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#### Community

#### Information Line:

303-299-2401

[www.rtd-fastracks.com](http://www.rtd-fastracks.com)



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 long hot days of summer mean construction, construction and more construction on the West Corridor. New activities are beginning each day and it's important to stay up-to-date with current information by becoming a subscriber to our e-newsletter. You can sign up by visiting the, [West Corridor Web site](#) and while there, utilize the tools that have been established to keep you updated on progress and impacts.

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## WEBCAM AT JEFFCO GOVERNMENT CENTER

A construction video feed is up and running on the West Corridor Web site, allowing you to take a virtual tour of the worksite at the Jeffco Government Center. At any time, community members can get an interactive online experience by controlling the virtual camera. The ability to zoom in and out allows visitors to see a 180-degree panoramic view of the construction site. Users can also span back in time for a progressive overview of the area during early construction operations.

The camera will be in place throughout construction of walls, mass excavation of the hillside and construction of the parking structure and station. To view the live feed, click [here](#).

## WADSWORTH PARKING STRUCTURE

The Wadsworth and Sheridan parking structures were removed from the original West Corridor construction contract to be bid out separately at a later date. On Thursday, July 1 RTD and the City of Lakewood presented an update on the Wadsworth parking structure design process and gave community members a chance to view three initial concept designs. This opportunity will be provided for the Sheridan structure, once designers have completed the initial concepts for that facility.

During planning of the Wadsworth structure, planners looked at many elements including, but not limited to, access, pedestrian and vehicle circulation, traffic impacts and site amenities. They also reviewed community concerns brought up during the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) and EA (Environmental Assessment) processes; as well as comments from West Corridor design public meetings and the Urban Design Committee.

The three concept designs presented are named "Base", "Pivot" and "Offset". A poll taken at the end of the July 1 meeting showed most residents preferred the "Pivot". To see the options and to review the entire presentation, click [here](#).

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## MAINTENANCE OF EASEMENTS

In the last several months a number of easements have been purchased to facilitate the final configuration of the West Corridor light rail line. An easement is a portion of private property where RTD has purchased the right to use the property for specific reasons. The easement is still your property; however it does have restrictions and responsibilities for you as an owner.

Based on City Code, all easements must be maintained by the property owner, which includes mowing and trimming of landscape as well as removal of trash. Also, based on the type of easement you have, what you place in an easement (grass, trees, fences, etc.) has the potential of being removed or damaged if the group owning rights in the easement requires access to their equipment. You can use a utility easement for almost anything that you use your yard for. You can plant gardens and bushes, landscape and construct fences. However, anything that is in the easement when a utility company has to access their equipment may have to be removed. Typically fences are restored if they have to be taken down, but landscaping, gardens and trees will not be replaced. Don't place anything in the easement that will make it hard to maintain or replace the system below. Anything permanent needs to stay out of easements, including retaining walls, sheds or any type of building.

If a drainage easement exists on your property, it has its own set of restrictions. Improper care of a drainage easement can cause property damage. A drainage easement may have a storm water line buried beneath it or it may actually be the intended path for surface water. Some drainage easements have water flowing through them all the time and some only have water after a major storm. In some cases, these easements are intended to detain water after a storm to avoid flooding of other areas. If a drainage easement is placed on your property, don't modify the existing landscape. Keep the easement clear of debris including tree limbs, grass clippings, leaves and other materials that could impede the flow of water.

As West corridor crews wind through neighborhoods, they will be utilizing the RTD acquired easements to construct the light rail line and install the infrastructure improvements. In some instances, advance notice may be only a few weeks. To jump start the process, property owners should proactively begin relocating trees, shrubbery and fences that they hope to save before crews move in to build out the area. West Corridor crews will remove fencing acquired by RTD, but will only replace it with

construction fencing that is neither secure nor private. The homeowner is responsible for replacing the fence and vegetation purchased by RTD.

