



E-NEWS



Community

Information Line:

303-299-2401

rtdwestcorridor.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.

## WELCOME!

As we head into the new year, the FasTracks West Corridor project is continuing to move ahead with many new and exciting changes and events. The upcoming next series of *Coffee with Dennis* meetings in February and the Urban Design Committee meetings in March will further develop the communication process that you have helped create. We look forward to using those opportunities to share with you some changes that are being considered as a result of our Value Engineering process. The team has also been working diligently on the Environmental Assessment, the results of which will be presented at a public hearing within the upcoming months. As always, we are excited to share with you information related to recent project developments and hearing your thoughts related to all of these milestones.

### January 2007

#### In this issue you will find:

*Save the Dates* - Mark your calendars for several upcoming events and meetings.

*Value Engineering* - A review of the process that looks for ways to make the project more efficient and cost-effective.

*Noise Mitigation* - RTD will begin notifying and working with property owners who will be affected by noise mitigation.

*Environmental Assessment Update* - Learn about the current status of the project's Environmental Assessment.

*65 Percent Design Update* - What's the next step in the final design process?

*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.

#### *Save The Dates*

##### *Value Engineering Overview Meeting:*

Wednesday, January 31, 2007, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Jefferson County Fairgrounds  
Exhibit Halls 1, 2 and 3  
15200 W. 6th Avenue, Golden

*Coffee with Dennis:* various times, February 13 through 21. *Visit us online* for times, locations and registration information.

*Urban Design Committee Meetings:* more information will be available in the coming weeks. In the meantime, mark your calendars!

West Corridor Urban Design Committee Meeting #1  
Wednesday, March 21, 2007, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.  
Rude Recreation Center  
Multi-Purpose Room  
2855 West Holden Place  
Denver, Colorado 80204-3352

West Corridor Urban Design Committee Meeting #2 Thursday,  
March 22, 2007, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Clements Community Center  
Columbine Room  
1580 Yarrow Street  
Lakewood, CO 80214-6029

### ***Value Engineering***

The West Corridor team recently completed a Value Engineering (VE) Study, a detailed process that reviewed the overall project looking for ways to make the project more efficient and cost-effective. The VE team that analyzed the West Corridor was composed of industry professionals from California, Utah, Texas, Arizona, Washington and Colorado.

Value Engineering began more than 60 years ago during World War II. During the war, acceptable substitutions for labor, raw materials and component parts were sought to reduce costs. Today this process continues in many different industries and is especially helpful in areas such as construction to lower expenses and improve a product. It is a requirement on all FTA federally-funded projects and has been used by RTD on many past projects.

The VE process follows a detailed outline that includes four basic steps:

- Information gathering
- Identifying more cost-effective and/or efficient alternatives to the current design
- Evaluating these alternatives for how well they meet the required functions and their potential cost savings
- Proposing the best alternatives for review and potential acceptance

The VE session that was completed last December provided many recommendations to help contain costs in several areas, including civil construction elements, systems elements and operations. Substitutions, for example, can often be made to replace costly materials with less expensive ones that function just as well.

The West Corridor VE team has recommended 61 proposed changes that offer beneficial results related to containing costs. RTD is currently in the process of evaluating the impacts and validating with further study those ideas in terms of function, community expectations, schedule and other factors. Specific recommendations related to the West Corridor light rail line include items ranging from single-tracking sections of the alignment to changes in materials. Since the VE team included many participants from out of town, they were able to look at the project from an objective viewpoint, and develop proposals based solely on technical merit and cost-savings potential. It is now RTD's responsibility to consider those proposals and make decisions that best serve the project.

The next step of the evaluation is to respond to each of the proposals with an action from the following categories:

- Accept
- Accept with modifications
- Table for further study
- Reject

Following this process, the proposals and their "disposition" or category will be presented to the stakeholders and the public. Please join the meeting where this information is presented on Wednesday, January 31, at 6 p.m. at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Avenue, Exhibit Halls 1, 2 and 3, in Golden.

### ***Noise Mitigation***

This spring, RTD will begin notifying and working with property owners who will be affected by noise mitigation. For the ongoing noise analysis,

measurements were taken recently at 18 specific locations representing the residential areas adjoining the proposed alignment. These results currently are available online as graphics representing all impacted residential properties. Additionally, potential sound wall locations and heights were presented at December's Urban Design Committee meeting, along with basic design details. RTD is working to reduce the height of the walls wherever possible, while still mitigating noise impacts. When the Draft Environmental Assessment is finalized and submitted to the FTA, the document will include an overview of the noise and vibration impacts that will affect area residents and the measures recommended for mitigation.

RTD will notify affected homeowners of upcoming noise mitigation efforts by letter, and small group and individual meetings will be scheduled as requested to discuss the required processes that will take place and any potential changes. Residents will have the option of working with their neighbors to change wall heights or eliminating walls entirely, if that is preferred. More details on wall materials will be available at the March Urban Design Committee meetings, which everyone is welcome to attend.

#### ***Environmental Assessment Update***

Completion of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been postponed to allow the team to evaluate the impacts that the accepted Value Engineering (VE) proposals might have on the project. If VE recommendations are accepted that may have impacts (either negative or positive) to the surrounding area, the EA needs to address these impacts and recommend appropriate mitigation before the document can be finalized. Once RTD identifies the impacts and mitigation, the Draft EA will be completed and, in conjunction with FTA, RTD will hold a public hearing to solicit public comments on the document. That public hearing will be scheduled for sometime in the future (the original public hearing date of January 31 will now be used, instead, to present the VE proposals to the communities).

#### ***65 Percent Design Update***

The major milestone of 65 percent completion of design was attained in early November and the plans at this level were submitted to RTD and the affected agencies and jurisdictions to review. More than 3,000 comments were received during the review period. RTD has completed its initial screening of the comments and forwarded them to the design team for response. The design team and RTD will be finalizing responses for incorporation into the project over the next couple of months and comment resolution meetings with the actual reviewers will be scheduled as needed. Meanwhile, design continues, with the next milestone of 90 percent design completion scheduled for November 2007.

#### ***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 up to date and informed on findings, decisions and achievements. Tell your friends and neighbors to [sign up on our e-mail list](#) to receive up-to-date information.

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**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.**