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## Welcome

2012 marks the "beginning of the end" for construction operations on the West Rail Line. Denver Transit Construction Group will complete civil construction this summer and Balfour Beatty Rail and Swinerton Builders should be nearing construction completion by the end of the year. As the West Rail Line enters its final year of construction, stay up-to-date with current construction information by becoming a subscriber to our e-newsletter. You can sign up by visiting the [West Rail website](#), and while there, utilize the tools that have been established to keep you updated on progress and impacts.

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## Remembering 2011 and Preparing for 2012

Oh how the years go by! What an apropos statement as the West Rail Line enters its final year of construction. It seems like just yesterday planning and design were at the forefront and, as we enter 2012, testing and activation are on the horizon. While the skyline of bridges and walls hasn't significantly changed this past year, the terrain of the West Rail Line has been transformed.



In early 2011 crews were out in force building the guideway, laying track, adding final touches on structures and steadily placing station platforms and furnishings. The onslaught of construction crews at the Jefferson County Government Center was just beginning and the erection of the overhead catenary system had just begun.

As the spring thaw took hold, crews were able to complete operations on Sheridan Boulevard and the long awaited opening of Sheridan in its final configuration proved to be worth the wait. The new improved roadway reopened to two lanes of traffic in each direction and weary commuters felt an instant relief from traffic congestion. Construction of the bridge over Federal Boulevard was completed not long after Sheridan, and our friends in Denver could see the beginning of the end of construction delays. Late spring also brought the opening of the first West Rail Line component, as the Federal Center Station replaced the



Cold Spring park-n-Ride. Cold Spring was demolished to make way for the light rail tunnel under Union Boulevard.

Summer and fall brought an onslaught of road work as several crews emerged to take advantage of the warm paving temperatures. Roadways throughout the entire corridor were closed to install track crossings, complete underground operations and repave the surfaces. Lakewood bore the brunt of closures, but the new 13th Avenue west of Wadsworth garnered the community's trust that construction of the West Rail Line was truly an embellishment to their neighborhood. In August, yet another milestone opening took place. After months of integrated work, the light rail station at Auraria West opened to trains traveling the Southeast and Southwest lines. When the West Rail Line opens this station will be the turning point for trains heading west.

As the end of the year drew near, crews were demobilizing from the Jefferson County Government Center, as the garage reached significant completion. Catenary poles and wires were visible along a good portion of the guideway; relay and communications houses were in place as well as half of the traction-powered substations.

2012 will bring the beginning of construction on the parking structures at Wadsworth and Sheridan and continued station and systems work. Track installation should be completed from east to west by late spring and roadway construction will be in full force as soon as the weather permits. Final details to all structures, including stairs, elevators and lighting will be completed and landscaping activities will cap off the final year of civil construction on the West Rail Line. By late 2012, you should see the first light rail vehicles travel along the tracks as testing begins.

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## Copper Thefts Increase on West Rail

Skyrocketing prices for metals, especially copper, have made what was once a minor nuisance into a major problem costing RTD not only significant monetary impacts, but schedule delays on construction of the West Rail Line. Over the recent New Year's holiday weekend, copper was removed from the overhead lines at the Red Rocks Community College Station. There has also been an influx of copper theft from underground lines in other areas of the corridor.

Pranaya Shrestha, RTD's senior manager of systems engineering comments, "RTD is very concerned about the safety of the communities we serve. All it takes is contact with our energized system for a tragic incident to occur. Those responsible for the copper thefts are risking much more than just breaking the law." Not only is RTD losing the value of the copper, the collateral damage done requires additional crews to rework these areas. "What's frustrating is that the small pieces of stolen copper net a minimal amount at the salvage yards, but cost RTD much more to replace," said Shrestha.

RTD has increased security patrols along the West Rail Line keeping watch for anyone trespassing on RTD's property. Please help us out by being on the lookout and notifying the Transit Watch Hot Line at 303-299-2911 or calling 911 if

you see any suspicious activities. Remember, all West Rail Line construction crew members have a West Corridor round sticker on their hardhats with a specific number. This is the best way to identify if individuals belong on the construction site.

