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RTD FasTracks

west rail line

eNEWS



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Welcome

As classes resume in our local schools, construction of the West Rail Line progresses. Road construction is still a high priority as we take advantage of the “good weather” season. We encourage you to visit the [West Rail](#) website often for the latest information and while there, become a subscriber to our e-newsletter and utilize the tools that have been established to keep you updated on progress and impacts.

Federal Center Station Opens

The opening of the Federal Center Station on July 31, 2011 marked the first major element to open on the West Rail Line. To celebrate this milestone, RTD held a grand opening event on July 28. More than 130 people from the community attended the ceremonial event. Guest speakers included Lee Kemp, RTD Chairman of the Board; Jim Starling, RTD Project Manager of the West Rail Line; Sue Damour, Regional Administrator of U.S. General Services Administration; Bob Murphy, Mayor of Lakewood; and Matt Cohen, RTD Director, District M.



Attendees had the opportunity to view photos of the Federal Center Station's construction progress over the past year and enjoy breakfast from event sponsor, Jason's Deli. To top off the grand opening, more than 100 red, white, black, and teal biodegradable balloons were released as an RTD hybrid bus drove by the attendees.

While the Federal Center Station will not serve the West Rail Line until May 2013, it will serve as a parking area and bus transfer facility, taking over for the Cold Spring park-n-Ride that officially closed on July 31. The number of parking spaces increased from 646 at Cold Spring to 1,000 at the new Federal Center Station.

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Workforce Initiative Now (WIN)

On June 9, 2011, RTD was awarded a \$486,465 Innovative Workforce

Development grant by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The monies will be used toward RTD's new Workforce Initiative Now (WIN) program - an innovative sector-based workforce partnership that leverages existing training providers to assess, train and place community members into careers in transportation and transit construction careers, starting with the East Rail Line, the Gold Line, and the first segment of the Northwest Rail Line. The FTA approved the full amount RTD applied for, which represents the largest job training and placement grant awarded through the FTA's Innovative Workforce Development Grants program to date.

WIN funding will:

- Increase job opportunities for unemployed and underemployed workers
- Provide foundational training for unskilled workers
- Provide upgrade training for construction and transit workers, both unemployed and employed, to support skill development
- Place participants into transportation and transit construction careers
- Develop a replicable model of community workforce development that can be implemented nationwide

WIN is a collaborative of more than 30 community-based organizations, community and technical colleges, industry training providers, small businesses, and workforce development regions to help participants attain and retain jobs with living wage careers in the transit and construction industries. This new initiative also meets the hiring and training needs of employers in transit and construction by streamlining access to skilled and highly motivated employees, saving time and costs related to hiring, training, retaining workers, and connecting employers to hiring incentives such as Work Opportunity Tax Credits and On-The-Job-Training reimbursements...it's a WIN/WIN for the Colorado workforce .

This program is a workforce partnership between RTD, the Community College of Denver, the Urban League of Metro Denver and Denver Transit Partners, the contractor for the Eagle P3 project.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

- Crews are working on sub-ballast and the guideway at the Jefferson County Government Center.
- Walls at the Jefferson County Government Center Station will be poured this week.
- Crews continue underground work on Johnson Road requiring lane closures. However, in early to mid-September, road construction will require a full closure of Johnson Road. Check the West Rail [Road Closure](#) page often for updates on traffic impacts in and around this area.
- Upon completion of roadway improvements on Johnson Road, final road



improvements on Ulysses will begin.

- The demolition and reconstruction of the cul-de-sacs at Kendrick Street, Juniper Street and McIntyre Street on the north side of 6th Avenue will require road closures from 7th Avenue to 6th Avenue. Local business and residential access will always be maintained.
- The westbound 6th Avenue on-ramp from Indiana Street has been restored to two lanes. Crews will now begin to restore the eastbound 6th Avenue on-ramp from Indiana to its original configuration of three turn lanes onto eastbound 6th Avenue. The 6th Avenue on-ramp at Indiana could close overnight for paving operations later this month. Again, check the West Rail [Road Closure](#) page for detailed information.
- Roadway improvements continue to require lane closures on Union Boulevard and the 6th Avenue on and off ramps at Union Boulevard. Road reconstruction in this area will continue through August.
- The new Federal Center Station opened on Sunday, July 31, 2011 and the Cold Spring park-n-Ride has closed. Demolition of the Cold Spring lot is nearing completion and crews will soon begin tunnel excavation under Union.

