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Community

Information Line:

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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

With elections over and Thanksgiving right around the corner, one might think construction operations would have slowed down. That's not the case on the West Corridor! Unseasonably dry/warm weather the past month enabled crews to push through major activities that normally would have been set aside until spring. These completed operations have launched us one step closer to moving construction inside the guideway and a little further from your homes and businesses.

We encourage you to stay up-to-date with the most current construction information by becoming a subscriber to our e-newsletter. You can sign up by visiting the West Corridor [website](#), and while there, utilize the tools that have been established to keep you updated on progress and impacts.

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WEST CORRIDOR PROJECT STATUS

On Friday, November 12, the West Corridor staff updated local Elected Officials on the status of construction activities. Through the end of September, construction of bridges and structures was 85% complete, construction of walls was 70% complete, underground utility work was 80% complete and sub-ballast installation was 40% complete. Overall, construction of the West Corridor is approximately 57% complete with an on-time completion of construction on track for the project. To view the Elected Officials presentation, click [here](#).

SHERIDAN PARKING STRUCTURE

On Thursday, November 11, RTD presented initial plans for the Sheridan parking structure at a public information meeting held at Mountair Church at 14th and



Benton. The 800-space parking structure will be located at the northwest corner of 10th Avenue and Sheridan and will serve the Sheridan light rail station, located under the newly constructed Sheridan Boulevard.

The parking structure and the surrounding area will include the four- or five-story parking garage, bus stops along Sheridan and 10th Avenue, a drop-off/pick-up area within the structure, roadway improvements along Sheridan and 10th Avenue, a water quality pond, pedestrian connections to the light rail station and provisions for future solar panels and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

In addition, the structure will have a right in/right out access from Sheridan, left and right turn lanes from eastbound 10th Avenue onto Sheridan and Ames Street will be relocated to the west with access to the parking garage from Ames.

RTD representatives presented two possible designs; one rectangular (4-sided) and one Penta (5-sided), as well as the pros and cons of each alternative. The preferred alternative is expected to be set by December and the Request for Proposals for Design/Build contractors should be released in spring 2011, with construction starting in 2012. The structure will be complete and ready for opening in May of 2013, when light rail opens.

To see the presentation including the drawings, timeline and additional information, click [here](#).

FEEDING MINDS ENRICHING LIVES FOOD PANTRY

Molholm Elementary located at 6000 W. 9th Avenue is an elementary school close to the West Corridor line. The school hosts a food pantry through the Feeding Minds Enriching Lives non-profit organization established by 6th grade teacher Alexandria Ralat. The program, designed to eliminate childhood hunger and increase academic and social success, feeds approximately 51 families per week.



Sadly, one out of every ten students at Molholm experience homelessness and 96% qualify for free and reduced lunch. Many of the children fast 17.5 hours until they return to school for their morning meal. In fact, school meals may be the only food they have in a day. But the needs at Molholm extend to more than food. Children are also in need of cold weather gear including hats, gloves and coats.

Cash and food donations contribute to the year-round program that supplies food to qualified families. Currently the program is in need of turkeys and cash donations but non-perishable food

donations are always accepted. Feeding Minds has been selected as the "school food pantry model" for the state of Colorado.

All donations, checks, and volunteer inquiries need to be made to Feeding Minds directly not Molholm Elementary. If you are interested in donating or would like more information on the program click [here](#), or contact Alexandria Ralat at aralat@jeffco.k12.co.us.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

Construction of the parking garage at the Jefferson County Government Center begins this week as Hyder Construction, the subcontractor building the garage, will be mobilizing equipment into the area and begin drilling caissons. Hyder will



have several subcontractors working under them and construction of the garage should take approximately 18 months.

The area between Johnson Road and Ulysses Street is being rough graded to prepare for installation of sub-ballast in early December. Rail crews are working on the track crossing at Ulysses Street simultaneously. Upon completion of the crossing, Ulysses will be paved and opened back up to vehicular traffic. The official "opening" is expected by the end of November. Work on Ulysses Street has been a long and complicated process and the West Corridor team would like to thank the businesses and residents in this area for their patience and cooperation during construction.

Moving from I -70 to the east, motorists on 6th Avenue can see continuous activity as crews level the future light rail guideway, continue erecting ballast walls adjacent to the guideway, installing duct bank and placing fencing. Rail has been distributed along the guideway between Union and I-70 and foundation work at the Red Rocks Community College station is nearing completion.

Work on the Indiana Bridge is winding down and crews will soon begin installing rail on top of the bridge. The left-hand turn lanes from Indiana onto 6th Avenue may be opened back up this winter, returning the area to its original traffic flow pattern.

