

# **FasTracks** West Rail Line

Meeting  
Minutes

August 12, 2011

**Re:** West Rail Line Elected Officials Briefing

**In Attendance:** See sign-in sheet

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## **Minutes:**

### **Welcome and Introductions- Matt Cohen**

#### **PI Update - Brenda Tierney**

Brenda reported that there are two West Rail monthly tours remaining on August 19<sup>th</sup> and September 16<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting good turnouts for both. We are hosting Block Parties for neighborhoods affected by construction. The Eiber neighborhood party was on Saturday, July 23, 2011 and was attended by over 100 people. The Block Party for the Sun Valley/Villa Park neighborhood will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup> and a Block Party for Two Creeks neighborhood will be held on September 10.

Brenda also reported that the ceremonial grand opening event of the Federal Center Station held on Thursday, July 28, 2011 was a great success. The station opened for vehicular traffic on July 31, 2011 and the Cold Spring park-n-Ride closed simultaneously.

In an effort to brand RTD and FasTracks, we will no longer refer to the West Rail Line as the West Corridor.

#### **FasTracks Update - Rick Clarke**

Rick Clark, RTD FasTracks' Assistant General Manager of Capital Programs, reported that work at Denver Union Station is approximately 40% complete. The three week project to tie in existing lines to DUS and West Rail Line has gone as planned and the new light rail station at Denver Union Station will open on Monday, August 15, 2011 on time and within budget.

Design on the Eagle P3 project should be complete in the fall with construction starting then as well. FTA will be here for an Eagle P3 FFGA Signing Ceremony in Olde Towne Arvada on Wednesday, August 31, 2011. The FFGA will provide \$1 billion toward construction of the East and Gold Lines.

#### **Project Status – Jim Starling**

Jim reported that the Federal Center Station opening marked the first piece of the West Rail Line to open to the public. We're moving into a phase of completing work on West now and these milestones will be significant.

During early planning of the West Rail Line, there were two significant risks named. One was the interface and remediation of the Federal Center Station and the other was the Central Platte Valle (CPV) tie-in. These are now behind us.

Jim reported that all grade crossings have been submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) except the one for North Avenue West. The PUC has approved the quiet crossings with pedestrian audible warning devices installed. Brenda Tierney stated that there was a neighborhood demonstration of the audible warning device on Saturday, July 23, 2011.

Max Tyler asked Jim Starling if the street crossings were final. Jim explained that the contractor still needs to put in a top lift of asphalt. Max also asked about the traffic flow in Lakewood since stop signs have been relocated to 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue versus the side streets. He would like to know what the final configuration is. Jim explained that Lakewood Traffic Engineering will determine where stop signs go. Max asked when he could expect paving of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the east side of Wadsworth. Jim explained that the West Rail team's goal is to pave this year but there have been several conflicts that have caused this delay but they are optimistic we can meet this goal.

Jim also discussed an accident that happened in Utah approximately 6 weeks ago. Utah has just reopened the line for testing and a pedestrian was killed while walking across the tracks. She was texting and had iPod earphones in. RTD is concerned about the safety of our citizens and is looking at all crossing to see if sound walls at intersections could be an obstruction. Upon this review there could be some changes to the sound walls. Jim explained that there are dual gates in Utah, not quad gates as there will be on the West Rail Line and that all equipment was functioning at the time of the accident. Rick Clark stated that RTD is looking at a warning sign adapted to pedestrians similar to the vehicular traffic warning signs. Dave Baskett, City of Lakewood asked what RTD has learned about these accidents in neighborhoods. Rick explained that RTD's grade crossings are controlled and RTD has not experienced any at grade crossing accidents. The accidents RTD has had involved pedestrians walking over the track at other locations. Brenda Tierney stated that there have been zero accidents on Welton Street.

Jim stated that RTD has shortlisted four design/construction teams for the Wadsworth parking structure. They include PCL Construction, Kiewit Construction, Swinerton Construction and Mortenson Construction. RTD is currently reviewing their submissions and taking their recommendation to the RTD Board of Directors in September. The Sheridan parking structure process is approximately one month behind that of the Wadsworth parking structure. The short listed contractors on the Sheridan structure are the same with the addition of JE Dunn Construction. The RTD staff recommendation on the Sheridan parking structure should go to the RTD Board in October.

Matt Cohen reminded the group that there is a big event Monday morning as the first official train stops at Denver Union Station. It will start at the Pepsi Center, Parking Lot a and pull into DUS at 7:20 a.m.

Donald Rosier, Jefferson County Commissioner said he has been very impressed with the ongoing work at the Jeffco Campus. He is very appreciative of how DTCCG has controlled the flow of traffic in and out of the site and how they have dealt with drainage issues, kept Jeffco informed of new operations and the overall progress of the project. Josh Pategas (DTCCG) added that credit is due to Hyder Construction, DTCCG's subcontractor on the parking garage.

### **Construction Progress Presentation – Jon Brazeal**

Jon provided the group an overview of construction activities via a PowerPoint presentation.

### **Civil Work: Construction Update - Jon Brazeal**

Jon told the group the Federal Center Station opening went smoothly and is the first element on the West Rail Line to open. Other construction areas are going smoothly and many phases are moving into a completion phase.

Johnson Road in Golden will close in early September for reconstruction. North Avenue will close after work at Johnson Road is complete. Work on the Union tunnel will begin after the demolition of the Cold Spring park-n-Ride (which began August 1). There are multiple construction phases for the work on Union Boulevard. DTCG crews will continue to work on 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue east of Wadsworth Boulevard into the fall. Knox Court will close in mid- end of September. Federal Boulevard will close Friday, August 12 and open Monday, August 15 in its final road configuration. Decatur will open by August 19, 2011.

Jon reported that work on the CPV tie-in went smoothly thanks to all parties working together to complete it.

Max Tyler asked if there were any other drainage improvements slotted for Independence Avenue. Jon said we are continually working on drainage issues in the City of Lakewood. Cindy Baroway, Lakewood City Council said she has some concerns about traffic and wanted to know when the bike paths will open. Jim Starling said opening the bike paths is a conjoined effort between Lakewood, DTCG and RTD. Cindy also asked for additional signage for students walking to and from school, including the available detour routes and requested West Rail attend back-to-school nights to provide information about the rail line. Kathy Berumen told her we would be calling the schools to see what we can provide and if they would like us to attend. Brenda Tierney added that West Rail PI is devising a communication strategy to inform schools, parents and students about rail line safety. Cindy also asked what was happening to the RTD owned property on the northwest corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Garrison. RTD will assess the property once the West Rail Line opens.

Marcia Claxton, Golden City Council asked when Johnson Road will close and how we will navigate traffic. Jon told her Johnson Road is scheduled to close in early September and we will post detours and VMS Boards to direct traffic.

### **Systems Work Update - Greg Gonzales**

Greg told the group that Balfour Beatty Rail, Inc. (BBRI) has completed installation of the catenary systems between Colfax and the Indiana Bridge. They continue to work from Indiana Street to Union Boulevard and began installing catenary poles on Collins Avenue on August 1, 2011.

Greg also commented on the huge coordination effort among all parties involved in the CPV tie-in and work in the area is very nearly completed. Crews completed three to four months of work in just three short weeks.

BBRI will be setting the first substation at Colfax on Monday morning. Rick Clark commented that the systems installation is very complex.

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**Next Meeting**

November 11, 2011 at the West Rail Project Office

Attachments: Construction Progress Presentation

cc: RTD-FasTracks Document Control