



Community

Information Line:

303-299-2401

www.rtd-fastracks.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!

Welcome!

We have had a very productive year on the West Corridor. As 2007 comes to a close we are happy to announce the completion of the West Corridor Environmental Assessment, which resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact from the Federal Transit Administration. We appreciate your input throughout the EA process and look forward to your continued participation during the last steps of the final design process and throughout the construction phase.

December 2007

In this issue you will find:

[New Public Involvement E-mail Address](#) – Save the new West Corridor e-mail address as an approved sender.

[Environmental Assessment Process Complete](#) – Learn about the project's Finding of No Significant Impact.

[Nelson Pedestrian Crossing](#) – Read the latest on the Nelson Pedestrian Crossing.

[Utility Relocation Update](#) – Get an update on the progress of early utility relocation.

[Early Construction Update](#) – Get an update on the progress of early construction.

[Community Issues and Answers](#) – Take a closer look at RTD's final solutions to community concerns.

[Public Utility Commission Application](#) – Learn about the Public Utility Commission and the application process.

[Tree Removal](#) – Take a closer look at RTD's tree removal plan.

[FasTracks Public Opinion Survey](#) – See results of RTD's first annual survey

[How Can I Get \(or Stay\) Involved?](#) – Find out where to get more information on meetings and events, and the best ways to have your questions answered.

[New Public Involvement E-mail Address](#)

As we continue into the construction phase of the West Corridor project, the West Corridor public involvement e-mail address will change. To ensure you continue to receive all communication and the latest updates on the West Corridor, please add the new West Corridor e-mail address, westcorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com, to your accepted senders list. Beginning in February 2008, all correspondence will come from this new e-mail address. We look forward to your continued support and participation with the West Corridor project.

[Environmental Assessment Process Complete](#)

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (often referred to as a FONSI) for the West Corridor Environmental Assessment at the end of November, wrapping up the EA process. To determine whether or not an impact is considered significant, the FTA uses regulations from the Council on Environmental Quality. These regulations

outline criteria for determining the significance of an impact, based on the intensity of the impact, as well as the context in which the impact occurs. The FTA reviewed all of the impacts related to the changes in design outlined in the EA based on this criterion.

The Finding of No Significant Impact states that there are no **NEW** significant impacts as a result of the changes in design since the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision were signed in 2003 and 2004 respectively.

[Click here to view the Finding of No Significant Impact.](#)

Nelson Pedestrian Crossing

At the request of citizens along the West Corridor, the possibility of adding a pedestrian crossing at Nelson Street was analyzed. Technically, it is possible to add a pedestrian crossing at this location. However, after speaking with adjacent neighbors, it became clear that some people were against the crossing for a variety of reasons. A survey was taken of all property owners and residents between Kipling and Oak Streets and between 14th and 10th Avenues to see if they favored the crossing or not. Of the 220 people surveyed, there were 82 responses. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents stated they did **not** want the crossing. After discussing these results with the City of Lakewood, the decision has been made that there will not be a pedestrian crossing at Nelson Street. As development occurs along the West Corridor, future pedestrian crossings may be possible.

Utility Relocation Update

Xcel Energy has set power poles on 14th Avenue from Kipling to Garrison Streets and will be pulling wire in that area through December. Xcel work will also continue between 12th Avenue and 13th Avenue and between Nelson Street and Oak Street throughout the month of December. In January 2008, Xcel Energy will start construction of their electric feeder lines from Garrison Street to Upham Street on 12th Avenue and 14th Avenue. *[Click here to view pictures of Utility Construction.](#)*

Qwest and Comcast are currently working between Oak Street and Kipling Street on 13th Avenue. Their path will closely emulate that of Xcel Energy.

Work on the design to relocate the water and gas lines on 13th Avenue between Carr Street and Harlan Street is also underway. Once the design is complete and approved, the City of Lakewood's sanitary sewer relocation project will begin.

