corridor Combined Open House and Urban Design Committee Meeting #2

Thursday, September 28, 2006, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Jefferson County Fairgrounds
Exhibit Halls 1, 2 and 3
15200 W. 6th Avenue, Golden

Coffee with Dennis Small Group Meetings Successful

Coffee with Dennis

Our second Coffee with Dennis series, which convened during the last two weeks of August, was a huge success! Attendance at these small group information sessions was limited, allowing West Corridor project team members to tailor their presentations and focus more intently on questions at hand. The six meetings during this session gave more than 60 local community members, business owners and interested residents the opportunity to receive first-hand knowledge from the design and engineering team.

Top Five Topics

1. Bike and pedestrian access
2. Traffic impacts and parking
3. Noise: bells, whistles and horns
4. Bridges
5. Property acquisition process

As the project continues and more detailed questions arise, the Coffee with Dennis team plans to hold another set of meetings in late October. These will follow much of the same format, time scheduling and limited reservation availability. Keep an eye out for email updates or check our Web site periodically to sign up. Become part of the process to understand how you may be affected by the new line or to offer suggestions for improvement!

Bells, Whistles and Gates at Roadway Crossings

Bells and Whistles

At the Elected Officials Briefing on August 11, we committed to discussing this issue (and others) with the Elected Officials and the public prior to any final decision. We feel it is important to clarify any confusion within the

community surrounding this topic.

Due to neighborhood concerns during the West Corridor Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, it was stated in the EIS that "RTD is recommending that at quad gates, no horns or bells be used. Light Rail Transit (LRT) trains may sound bells as they approach stations." The Record of Decision (ROD) stated "At-grade crossing treatments will not include audible warning devices pending approval from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) during final design." RTD intends to stand by the statements in the EIS and the ROD.

RTD will prepare the light rail operating plan and, within our application to the PUC, we will request that no audible warning devices (bells, whistles, horns, etc.) be used at at-grade crossings where quad gates are used in residential areas, consistent with the EIS. The PUC will review the application, accept public comment and then make a ruling on the plan. We plan to have a representative from the PUC at the September 15 Elected Officials Briefing who will explain the PUC application process in more detail.

We look forward to discussing these important issues with you. Feel free to call Kim Podobnik at 303-779-3392 or Brenda Tierney at 303-299-2401 with questions.

Gates

The West Corridor LRT alignment will cross approximately 42 roadways between the Central Platte Valley and the Jefferson County Government Center. Of these roadway crossings, 20 will remain as at-grade crossings, eight will be closed, and 13 will be grade-separated from the LRT line. For a detailed listing of grade crossing recommendations, please download [Chapter 4.0, Transportation Impacts](#), of the West Corridor Final EIS (FEIS) and see Table 4-6 (pages 13-14).

Two types of gated crossings are recommended for the West Corridor LRT project. "Dual gates" are a traditional type of crossing protection that provides automated gates for all traffic approaching the intersection. This protective equipment is accompanied by raised median islands in the street to prevent automobiles from driving around lowered gates. "Quad gates" are an alternative safety measure that features two gates on either side of the street where cars would stop before crossing the tracks. This prevents automobiles from driving around the gates and across the track when the train is approaching.

The design team is also examining other pedestrian crossing locations to see what type of safety measures will best serve public safety and operational needs.

Noise Analysis Update

Engineers have been hard at work during these last several months conducting noise analyses within local neighborhoods, reviewing data for noise modeling and preparing initial draft reports. The most commonly used tool for noise analysis is a sound level meter, which records existing noise levels along the rail lines at adjacent properties. The procedures for conducting the noise analysis, initial indications for confirming the noise impacts identified in the FEIS and types of potential noise barrier treatments locations will be available at the September combined meetings.

Noise analysis is the basis of developing the most cost-effective mitigation to reduce noise at the source and redirect or diffuse the transmission path. At the UDC meeting at the end of September, you will be able to see what the baseline noise level is for your area, and what noise the train will cause. We will not be showing specific locations for noise barriers at this meeting, but will share that information as soon as it's available.

Environmental Assessment Update

Due to the proposed changes in the original project design, RTD is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess and document the extent of any potential impacts from these changes.

The study team has been busy collecting the information needed for this EA, which is due for completion by January 2007. Impacts that may change from what was reported in the FEIS include historic resources, wetlands, and visual. Public comments we receive at the September combined meetings will continue to inform the EA process.

Where Can I Get More Information?

One of the best ways to get the information that will help you stay involved in the West Corridor design process is to ensure we have your most up-to-date email address. Our periodic emails will provide you with information essential to being an active participant. Especially as the project nears the 65 percent completion mark, it will be important to keep all members of the community up to date and informed on findings, decisions and achievements. Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up on our email list to receive up-to-date information.

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Communication Assistance Available

The following communication assistance is available for all Regional Transportation District public meetings: language interpreters, sign-language interpreters, assisted listening devices, alternative formats such as large print, or reasonable accommodations for special needs.

Contact RTD at 303-299-2401 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to discuss your special needs and request for accommodation.