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Community

Information Line:

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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

The terrible thing about December is that it reminds us that yet another year has sped past. This grim reality is more than compensated for by the great pleasure we find in continued construction progress. 2010 brought about rising structures that added architectural masterpieces to our skyline and monumental changes along the 13th Avenue Corridor. The West Corridor project team is proud of the accomplishments thus far and looks forward to the challenges of 2011. All of us here wish our neighbors a happy holiday season and a bright future in 2011.

We encourage you to stay up-to-date with the most current construction information by becoming 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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LOOKING BACK AT 2010

Originally, community perception of the West Corridor light rail line fell into two broad categories: wildly optimistic or cautiously pessimistic. At times construction activities have certainly caused our neighbors angst, but as the project develops and becomes more visual, those concerns melt into optimism and realization that the addition of light rail will create greater proximity between housing and jobs and encourage visitors to arrive in your neighborhoods without a car.

2010 was the most productive construction year yet and that progress has helped create a clear visual picture of what the West Corridor will look like in its final configuration. From the great hillside at the Jefferson County Government Center to the eastern most boundaries at Auraria, structures have budded and grown into final monuments to the great design of the West Corridor.

The winter months of early 2010 were spent preparing for the launch of the grand 6th Avenue Bridge, constructing the massive

bridge over Indiana and clearing underground hurdles to improve aging infrastructures. Residents bore the pain of road closures, construction vehicle activity and an influx of workers into their neighborhoods. Demolition changed the landscape at Wadsworth and Sheridan Boulevards, as buildings were leveled and construction staging areas were set up.

Spring rolled in just as the 6th Avenue Bridge rolled into place. While the West Corridor PI team expected unhappy commuters as 6th Avenue closed for a weekend, we actually encountered eager and excited citizens as this "once in a lifetime" operation unfolded. The community viewing area was overflowing with thousands of people the entire weekend and the excitement spread as the bridge quickly completed its launch and landed on the north abutment. The "buzz" about the transporter, the unique construction methodology and the ceremonious flag raising overshadowed activities along the rest of the corridor, but that doesn't mean things weren't moving along quickly and efficiently.

While the 6th Avenue Bridge was the "big news", a quiet beginning on several other activities surged forward. Encasement of the Rocky Mountain Ditch and the Wight Lateral were completed before the summer high-water-flow season began and miles of walls were set in place to define the light rail guideway. Several bridges continued to spiral upward and the installation of tunnel supports under Union Boulevard went practically unnoticed. The largest wall on the project at the Jefferson County Government Center twisted downward and 13th Avenue west of Wadsworth disappeared under mounds of dirt and pipe that devoured the roadway.

Summer brought an onslaught of workers to the West Corridor, as personnel working on the project skyrocketed to nearly 500 employees. Visible signs of construction were everywhere and the onslaught of activities along the entire 12.1 miles was fast and furious. Bridges over the South Platte River and the Consolidated Mainline freight tracks began their ascent and the huge abutments over 6th Avenue and Indiana were joined together by the bridge deck. A tunnel appeared under I-70 and walls emerged from the ground. Activities began inside the Federal Center and the first signs of rail welding took off just east of Harlan Street. Traffic on Sheridan Boulevard and Federal Boulevard switched to the west as crews moved construction activities to the east side structures. Underground work at the 12 stations that dot the West Corridor began and curbs and gutters appeared along roadways. CDOT's sign bridge over 6th Avenue in Lakewood moved west and Howard Place in Denver moved north to accommodate the future Federal/Decatur passenger station. All in all, the summer activities gave way to an early fall milestone that saw construction reach 50% completion.

In the last few months, 13th Avenue became a roadway again, Ulysses Street re-opened sporting the first light rail track crossing, and crews began to demobilize after completing construction on the Indiana and 6th Avenue bridges. A new exit ramp from 6th Avenue to eastbound Colfax was put into place and crews began building the new Routt Street at the Federal Center. Construction of the parking garage at the Jefferson County Government Center began and rail became visible along much of the corridor. Structures and walls are decked out in final paint and construction to widen the channel from Harlan to

Sheridan broke ground.

In addition to construction achievements, right-of-way acquisitions reached 92%, RTD received and accepted all of the light rail vehicles to be used on the West Corridor and West Corridor design reached 100% completion. During 2010, the West Corridor Public Information team distributed approximately 430,000 email notices on 180 different construction activities; distributed 12 monthly newsletters to over 55,500 community members; hung over 6,150 construction notification door hangers; gave over 30 external presentations and attended over 130 community meetings. The PI team also guided 22 West Corridor construction tours and issued 24 press releases about West Corridor construction activities.

A busy 2010 moves aside as the project team gears up for new anticipated construction activities in 2011! In early spring, Balfour Beatty's crews will jump on board to begin construction of the electrical systems that will operate the West Corridor light rail line.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

Construction of the parking garage at the Jefferson County Government Center is underway and activity flourishes on the entire campus. The sub-contractor under DTCG, Hyder Construction, will bring on additional sub-contractors to build out the garage, anticipated to be completed in about 18 months. Additional retaining walls are under construction in this area as well.



