



Community

Information Line:

303-299-2401

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.

WELCOME

Construction on the West Corridor continues! As 2008 rolls on, construction will begin in several locations along the corridor. Being informed will keep you abreast of current construction activities. We encourage you to get up-to-date information through our e-newsletter and on the West Corridor Web site at www.RTD-FasTracks.com. The West Corridor information phone line will also be updated bi-weekly as construction activities develop. Please call 303.299.2000 for information and follow the prompts for West Corridor.

June 2008

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RTD General Update - RTD wins national transit award

RTD arrives at GMP with contractor - RTD and contractor reach Guaranteed Maximum Price for construction of West Corridor

West Corridor Financial Challenges -- The continuing increase in materials costs creates challenges for the West Corridor?

Kipling Bridge Construction - Get an update on construction activities on the Kipling Street Bridge

Dry Gulch Bridges - Get an update on upcoming construction activities in the Dry Gulch

Subcontractor Corner -YEH and Associates - Meet the subcontractor providing Quality Control and Material Inspections during construction

Project Safety Spotlight - Find out some jobsite safety precautions that will be in place during construction

Website Updates - Find out what information is currently available on the RTD West Corridor website

Utility Relocations - Get an update on utility relocations happening in your neighborhood

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

RTD General Update

We announce with great pleasure that RTD has been named Outstanding Public Transportation System in North America for 2008 by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). This is the highest award given by APTA, the country's largest transportation association, and this is the third time RTD has been honored with this prestigious achievement. The last time was in 2003.

However, even the most outstanding transit agency faces tough times. As the nation reels from skyrocketing fuel prices and a dramatic spike in the cost of steel, concrete, copper and other essential construction materials, RTD is diligently pursuing strategies and tactics to manage these unforeseen cost increases while keeping FasTracks on track.

Fuel costs are not only dramatically impacting family incomes, but also industries like RTD that rely on fuel to operate. Families that used to have

money available to purchase discretionary items that are subject to local and RTD sales taxes are no longer spending as freely. Purchases are down, sales tax revenues are down and the trend continues. These factors acknowledged, RTD reexamines its cost and revenue projections on a daily basis and through an annual comprehensive program evaluation to keep FasTracks viable and moving forward.

We are all looking forward to better economic times, but we are proud to say that even during these challenges, things at RTD are still running smoothly. Ridership is up and RTD is being recognized nationally for its outstanding service to the Denver area.

With the continued support of our many partners, we are confident that RTD will overcome these challenges and maintain its title as the best transit agency in the country.

RTD BOARD APPROVES GMP FOR DTCG

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) and the contractor, Denver Transit Construction Group, have reached agreement on a Guaranteed Maximum Price for construction of the West Corridor light rail project. This marks a major milestone for RTD's FasTracks transit expansion program, moving forward with the first rail corridor to be built through FasTracks. Including the final construction contract price, the total project cost of the West Corridor will be \$707 million, which reflects the unprecedented escalation in the cost of construction materials and fuel. The total West Corridor project cost prior to an agreement with Denver Transit Construction Group (DTCG) was \$634 million. However, the increased costs of materials and fuel in the current market are impacting construction bids.

COST OF MATERIALS AND SCOPE DEFERMENT

Due to continuing escalation of construction materials and fuel prices, the cost to deliver the West Corridor is estimated at \$707 million. Major construction projects nationally and globally are being negatively impacted by dramatic cost spikes in steel, concrete, copper, labor and fuel, which are affecting bid prices. In a time when many public entities are having to forego or delay their infrastructure projects, RTD is still committed to building the West Corridor within the established schedule and within the financial capacity provided by voters.

FTA has committed an additional \$18 million in New Starts funding for the West Corridor to help compensate for unanticipated market increases. In addition, RTD will accommodate the increased costs by deferring some non-essential project elements and reallocating available monies within the overall FasTracks budget. There is a contingency reserve built into the West Corridor budget, and if contingency funds are available toward the end of project construction, West Corridor stakeholders will work with RTD to prioritize the elements to be restored in the project.

The deferrals are not service critical elements and include some items that RTD would like to implement, but is willing to defer since they aren't essential to the project. They include things like simplifying canopy designs and reducing station amenities including benches, windscreens and bike racks.

Even with the deferrals we've been forced to make, RTD is being fiscally

responsible while maintaining the essential elements of the West Corridor project and general integrity of the FasTracks plan - getting from point A to point B, and providing stations and parking.

KIPLING BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the Kipling Street Bridge is progressing rapidly. The abutment walls on both sides of Kipling Street are in place and DTCG's subcontractor, Edward Kraemer and Sons will be placing the girders over Kipling Street overnight on Wednesday, June 25, 2008. Due to this construction activity, Kipling Street will be closed to vehicular traffic from 9:00 pm on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 through 5:00 am Thursday, June 26, 2008. Temporary signs will soon be apparent on Kipling Street, giving advance notice of this closure.