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## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Mount Vernon Event Center and Pan Fired Catering are the “West Corridor Business of the Month.” Nestled in the beautiful Colorado foothills where Hwy. 6 and C-470 converge, Mount Vernon is



the perfect location for special events. Mount Vernon Event Center opened its doors in 2002 as a specialty wedding cake business. Today, Colorado native business owners, Brenda and Tom Major, have transformed their small wedding cake business into a beautiful private event facility and a full service catering company. With over 13 years of event and catering experience, Brenda and Tom have made their client’s special occasions joyful, memorable, and engaging for eight years.

Mount Vernon Event Center is a 5,000 square foot private event facility graciously accommodating events of up to 300 guests indoors in their great room or on their lush lawn and floral garden outdoors. Their in-house catering company, Pan Fired Catering, provides a memorable culinary addition to each event. Whether it’s a small wedding or a corporate luncheon, Mount Vernon Event Center and Pan Fired Catering can assist in all the big and little details to make any occasion extraordinary. If you have an important event coming up, let Mount Vernon Event Center assist you in making your occasion memorable.

We want to thank Mount Vernon Event Center and Pan Fired Catering for their on-going cooperation and patience with West Corridor construction. To obtain more information please visit their website at either: [www.mtvernoneventcenter.com](http://www.mtvernoneventcenter.com) or [www.panfiredcatering.com](http://www.panfiredcatering.com), call 303-467-2680 or email [info@mtvernoneventcenter.com](mailto:info@mtvernoneventcenter.com).

Even though construction along the West Corridor affects more residents than businesses, many businesses still feel the direct impacts of construction. RTD and the entire West Corridor team would like to thank all of the businesses along the West Corridor for their outstanding cooperation and support during difficult construction times. To show our appreciation, the West Corridor RTD FasTracks Newsletter will be highlighting a different business in our monthly newsletter in the “Business Spotlight” section. If your business is directly affected by construction, and you would like to be highlighted in the monthly newsletter please contact Megan Ehrenberg at 303-299-2266 or email at [Megan.Ehrenberg@rtd-fastracks.com](mailto:Megan.Ehrenberg@rtd-fastracks.com).

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

### Current and Ongoing Activities

Construction at the Jeffco Government Center continues to progress as scheduled, with the



retaining wall reaching deeper and deeper into the hillside. Recent construction has included mass excavation of the hillside and reconstruction of the pedestrian bridge. The pedestrian bridge will not open to the public until work at the government center has been completed. The roundabout leaving the government center is still closed to traffic exiting the area. Vehicles should exit via Jefferson County Parkway, north of the parking lots. To view live construction at the Jefferson County Government Center, click [here](#).

The demolition of Ulysses Street north of 6th Avenue will soon begin as crews prepare the area for infrastructure improvements and retaining wall installation. Upon completion of the underground utilities, Ulysses will be rebuilt at an at-grade elevation with the train tracks; to be installed at a later date.

During the fall of 2009, West Corridor crews built the support system for the tunnel under I-70. Crews are back in the area now, constructing the approach walls and excavating the tunnel.

The light rail bridge that stretches across the skyline at 6th Avenue and Indiana changes daily as crews have removed the wood supports from the structure and begun pouring the concrete deck. In early to mid August, the emergency sidewalk and curbs will be installed.

The CDOT Sign Bridge has been relocated just west of its original location near Red Rocks Community College and pre-construction activities at the station have begun. The area between Indiana and Union will showcase the first rail on the West Corridor project, with guideway work scheduled to begin any day.

**Upcoming Activities**

Construction of a new off-ramp from westbound 6th Avenue to eastbound Colfax is scheduled for the near future. When this activity is complete, the traffic control devices on Colfax will be picked up and traffic will be moved to its final configuration. In August, new guardrail will be installed on the 6th Avenue Frontage Road near Wright Street, and construction of the Red Rocks station should also begin.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE –AREA 2 (East of the Federal Center to Sheridan)**

**Current and Ongoing Activities**

Area 2 neighbors now have a good spot to check out the look of the West Corridor sound walls, as the walls between Oak Street and Kipling Street have been completed. Sound walls are now being set between Independence and Holland,



Garrison and Estes and Reed and Pierce. Retaining walls and ballast walls are also being built along the 13th Avenue corridor. Most of you are now familiar with the look of the retaining walls but ballast walls are significantly smaller and have no West Corridor aesthetics.