Early Construction Update

Construction of the light rail bridge over Kipling Street will start in January with traffic and erosion control. By February 2008, construction of the single span pre-stressed girder bridge will be underway. The Kipling Street Bridge will be built to accommodate light rail transit and a bikeway above the street traffic on Kipling Street. Only the bridge structure will be built at this time, the approaches on the east and west sides will be built at a later date. *[Click here to view a rendering of the Kipling Street Bridge.](#)*

The early purchase of commodities was approved by the RTD Board at their November meeting enabling the West Corridor contractor to procure steel rail, rail for guard rails and concrete cross ties. Early procurement of structural steel for bridges is beginning this month as well.

The second phase of construction will include light rail bridges along the east and west Dry Gulch and pedestrian bridges at Wolff Street, Hazel

Court and Tennyson Street. The current schedule shows this activity will begin in spring or early summer 2008.

Community Issues and Answers

The West Corridor final design project team has continued to work with the Lakewood Citizen's Collaborative to address concerns expressed by communities neighboring the West Corridor alignment. These concerns include noise walls, noise wall policy, fences and barriers, pedestrian crossings, the bike path, at-grade vehicular crossings and power substation aesthetics. [Click here to view RTD's answers to the community issues.](#)

Public Utilities Commission

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is a state regulatory agency that monitors fixed rail systems. As part of the West Corridor final design process, RTD must submit an application to the PUC for approval on design and operational elements where the alignment will affect the operation of highway-rail crossings. We anticipate submitting the application in January 2008.

Throughout the final design process, the project team has been coordinating with communities neighboring the alignment to develop quiet alternatives to bells or blowing horns at grade crossing. In the PUC application, RTD will recommend not requiring trains to blow the horn or ring bells at grade crossings unless the train operator determines there is a safety concern. The final decision will be made pending approval by the PUC. A public hearing will be held by the PUC in conjunction with this process.

Tree Removal

As we proceed with the construction phase of the West Corridor, RTD is looking closely at tree removals along the West Corridor. At this point, we expect to remove all vegetation within the RTD right-of-way. If trees need to be removed from private property, RTD will plant one replacement tree for each tree removed. RTD has been working with the City of Lakewood to develop an intergovernmental agreement regarding tree replacement along the corridor for any trees removed from private property. Trees on public and private property that overhang the rail corridor will require trimming of all overhanging limbs.

The 100 percent final design plans will indicate any trees that will be impacted by construction. By the time project construction begins, RTD will make a final determination of which trees will need to be removed. RTD and the West Corridor construction team will have a communication process in place to notify property owners of all removals and impacts.

FasTracks Survey

Three years into RTD's 12-year, \$6.1 billion FasTracks transit expansion program, 79 percent of metro area residents say that approving FasTracks funding in 2004 was a good decision. Seventy-five percent are confident that RTD will complete the voter approved FasTracks plan. The findings come from the first public opinion poll on FasTracks since voters approved the plan three years ago.

Transportation and transit related issues ranked as the number one issue facing the Denver metro area, with 34 percent of survey participants citing transportation and transit as the top issue. Overall, the results of the survey showed high levels of support and confidence in the progress of the nation's largest transit build-out program. [Click here to see all the results of the survey.](#)

How Can I Get (or Stay) Involved?

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 e-mail address. Our periodic e-mails will provide you with information essential to being an active participant. Especially as the project continues to evolve and develop, it will be important to keep all members of the community updated and informed on design milestones and construction activities. Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up on our e-mail list to receive up-to-date information.

Don't forget to visit our Web site, where you'll find all the latest information about the West Corridor.

Where can I get more information?

Web site: www.rtd-fastracks.com

E-mail: westcorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com

Phone: Kim Podobnik, 303-779-3392

Brenda Tierney, 303-299-2401

Mail: RTD West Corridor
1560 Broadway #700
Denver, CO 80202

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.