

West Corridor Glossary

Terms	Definition
Abutments	Vertical end supports of a bridge structure
At-grade	At ground level
Backfill	To fill or refill a hole or low lying area
Ballast	The layer of crushed rock or gravel where the ties and tracks sit
Bridge Deck	The flat surface of a bridge where trains, autos or people cross
Caissons	Caisson columns are typically 2 ft or more in diameter. A round hole is dug or bored to a stable layer of earth and temporarily supported by a steel shell, then filled with concrete poured around a cage of reinforcing bars. Usually used under bridges on West Corridor
Catenary System	Consists of poles placed in the guideway with metal horizontal arms that hold up wire over the tops of the trains. The trains also have an arm that extends from their roofs that touch the overhead wire and provide electricity to power the train.
Channel	The course traveled by a body of water
Clear and Grub	Remove vegetation and debris in an area
Commodities	Anything for which there is demand but which is supplied without qualitative differentiation across a market. Its price is determined as a function of its market as a whole - In the case of West Corridor, commodities include copper, steel and diesel among others.
Concrete Box Culvert	A square concrete box with two open ends where drainage (water) is directed
Coping	Capping a wall
De-mobilize	Disband crews, materials and equipment out of an area
Demolition	The tearing down of buildings or structures
Design-Bid-Build	Project delivery method in which the agency or owner contracts with separate consultants/contractors for each phase of a project.
Design Build	A construction project delivery system where the design and construction are performed by the same consultant/contractor
Drop Structure	A man-made piece built into a flow channel that drops water to a lower elevation
Easement	The agreement that allows an entity (RTD) to use someone else's property for a specific use.
Erosion Control	A physical barrier that controls wind or water to prevent water pollution
Excavate	To remove dirt from an area
Falsework	Falsework is temporary structures used to support spanning or arched structures in order to hold it in place until its construction is sufficiently advanced to support itself. It also includes temporary support structures for formwork used to mold concrete.
FasTracks	FasTracks is RTD's voter-approved program to expand rail and bus service throughout the RTD service area. FasTracks will create six new rail corridors, extend three existing corridors, build 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and expand bus service across the eight-county District.
Girder	Main horizontal support of a bridge/structure
Guideway	The area where the train runs -including tracks, catenary poles, signals etc.
Grade separated	Areas where the train is not at ground level
Hard Road Closure	The location where traffic is completely stopped through the work area
Inlet	The point where runoff (water) flows into a stormsewer system

Jack and Bore	Digging a few feet underground and then pushing a pipe through the open area
Mobilize	Assembling crews, materials and equipment to an area
MSE Walls	Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls consist of stackable wall panels combined with metal straps that extend horizontally into the compacted dirt to retain and reinforce the wall.
Outfall	The discharge point of a water system
Ped Bridge	Pedestrian Bridge
Pier	The columns that support a bridge or structure
Right-of-Way	Property for public use
Soft Road Closure	The location where most traffic will be moved off the roadway through a pre-approved detour route while still allowing local and emergency access
Substructure	The supporting portions of a bridge/structure
Super Elevation	Tilting a roadway or bridge to help offset external forces as a vehicle goes around a curve
Superstructure	The part of a bridge supported by the piers and abutments
Top Down Construction	Work on a structure that starts from the top and works it's way down
TPSS or Substation	A structure where voltage is transformed from high to low or the reverse
Trench	A type of excavation or depression in the ground
Truss	A rigid framework of metal bars, designed to support a structure (used on bridges)
Variable Message Sign	An electronic traffic sign often used on roadways to give travelers information about traffic control
Acronym	Definition
BBRI	Balfour Beatty - the West Corridor systems contractor
CM/GC	Construction Manager/General Contractor
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
DBE	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
DRCOG	Denver Regional Council of Governments
DTCG	Denver Transit Construction Group - West Corridor Civil Contractor
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GIZ	Ground Improvement Zone
GMP	Guaranteed Maximum Price - the highest allowable price from the contractor
IFC Plans	Issued For Construction Plans
NTP	Notice To Proceed - When contractor gets notice to start full construction
OCS	Overhead Catenary System
Ped Bridge	Permanent Easement
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PUC	Public Utilities Commission
RTD	Regional Transportation District
SBE	Small Business Enterprise
SWMP	Storm Water Management Plan
TCE	Temporary Construction Easement
TCP	Traffic Control Plan
TOD	Transit Oriented Development
TPSS or Substation	Traction Powered Substation
VMS	Variable Message Sign