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## Eiber Neighborhood Resident Recieves "Most Cooperative Partner" Award

Beth Wicht, President of the Eiberhood Association, was honored as the September/October "Most Cooperative Stakeholder" on the West Rail Line. Living in the Denver area for more than 20 years, Beth is extremely involved in the community. Not only does she work full time as a project manager for Mercy Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing and human



services organization in downtown Denver, she holds a volunteer position as President of the Eiber Neighborhood Association. As President, Beth coordinates communications including website content, monthly member updates, and semi-annual newsletters. The Eiber team has worked hard to set goals around advocating for the neighborhood in its dealings with RTD FasTracks, the City of Lakewood, and other community groups. "We are focused on moving beyond the consuming West Rail Line impact in our area and starting to explore community gardens and sustainable neighborhood activities to build on the great things this neighborhood has to offer," Beth said.

Beth is finishing a term on the RTD Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) for FasTracks. "This group has introduced me to many local leaders who are committed to the metro wide build out of the FasTracks plan. This year the CAC went out to different RTD Districts to hear from community members. One of those meetings was held right here in Eiber. The focus on 'lessons learned' in this area and the potential to share these findings with future neighborhoods is very exciting to me." Beth's involvement during construction of the West Rail Line has helped keep her community engaged in the project and her enthusiasm has sparked eager anticipation for the line to open.

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## Construction Update - Area 1 (Jeffco Government Center to Federal Center)

### Current and Ongoing Activities

- The parking structure at the Jefferson County Government Center will be complete by mid-February. The garage lights will remain on overnight for burn in

and testing operations and to serve as a security measure to deter theft.

- Crews are setting fencing and guardrail along 6th Avenue. This will continue for the next several weeks.

- The southbound vehicular lanes and pedestrian sidewalks on Union Boulevard south of 6th Avenue have been reopened.

- Crews continue work to stabilize the interior walls of the Union Tunnel.

- The first phase of shelters and canopies were set and installed at the Federal Center Station in early January. The second phase will take place in early February.



#### Upcoming Activities

- Underground work on 6th Avenue at Ulysses may begin later this month.

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## Construction Update - Area 2 (East end of the Federal Center to Sheridan)

#### Current and Ongoing Activities

- Crews are setting guardrail between 8th Avenue and North Avenue to enclose the guideway.

- Construction of the Oak Station parking area and access road continues. Weather pending, paving is scheduled for late January or early February.

- Crews are working to finalize construction operations on the bike path between Kipling Street and Garrison Street.



- Due to a vehicle malfunction, the Traction Power Substation (TPSS) at Wadsworth was not set on Monday, January 9th. Barring any complications, the TPSS will be set on January 16th. 13th Avenue between Yukon Street and Wadsworth Boulevard will be closed for this one-day activity.

- The elevator towers at Wadsworth/Lakewood Station were set at the end of December.

- Work on the bike path between Harlan Street and Depew Street will continue through January.

#### Upcoming Activities

- Canopies at the Wadsworth station will start being set in late February.
- Construction is scheduled to begin on the Wadsworth parking garage in March.

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## Construction Update - Area 3 (East of Sheridan to the Auraria Campus)

#### Current and Ongoing Activities

- Reconstruction of the Perry Street bike path continues.
- Work is ongoing at the Decatur-Federal Station. Rail crews will mobilize into the area in late January.
- Individualized underground operations continue throughout Area 1.
- The parking lots at Auraria Station are scheduled to open today, Monday, January 16, 2012.
- Work on the storm drain system near Old Colfax Avenue will continue into February.



#### Upcoming Activities

- Construction on the Sheridan parking garage will begin this spring.

For more information on construction, please visit the [Construction Information](#) page on the West Rail Line 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 Rail Line is to ensure we have your email address. Our periodic emails will provide you with

information essential to being an active participant. Visit our [website](#), where you'll find all the latest information about the West Rail Line. As construction continues for the next 12 months, it is the best way to stay informed.

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