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**Community**

**Information Line:**

303-299-2401

[www.rtd-fastracks.com](http://www.rtd-fastracks.com)



The FasTracks West Corridor project consists of constructing a new 12.1 mile light rail line heading west from the existing Auraria West station in downtown Denver, through Lakewood along 13th Avenue to the Denver Federal Center and then west along 6th Avenue and Golden to the Jefferson County Government Center.

E - NEWS



**WELCOME**

As the summer winds down, work on the West Corridor continues to progress. By the end of summer strands of rail will be welded along the guideway for placement at a later date. To stay up-to-date with the most current information, become a subscriber to our e-newsletter. You can sign up by visiting the [West Corridor website](#), and while there, utilize the tools that have been established to keep you updated on progress and impacts.

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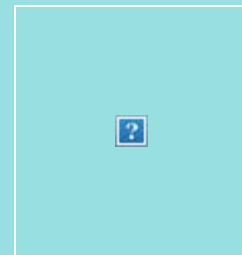
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**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

The Sheraton Denver West is the “West Corridor Business of the Month.” Located at 360 Union Blvd. in Lakewood, just south of 6th Avenue, The Sheraton Denver West’s convenient location gives easy access to both the city and the mountains. This exquisite hotel is just steps away from many local activities, with amazing views of the Rocky Mountain foothills and the Denver skyline. A warm welcome is sure to await guests staying at The Sheraton Denver West.



Opened in 1982, The Sheraton Denver West is the only full service hotel in Lakewood. Managed by RDA Management of Akron, Ohio, the hotel brings decades of experience to every facet of hospitality operations from managing 4 Star resorts and golf courses to office buildings and real estate.

Whether you’re planning a small meeting or a large conference, do yourself a favor and utilize one of The Sheraton Denver West’s incredible conference facilities. With more than 18,000 square feet of IACC (International Association of Conference Centers) accredited meeting space, the Sheraton Denver West Hotel can accommodate conferences of up to 800 attendees. Meeting packages include the Complete Meeting Package, an all-inclusive

offer that simplifies planning and budgeting for meeting groups, and the Day Meeting Package for attendees who commute to the venue. The Sheraton Denver West can also provide professional catering, state of the art audiovisual services, and designated personnel to assist you with anything you may need.

If you are looking to host a smaller event, The Sheraton Denver West offers two beautiful ballrooms that can accommodate 25-150 people. The east facing ballrooms offer spectacular views of downtown and are perfect for weddings, family reunions, holiday parties and fund raising dinners. If you're just looking for a warm comfortable nights stay, look no further than The Sheraton Denver West's 242 newly refurbished guest rooms with spectacular views of the Denver skyline. Other amenities include, outstanding dining and beverage options, a 10,000-square-foot health club with heated swimming pool and spa services, as well as golf at nearby courses.

We want to thank the Sheraton Denver West for their on-going cooperation and patience with West Corridor construction. To obtain more information please visit their website at [www.sheratondenverwest.com](http://www.sheratondenverwest.com), call Laurie Johnson at 720-963-2026 or email [lsjohnson@rdamanagement.com](mailto:lsjohnson@rdamanagement.com).

Even though construction along the West Corridor affects more residents than businesses, many businesses still feel the direct impacts of construction. RTD and the entire West Corridor team would like to thank all of the businesses along the West Corridor for their outstanding cooperation and support during difficult construction times. To show our appreciation, the West Corridor will highlight a different business in the "Business Spotlight" section of the West Corridor Newsletter. If your business is directly affected by construction, and you would like to be highlighted in the monthly newsletter please contact Megan Ehrenberg at 303-299-2266 or email at [Megan.Ehrenberg@rtd-fastracks.com](mailto:Megan.Ehrenberg@rtd-fastracks.com).

## CONSTRUCTION CHALLENGES

The West Corridor light rail project, the first corridor to enter construction as part of the FasTracks program, is progressing as planned. Final design is 100% complete and all of the light rail vehicles have been purchased and are in service in other parts of the city.

In addition, 82% of right-of-way acquisitions have been closed and more than 40% of construction has been completed. While the corridor is on schedule as a whole, unexpected construction delays that impact scheduling can and do happen.



Due to unforeseen conflicts, local West Corridor residents occasionally receive construction notices extending time lines of traffic closures or construction activities. Conflicts may include coordination with third party utilities such as Qwest or Xcel Energy; weather such as heavy rains, snow, or freezing temperatures; inaccurate plans or engineering redesigns. We continue to work to bring you up to date, accurate information as

soon as we know it and to revise that information as changes take place.

