



Community

Information Line:

303-299-2401

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

E-NEWS



WELCOME!

June was a full month as we continued to move forward with the final design of the West Corridor. We met with property owners along the light rail alignment to discuss noise barrier options and we made final decisions on several of the remaining Value Engineering proposals over the past month. We are looking forward to the completion of the Environmental Assessment later this summer, and plan to present many of the Environmental Assessment topics in a public meeting this month. 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.

July 2007

In this issue you will find:

[Save the Date](#) - Mark your calendars for several upcoming events and meetings.

[Value Engineering Proposals Update](#) - Get updates on the status of several Value Engineering proposals.

[Noise Walls](#) - Find out details about the noise barrier locations and next steps.

[Environmental Assessment Update](#) - Learn about the current status of the project's Environmental Assessment.

[Utilities/Track Work Update](#) - Get an update on the progress of early construction.

[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 Date](#)

Environmental Assessment Public Meeting: The West Corridor will hold an Environmental Assessment Public Meeting July 18 at 6 p.m. at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Urban Design Committee Meetings: Two Urban Design Committee meetings are scheduled for late August: August 22, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Rude Recreation Center (2855 W. Holden Pl.,

Denver)
August 23, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Clements Community Center (1580 Yarrow St.,
Lakewood)

Environmental Assessment Public Hearing: An Environmental Assessment Public Hearing is planned for mid-September at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Some of the topics at this hearing will be determined by the feedback received at the July 18 meeting.

Value Engineering Proposals Update

Several Value Engineering proposals on the West Corridor were reviewed by the RTD Board of Directors in June and have been approved or will be finalized in July:

Sheridan: RTD will revert to the 65 percent design with Sheridan Boulevard over the light rail tracks. Denver, CDOT and RTD have collaborated to find the necessary funding through construction methods and park mitigation funds.

Auraria: The RTD Board approved a modified version of the 65 percent design. The station will be close to the original location, but will be a three-platform, two-track layout.

Drainage: Resolution has been met on all drainage improvements west of Federal Boulevard. Decisions regarding drainage east of Federal Boulevard will be made in July.

Jeffco Single Track: Final decisions on the proposal to build single track between the Denver Federal Center and the Jefferson County Government Center will be finalized in July.

Noise Walls

The noise consultant has completed its noise wall study, which includes wall locations and heights along the corridor. Based on anticipated noise levels due to light rail implementation, each property along the corridor was identified as one of three categories - No Impact, Moderate Impact or Severe Impact. The Federal Transit Administration requires that RTD mitigate all Severely Impacted properties. The mitigation for the West Corridor is six-foot noise walls placed along the light rail guideway. RTD was also responsible for providing a policy for mitigation on Moderately Impacted properties that is reasonable, fair and effective. For noise wall locations as determined by the noise study, please [click here](#).

RTD sent letters to all property owners impacted by noise and met with those individuals in June to discuss noise wall options. Affected property owners can work with their neighbors to determine whether they want the wall as

planned or would rather use the Noise Barrier Change (opt-out) Policy. This policy provides an opportunity for interested neighborhoods to request changes to the noise walls by raising, lowering or eliminating the walls. If your property has been designated as having a noise impact and you were not able to attend one of the June meetings, please contact Brenda Tierney at 303-299-2401.

The West Corridor Project team will also present planned noise wall locations and heights to the public in conjunction with the Environmental Assessment Public Meeting on July 18. For more information on the noise study and barriers, [click here](#).

Environmental Assessment Update

The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to update the 2003 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) with the new changes in the project. The draft EA will present the impacts of these changes on social, economic and environmental resources as well as provide updated information such as new future forecasts of traffic and transit ridership. The EA document will be completed and ready for review by the public and agencies in the fall.

RTD will schedule a public hearing to solicit comments on the EA document. Prior to that hearing, the West Corridor Project team has set a public meeting on July 18 to discuss several EA topics, including visual impacts, wetlands, bike/pedestrian access, and noise wall location and heights.

Utilities/Track Work Update

The removal of the old tracks began in early June and is moving east along the light rail alignment from Quail Street - this process will take approximately four months.

Xcel Energy will begin relocating gas and electric facilities out of the 13th Avenue right-of-way owned by RTD this month. In order to meet RTD's requirements and continue to properly serve your area, it will be necessary for Xcel Energy to obtain new easements or other rights along some portions of the right-of-way. It is Xcel Energy's intent to minimize the impacts to private property. If an easement is needed, an Xcel Energy project representative will contact you and explain your specific situation.

Xcel Energy will contract with private companies to do the actual construction along the West Corridor, and will start at Quail Street and work east to Eaton. The vast majority of the utility relocation construction will take place during daylight hours. There may be some outages as the project takes place. The contractor for Xcel Energy will contact residents if outages are planned or if access to property is needed. We will do our best to keep updated

information on the Web site, but if you have specific questions, the contact for Xcel Energy is Craig Coon at 303-425-3982. Xcel Energy is the first company that needs to move its utilities to new locations to make way for the light rail. Qwest and Comcast will be following soon.

For more information on the track removal and utility work, please [visit this link](#).

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 findings, decisions and achievements. 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 new Web site, where you'll find all the latest information about the West Corridor.

Where can I get more information?

Web site: http://rtd-fastracks.com/wc_1

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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.**