Improvements to the Richey Park drainage system are moving forward as expected along 13th Avenue from Everett Court to Garrison. By as early as late July, Garrison could close for crews to cross the pipe under the roadway. This closure will be in place for approximately two weeks and advance notice will be provided.

The underground drainage improvements along 13th Avenue between Zephyr and Carr are very near completion, as crews complete final connections to existing pipes.

The concrete deck on the light rail bridge over Wadsworth is now in place. Work on this bridge continues as crews work on the concrete platform of the station on top of the bridge. The remaining RTD acquired property at 14th and Wadsworth will be taken down later this month, completing the demolition activities in this area.

Drainage improvements on the south side of 13th Avenue at Saulsbury Street have closed the intersection. This activity has taken a little longer than anticipated, as a new design had to be incorporated to accommodate unexpected water lines in the area. Crews expect to have both north and south 13th Avenue open at Saulsbury by the 23rd of July.

The utility conflicts at 13th Avenue and Harlan Street have been resolved and crews are finalizing work on the large drainage structure under the roadway. The unexpected delays in this area have hindered the re-opening of this intersection, but the West Corridor team is confident the roadway will open soon and residents and businesses along this stretch of Harlan Street will find the drainage system a great improvement over the past system and an enhancement to the neighborhood.

#### **Upcoming Activities**

Once underground operations and wall construction are completed along 13th Avenue west of Wadsworth, reconstruction of the 13th Avenue roadway will begin which includes widening and paving. When dates and sequencing of the reconstruction have been determined, the West Corridor PI team will notify local residents.

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

#### **Current and Ongoing Activities**

The light rail bridge over the Consolidated Mainline Railroad tracks is now visible as you pass through the area south of the Auraria Campus. Some of the bridge abutments and columns are in place and construction of the temporary structural towers used to support the spanning bridge has started. Girders on this bridge could be set as early as August.



Crews are grading for curb, gutter and sidewalks on the west side of the Sheridan Bridge to facilitate the traffic switch to the new structure. This traffic switch is scheduled to begin with a full closure of Sheridan on Friday, August 20th through Sunday, August 22. During that weekend, crews will move the traffic control devices and prepare the new structure for vehicular traffic. Sheridan will re-open on Monday, August 23 with all traffic switched to the west side. Construction activity will then begin on the east side of Sheridan with traffic remaining one lane in each direction until the entire street is rebuilt.

Girders on the west portion of the Federal Bridge were successfully set and work continues with deck pours, approach slab construction and final finish work to the structure. A traffic switch on Federal could happen later this summer and, as always, West Corridor PI will provide prior notification of that operation.

The roadway reconstruction of Howard Place and Morrison Road is underway. Howard Place will be relocated slightly to the north in this area. During this construction, Howard Place, Morrison Road and Decatur Street are closed in the area bordered by Mile High Stadium Court, 13th Avenue, and Federal Blvd. Howard Place and Morrison Road will be completed and reopened by August 20th, just in time for the start of the Bronco's season. Decatur will remain closed between Howard Place and 13th Avenue until approximately the end of June 2011 to rebuild the bridge over the channel at Decatur Street.

Construction of the light rail bridge over the South Platte River is moving along quickly as the temporary structure has pushed out across the river. Crews could begin work on the steel truss by the end of July. To view photos of the construction progress on this bridge, click [here](#).

Concrete platforms and systems foundations are being set in the relocated Auraria West Station. Once the West Corridor line is complete, this station will replace the current station just on the other side of 5th Street. Crews had anticipated heavy utility construction in this area by mid- summer but that work may have to be extended into the later part of this year.

#### **Upcoming Activities**

Underground and wall work will continue throughout the gulch area for the next several months. Construction of the Decatur Street Bridge could start as early as August.

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

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## **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 [Web site](#), where you'll find all the latest

information about the West Corridor.

**Where Can I Get More Information?**

**Web site:**

<http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com>

**E Mail:**

[WestCorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com](mailto:WestCorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com)

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