While frustrating to daily life, these delays typically do not pose a great risk to the overall project timetable. As fall rains and winter snows approach, keep in mind that heavy equipment does not function well under extreme weather conditions and that wet or frozen soil makes underground work very challenging. The West Corridor team asks for your continued patience during the construction process. If you have any questions, please contact the West Corridor PI team at [westcorridor@rtd-fastracks.com](mailto:westcorridor@rtd-fastracks.com).

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – AREA 1 (Jeffco Government Center to Federal Center)

### Current and Ongoing Activities

The retaining wall at the Jeffco Government Center expands every day and what was once a hillside now resembles a concrete hedge. When the wall is completely constructed, the final finish will be applied to blend the structure into the existing landscape. A sample of the finished product has been placed on the west end of the hillside, adjacent to the courthouse. For an example of the Jeffco Wall finish, click [here](#). To view live construction at the Jefferson County Government Center, click [here](#).



Work is in full throttle on Ulysses Street, with retaining wall construction moving at a rapid pace. A new storm sewer system will also be built under Ulysses and the final activity will be rebuilding Ulysses Street to match back to 6th Avenue.

This past weekend, crews relocated the 6th Avenue westbound off-ramp to eastbound Colfax. The new ramp sits under the Colfax light rail bridge. The traffic configuration on Colfax is now final and future traffic impacts should be minimal.

There's light at the end of the tunnel! Crews have excavated about 15 feet of the tunnel under I-70 and the approach walls are in place. Crews continue to work under I-70 to complete the excavation and install the final wall panels for the future light rail tunnel.

The concrete deck on the light rail bridge over Indiana Street is being poured in sections. To accommodate equipment and manpower, this will require lane closures on 6th Avenue and Indiana. The first deck pour is scheduled from 9 p.m. Thursday, August 19 until 5:30 a.m. Friday, August 20. Both eastbound and westbound traffic on 6th Avenue will be detoured off the highway at Indiana, but will be able to cross Indiana and get right back onto 6th Avenue. Once the entire deck is in place, crews will begin installing the emergency sidewalks, curbs and fencing.

Preliminary work on the Red Rocks passenger station has begun with electrical and communication conduits in place and stem walls taking shape. In comparison to retaining walls, stem walls are smaller walls that contain the station platform.

The ballast walls along 6th Avenue between Union and Indiana are also beginning to appear. This section will be one of the first areas to see rail strands laid out along the guideway. While the rail won't be set in place until later in the project, crews will begin welding it, dragging it out and placing it adjacent to its final home.

New guardrail has been installed between the 6th Avenue frontage road and the light rail guideway ensuring the safety of motorists as they make the westbound turn onto the frontage road off of Van Gordon.

#### **Upcoming Activities**

All activities in Area 1 will continue through the summer, as well as grading, slope reconstruction and sub-ballast installation. Construction of the parking garage at Jeffco could begin in early September.

## **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE –AREA 2 (East of the Federal Center to Sheridan)**

#### **Current and Ongoing Activities**

Work has resumed at the Federal Center near the future home of the light rail park-n-Ride. Crews are clearing vegetation and grading to prepare for upcoming construction. In the coming weeks, installation of the duct bank that will house electrical systems for the light rail will begin.



After two overnight closures of 6th Avenue, the deck of the mighty 6th Avenue Bridge is now in place. Crews will continue work on the deck drains through September. As you cross north over the 6th Avenue Bridge, the guideway across 8th Avenue and through to Collins Street is clearly visible and placement of sub-ballast has begun.

Rail welding has begun near the future Oak Street station. Rail has been stored in this location for several months, but will now be welded in 800 foot strands to distribute along the corridor.

Retaining, ballast and sound wall construction continues along the 13th Avenue corridor from Oak Street east to Harlan Street. Crews will soon begin painting the sound walls. In areas where graffiti may be a factor, paint will only be applied to the bottom portion of the wall, with final painting scheduled later in the project.

As sound wall panel installation began along 13th Avenue, the contractors became aware that the sound absorption material attached to the track side of the walls was chunking and falling off with very little impact. Upon further review, RTD decided to delete the sound absorption material on the remainder of the sound walls. This change prevents current and future maintenance issues with minimal change in noise mitigation. All federal and RTD requirements for noise reduction are still being met. The sound absorption material was an additional bonus that would have been nice, but not necessary. If you have questions on this issue visit our [Sound Absorption Material page](#) or call

Brenda at 303-299-2401.

Residents along 13th Avenue between Garrison and Wadsworth can heave a sigh of relief, as underground construction of major drainage improvements and wall construction in this area are very close to completion. The community along this stretch of 13th Avenue has been severely impacted by construction, but their cooperation and patience never faltered. The entire West Corridor team thanks them for their continued support of our construction efforts. Once 13th Avenue is rebuilt later this summer, this area can enjoy a well-deserved break from construction activity, at least for a short time.