Ulysses Street is now open to vehicular traffic. After many months of unforeseen circumstances, all work requiring the closure has been completed. The West Corridor team again thanks residents and businesses in this area for their cooperation during construction. Sub-ballast is currently being set between Johnson Road and Colfax Avenue. East of Colfax, crews continue to work on guideway improvements including sub-ballast, final wall construction, duct bank installation and fencing. Rail and ties will be distributed in this area later this month. Crews have begun installing plinths, which is a method of direct fixation of track to the concrete deck of the Indiana Bridge. This activity should not impact traffic.

Work at the Federal Center continues to move forward as crews are pouring the foundations for the station platforms and completing roadway work on Routt Street.

Upcoming Activities

Guideway construction, sub-ballast and rail installation west of Union will continue through the end of the year. Preliminary grading for the new park-n-Ride may begin later this month.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – AREA 2 (East of

the Federal Center to Sheridan)

Current and Ongoing Activities

Crews are installing the fencing atop the approaches to the 6th Avenue Bridge and the bridge contractor will soon vacate the site and rail crews will move in. Systems work continues between 8th Avenue and Collins as crews install the grounding mat and backfill the Traction Power Sub Station (TPSS) sites. The first TPSS foundation was poured just north of 8th Avenue (east of Simms) earlier this month. The flat pad will hold the 17' by 34' metal building where incoming AC power is converted to DC power and fed to the future overhead wires that will power the train. TPSS stations will dot the corridor approximately every mile.



Construction activities on the Oak Street station continue, as crews are pouring and paving the platforms. Work in the guideway between Quail and Kipling includes backfilling and grading the area just outside of the sound walls and placing the initial ballast inside the guideway.

Crews have begun initial activities for the passenger station at Garrison Street. Construction in this area will be inside the guideway and should not impact local traffic. 13th Avenue between Garrison and Zephyr sits clean and virtually alone as crews have buttoned up all the finishing touches on the roadway. Work continues in the guideway in this area as crews install and paint sound wall panels and mount fencing.

Work on the station atop the Wadsworth Bridge is gearing up again as crews pour the foundations for the platforms. Work on the bridge will continue for the next few months. The drainage improvements near Upham Street are complete and 13th Avenue between Saulsbury and Upham Street has been temporarily paved for the season. Crews are still in this area installing walls and fences. The conflicts identified near and around the vehicle barrier wall at Otis Street have been resolved and West Corridor crews are back in this area to complete the wall.

The final activity to complete the upgrades on the drainage system in Harlan Street began earlier this month. It is anticipated that the work will finish up in early January. Harlan Street is closed between 13th and 14th Avenues during this activity, however local businesses are open and access is available. Channel improvements east of Harlan will continue through the winter months.

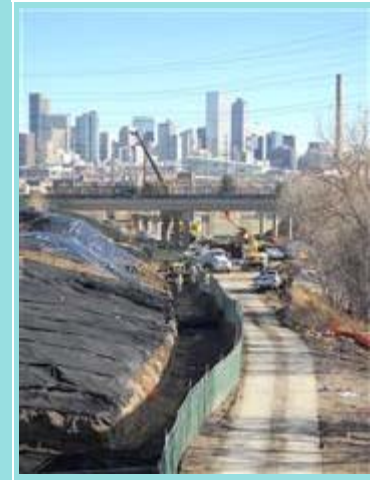
Upcoming Activities

Work on drainage improvements under Independence Street at 13th Avenue will begin on December 20, 2010 and will require the closure of Independence from 14th to 11th through the first week of January. Guideway improvements through Area 2 will continue as well.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

The deck on the Sheridan Bridge was poured early this month and crews are now working on utilities under and around the bridge. Platform paving at the Perry Street station is nearing completion and wall construction east of Perry to Knox Court continues.



The girders on the Federal Boulevard Bridge were set earlier this month marking the end of “bridge girder sets” on the West Corridor project. The deck pour on this bridge is scheduled for early January. Work on improvements under the bridge will continue through the winter.

Construction of the Decatur Street Bridge continues as the bridge deck was poured last week. The deck will cure for about 3 three weeks but work will continue on the sidewalks and curb. The bridge over the South Platte is still under construction and crews will pour the deck in early January.

The CML Flyover now really does fly over Umatilla Street and the freight lines. All girders were set in November and December and crews are removing the falsework and preparing for the deck pour next month. Underground work continues in the area between 13th Avenue and Old Colfax and Shoshone Street and Umatilla Street. Completion of these utility upgrades is expected later this winter.

Crews are constructing a temporary parking lot at Cottonwood so they can begin demolishing the current parking lots near Auraria for light rail improvements.

Upcoming Activities

Work on all the bridges in Area 3 will continue for the next few months. Activity around the Auraria campus will accelerate after the first of the year.

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

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?

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