Upcoming Activities

Drainage improvements under North Avenue near the Federal Center Station will begin later this month.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

- Unforeseen circumstances have required the continued closure of Collins Avenue between Simms Street and Quail Street. Collins Avenue is scheduled to re-open by Saturday, August 20, 2011.
- Relocation of a Qwest vault on Quail Street could be completed later this month. Upon completion, West Rail crews will move back into the area to complete roadway reconstruction.
- Third party utility relocations on Oak Street and Quail Street continue. West Rail crews will move back in for road work when these relocations are completed.
- Construction of the bike path west of Kipling continues. The path between Kipling Street and Garrison Street has been completed and crews are moving east.
- Reconstruction of Independence Street and drainage improvements require the continued closure of Independence Street. Current scheduling indicates Independence could open as early as August 18.
- Shelters at the Garrison Street Station have been set.
- Estes Street between 10th Avenue and 14th Avenue is now open. West Rail crews will return to this area to place the final top lift of asphalt at a later date.
- Lamar Street between 14th Avenue and 11th Avenue is now open.
- Harlan Street is currently closed for installation of the track crossing. Barring any unforeseen circumstance, Harlan Street should reopen by the end of



August.

Upcoming Activities

- The reconstruction of 13th Avenue between Zephyr Street and Yukon Street will begin later this month, requiring the closure of 13th Avenue between these two intersections.
- Construction of the hammerheads at 13th Avenue on Brentwood Street, Ammons Street, Allison Street, Zephyr Street and Yarrow Street should begin in late August or early September.
- Reconstruction of 13th Avenue on the south side between Wadsworth Boulevard and Vance Street should begin in late August or early September.
- Reconstruction of 13th Avenue on the south side between Vance Street and Teller Street will follow the construction between Wadsworth Boulevard and Vance Street.
- Reconstruction of 13th Avenue on the north side between Vance Street and Teller Street will begin in late August or early September. Check the West Rail [Road Closure](#) page for detailed information on all upcoming closures.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

- Construction of the passenger station under Sheridan Boulevard continues and shelters could be set as early as mid-September
- Work on the Knox Court Station continues with platform paving and electrical installations.
- Federal Boulevard opened this morning in its final configuration of two lanes of traffic in each direction and a center turn lane.
- West Rail crews are working on preliminary activities for the Federal/Decatur station. Work here will continue for several months.
- Paving operations will require the closure of Morrison Road for two days early this week.
- Decatur Street will reopen on Friday, August 19th to accommodate Bronco season traffic. Once Decatur Street is open, West Rail crews will close Zuni Street to install waterlines and storm drainage systems.
- Current scheduling indicates Shoshone Street will open later this week. Once Shoshone is open, crews will begin work on 13th Avenue near the Burnham Yard lead railroad tracks.
- Rail and station construction, underground utility relocations and track configuration in and around the Auraria campus continues.
- All light rail lines through the Central Platte Valley are now open after the successful tie-in to the West Rail Line. The Auraria West passenger station will remain closed through the fall, but all other light rail stations in the Central Platte Valley have re-opened.



Upcoming Activities

The bike path connection at the Wolff Street crossing will begin in early to mid-September as will the reconstruction of the bike path between Perry Street and Knox Court. Reconstruction of Knox Court could begin as early as August 26th requiring the closure of Knox Court between 10th Avenue and 13th Avenue.

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

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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 email address. Our periodic emails will provide you with information essential to being an active participant. Visit our [website](#), where you'll find all the latest information about the West Corridor. As full construction continues for the next 18 months, it is the best way to stay informed of construction activities.

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