Work on the light rail bridge over Wadsworth continues with no traffic impacts scheduled into the foreseeable future. Demolition of the remaining structure at 14th Avenue and Wadsworth is scheduled to begin next week and final finishes on the approach walls west of the Wadsworth Bridge should be done by early September.

The south side of 13th Avenue between Teller and Upham is closed as project engineers redesign the storm drain in this area.

At long last, Harlan will be paved and open to through traffic by this evening. Crews have worked extremely hard to overcome the numerous conflicts that sprung up in this area, including the discovery of an old railcar buried under the ground. We appreciate the patience that has been shown by the businesses along Harlan Street during this closure.

Now that Harlan has reopened, drainage crews are moving to 13th Avenue and Lamar to complete underground infrastructure improvements at that intersection. 13th Avenue at Lamar will be closed for approximately four weeks. Harlan Street and Pierce Street will provide motorists access to either 10th Avenue or Colfax Avenue during this closure.

#### **Upcoming Activities**

Initial construction of the new Routt Street in the Federal Center east of the future park-n-Ride may begin in late August.

Widening and paving 13th Avenue between Garrison and Wadsworth is scheduled to begin in September. Crews will divide the roadway into four small areas and begin operations as quickly as other activities finish up. Residents can expect the entire area to be finished by mid to late October.


Upon completion of work at 13th Avenue and Lamar, storm sewer crews will move to 13th Avenue and Pierce Street.

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## **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE –AREA 3 (East of Sheridan to the Auraria Campus)**

#### **Current and Ongoing Activities**

Moving traffic from the east side of Sheridan onto the new structure will begin with a full weekend closure of Sheridan Boulevard on Friday, August 27th through Sunday, August 29th. During that weekend,



crews will move the traffic control devices and prepare the new structure for vehicular traffic. Sheridan will re-open on Monday, August 30th with vehicular traffic (both north and southbound) on the new structure on the west side of Sheridan. Construction activity will then begin on the east side of Sheridan, with traffic remaining one lane in each direction until the entire street is rebuilt.

Crews are continuing work on the Federal Bridge. With the successful relocation of the water line under the new structure, and roadway improvements nearing completion, this activity is right on target. Switching traffic onto the new structure is currently scheduled for late August or mid-September. Demolition of the old bridge, originally built in 1922, will begin shortly thereafter. When the switch date is finalized, residents, businesses and the commuting public will be notified.

Howard Place has been relocated slightly to the north and will open just in time for the Bronco's first pre-season home game. Decatur Street will remain closed between Howard Place and 13th Avenue to rebuild the new street bridge in that location. The West Corridor construction team is working closely with the contractor for the City and County of Denver's channel improvements to ensure coordination of activities and to minimize impacts as much as possible.

Construction of the light rail bridge over the South Platte River is like putting together an erector set. The bridge was built off site, taken apart and shipped here. Once the pieces were received, crews began to assemble the structure over the river. New pieces are set in place each day and, if you're an amateur photographer, a twice weekly visit would provide an interesting time lapse of this fascinating bridge.

East of I-25, construction of the bridge over the Consolidated Mainline freight railroad tracks and the nearby industrial park is progressing quickly. The first set of girders will be set on August 19th and 20th. Delivery and storage of the girders will require the closure of Shoshone Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. The closure will begin on Monday, August 16th for approximately 6 weeks.

As the new school year looms in the very near future, crews have moved out of the Auraria campus. The parking lots have been repaved and now await eager students. Perhaps as early as the winter break, construction will resume in this area.

#### **Upcoming Activities**

Underground and wall work will continue throughout the gulch area for the next several months.

Rail crews will begin laying strands of rail near the guideway between Sheridan and Perry Street with rail installation scheduled

later in the fall or early winter.

Construction of the Perry Street station may begin in late August or early September.

For more information on construction please visit the [Construction Information page](#) on the West Corridor website.

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## HOW CAN I GET (OR STAY) INVOLVED?

One of the best ways to get the latest information on the West Corridor is to ensure we have your e-mail address. Our periodic e-mails will provide you with information essential to being an active participant. As full construction continues for the next two and a half years, it is the best way to stay informed of construction activities. Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up on our e-mail list to receive up-to-date information, and if your e-mail changes, please notify us.

Don't forget to visit our [website](#), where you'll find all the latest information about the West Corridor.

### Where Can I Get More Information?

**Web site:**

<http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com>

**E Mail:**

[WestCorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com](mailto:WestCorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com)

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