Upcoming Activities

Guideway construction, sub-ballast and rail installation west of Union will continue through the end of the year.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

Underground work on the passenger station at the Federal Center is progressing rapidly as platforms are being poured and the systems foundations are



being installed. Ballast placement is in the early stages, but should be completed by the end of this month. Work on Routt Street will continue through the end of the year.

Civil construction of the bridge over 6th Avenue has reached significant completion and crews will soon begin installing the LED lights on the arch and placing rail on the structure. The lights on the bridge will not be turned on until the West Corridor opens.

Work between 8th Avenue and Collins continues. Crews have completed the installation of the Traction Powered Substation (TPSS) foundations, the grounding mat and the bottom ballast in this area. Final ballast and rail installation will begin next month.

Drainage work on Oak Street has been completed but work continues on the platform footings for the Oak Street passenger station. The platforms and plaza paving are scheduled to be completed by the end of December.

The bottom ballast will be placed in the guideway between Quail and Kipling this week and crews will be painting the walls inside the guideway. Sound wall installation between Independence and Garrison is ongoing.

We made it! 13th Avenue between Garrison and Zephyr is sporting new asphalt. The areas between Garrison and Estes and Carr and Zephyr are relishing in all three layers of asphalt. Weather dependent, residents between Estes and Carr could see the final layer of asphalt within the next week. A few final touches to manholes and drainage improvements will complete operations on and under the roadway in this area. As we mentioned last month, final asphalt on the north/south cross streets will be done in spring or summer of 2011.

Final design is in place for the betterments on the Wadsworth station and construction crews are excited to get back to work on the platforms on top of the bridge. Look for an influx of construction activity on the bridge in the coming weeks.

Work on storm drainage improvements between Teller Street and Upham Street have resumed. A slight delay of this operation came into play because of third party utility conflicts. A redesign that allowed utility owners to leave their services in place created a window of opportunity for crews to get back in and finish the underground work this season. 13th Avenue between Saulsbury and Upham Street will be temporarily paved by the end of November with reconstruction of 13th Avenue between Wadsworth and Harlan Street scheduled for next spring or summer.

Installation of sound and ballast walls continues east of Wadsworth, but work on the vehicle barrier walls at Otis Street has been temporarily suspended as crews sort out some unexpected utility conflicts. When work resumes on these walls,

the south side of 13th Avenue between Pierce and Newland will close. As always, the West Corridor PI team will notify residents prior to the closure.

Work on the drainage structures and channel between Harlan Street and Sheridan Boulevard will continue through the winter. The channel is being widened to better facilitate water flow in this area.

Upcoming Activities

Work on drainage improvements under Independence Street at 13th Avenue will begin at the end of November. This activity will require the closure of Independence but, in an effort to accommodate school traffic, West Corridor crews will work during the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The entire activity should take no more than 3 weeks.

Several track crossings may be constructed in Area 2 this winter. Weather pending, the crossings at Collins, Quail, Oak, Independence, Garrison, Estes and Carr will be completed by spring. The West Corridor Public Information team will notify residents prior to construction of the crossings, as this activity will require road closures where the roads intersect with the guideway.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

Girders were successfully set on the Sheridan Bridge in October and crews continue working on the bridge deck. Underground utility work and wall construction are prevalent under and around the bridge. The eastbound track has been installed between Sheridan Boulevard and Perry Street. For a glimpse of the track at this location, click [here](#).



Underground work on the Perry Street station is complete and crews will be backfilling the station gravel and paving the platform later this month. Wall construction continues east of the Perry Street station, all the way to Knox Court.

Construction of the Federal Boulevard Bridge is ongoing and crews are hoping to set girders on the east side of the structure in early December. A pump around has been installed to divert water around construction operations under Federal Boulevard. The channel in this area will be widened to match the width of the channel improvements currently being done by the City and County of Denver, just east of Federal Blvd.

Work on the new Decatur Street Bridge is moving along quickly with caissons and abutment walls in place. Girders will be placed on the bridge this week and then construction will continue on the deck.

The steel truss on the light rail bridge over the South Platte River is completely in place and work on the deck is in progress. After some unexpected delays, crews are again setting girders on the

bridge over the Consolidated Main Line rail tracks and underground work continues in the area between 13th Avenue and Old Colfax and Shoshone Street and Umatilla Street. These improvements should be completed this winter.

Upcoming Activities

Burlington Northern and Union Pacific will complete their track switches to accommodate light rail later this month.

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

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 [website](#), where you'll find all the latest information about the West Corridor.

Where Can I Get More Information?

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