In an effort to keep side street traffic to a minimum, the scheduled detour for this construction work will move traffic from Kipling Street at Colfax Avenue on the north and 10th Avenue on the south to either Simms Street or Wadsworth Boulevard.

To see a graphic of bridge elements and learn the difference between an abutment and a girder, [click here](#). If you have any questions or concerns regarding this road closure, please call the West Corridor Construction line at 303-238-2241.

DRY GULCH BRIDGES

Construction on the pedestrian bridges at Wolff Street, Tennyson Street and Hazel Court; and the light rail bridges crossing the east and west Dry Gulch are scheduled to begin in early July 2008. Meza Construction will begin setting temporary fencing and construction signage along the corridor at Wolff Street, Tennyson Street and Hazel Court to prepare for construction. There should be minimal interruptions to traffic for this activity, as most of the work will happen in the RTD right-of-way in this area.

At the same time, Edward Kraemer and Sons will be preparing areas near the east and west Dry Gulch Bridges, where crews will replace the existing bridges to facilitate West Corridor light rail.

Current scheduling indicates construction of all gulch bridges should take five to six months to complete.

SUBCONTRACTOR CORNER

YEH and Associates, Inc. is a full service geotechnical engineering and materials testing firm that will provide Quality Control, material testing and inspections during the West Corridor construction.

YEH and Associates has two in-house testing laboratories in Colorado; one in Englewood and the other serving the western slope in Rifle. These labs are fully equipped and staffed with trained, certified personnel. Licensed professional engineers oversee the lab testing and the labs are capable of performing rock and soil properties tests as well as an array of asphalt, concrete, masonry and steel tests.

YEH and Associates believes that the key to a successful construction project is good field control of construction materials. Their expert staff will provide field testing technicians and inspectors to ensure that the materials used in the construction of the West Corridor meet the strict guidelines set forth by RTD's

specifications.

YEH and Associates, led by Shan-Tai Yeh, Richard Andrew and Roger Pihl, employs over 30 professionals and technicians and provides services to a diverse clientele. The firm is certified as a Small Disadvantaged Business, an Underutilized Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and a Minority-Owned Business Enterprise.

YEH will be working closely with the Denver Transit Construction Group's Quality Control team throughout the construction of the West Corridor.

PROJECT SAFETY

As the West Corridor gears up for major construction in the fall, jobsite safety will be a high priority. The West Corridor Safety Plan includes precautionary measures and guidelines outlined by the Federal government. As in any construction work zone, hardhats and steel-toed boots are required. Multi-colored warning tape is displayed around the jobsite; different colors of tape indicate different messages. Yellow tape indicates caution; this area can be accessed by anyone who is authorized to be on the jobsite. Red tape indicates that imminent danger exists and only authorized personnel performing actual work are allowed into this barricaded area.

All workers must wear what is called 100% 6-Foot Fall Protection. This equipment requires workers to be tied off and secured to ensure their safety when working at an elevation of 6 feet or more. Fall Protection equipment is inspected daily. Violations to this policy and its equipment guidelines when working at an elevation of 6 feet or more will not be tolerated.

Look for other project safety topics in future newsletters.

WEBSITE UPDATES

The construction phase of the West Corridor, while just beginning, will be a huge task for years to come. In anticipation of one of the largest infrastructure construction projects in the metro region, the Public Information (PI) team has updated the website to include more of the information you'll be looking for.

A "Construction Information" page has been added that will inform you of Denver Transit Construction Group's activities, utility relocation activities and up-to-date road closure information. This page will be updated regularly, during the course of construction, to better prepare the neighborhoods, traveling public, local businesses and schools. To find the Construction Information page, log on to www.RTD-FasTracks.com, click on West Corridor and then click on Construction Information.

In response to a community request, the PI team has also added another link to the web site called "Construction Discussion". This page will be interactive and available for all to view. If you have a construction question, please use this page to get answers from the project team. This link will allow your questions and our responses to be viewed by anyone visiting the link.

Users will also be able to have open discussion regarding the project. This should allow web site visitors an opportunity to become better acquainted with the West Corridor construction project and to see the concerns of other residents on the corridor. To get to the "Construction Discussion" link, please [click here](#).

UTILITY RELOCATIONS

In addition to the colored bar graph that has been used in the past, if you're interested, we've added a "Four week look-ahead" utility relocation schedule. This schedule will detail specific tasks that will be undertaken in an effort to relocate utilities for the construction of the West Corridor Light Rail line. Keep in mind that all construction activities are subject to change without notice. To view the bar graph, [click here](#). To view the detailed schedule, [click here](#).

HOW CAN I GET (OR STAY) INVOLVED?

One of the best ways to get information that will help you stay involved in the West Corridor construction phase 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 the project evolves, it will be important to keep all members of the community informed on 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 address 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: www.RTD-FasTracks.com

E Mail: WestCorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com

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