



Community

Information Line:

303-299-2401

rtdwestcorridor.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 Jefferson County Government Center.

E-NEWS



## WELCOME!

The West Corridor design team is happy to report another successful month for the project. September wrapped up with the fall series of Public Open Houses and Urban Design Committee meetings as the project team presented updates on a variety of topics. We encourage you to continue visiting our Web site regularly for new and exciting updates. Your support has been as strong as ever, and we look forward to receiving more of your comments and suggestions as the project moves along.

### October 2006

#### In this issue you will find:

[September Combined Public Open House and Urban Design Committee Meeting Update](#) - A review of the September combined meeting series, with specific information regarding 6th Avenue bridge construction and trackway barriers, as well as updates on the noise study and bike path design.

[Coffee with Dennis Small Group Meeting Fall Schedule](#) - Learn more about upcoming meeting dates and how to get involved.

[Environmental Assessment \(EA\) Update](#) - On schedule, the EA will be available for review in early 2007.

[How Can I Get \(and Stay\) Involved?](#) - Get a list of available resources.

[Where Can I Get More Information](#) - Find out where to get more information on meetings and events, and the best ways to have your questions answered.

### *September Combined Public Open House and Urban Design Committee Meetings*

In a unique combined Public Open House and Urban Design Committee (UDC) forum, the West Corridor project team provided a variety of information related to railing, fence and wall selections, as well as new details on bridge and bike path construction. The following provides updates on some of these topics, as well as a

noise study update.

### **Bridge over 6th Avenue**

The design of the bridge over 6th Avenue, just east of Simms and Union, has been a topic of discussion over the past couple of months. This is a complicated bridge because it will completely span 6th Avenue, including the frontage roads, with no intermediate piers. There are only a few bridge structure types that will achieve that engineering objective. The discussion has focused on two basic structure types: the Warren Truss and the Basket Handle Tied Arch. These bridge types have been discussed at length with the City of Lakewood, the Denver Federal Center and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and during meetings with West Corridor area elected officials and the West Corridor UDCs. RTD is recommending the Basket Handle Tied Arch. For more details, please visit our [Web site](#) and click on the bridge image you wish to view.

### **Barriers along Trackway**

As you are aware, the West Corridor light rail will travel through parks and neighborhoods. Safety is a priority at RTD and pedestrian trespassing is a common problem for light rail systems around the country. RTD is recommending that barriers be built on both sides of the light rail track area to prevent children and pets from wandering onto the tracks. These barriers will be approximately 42" high and can be a solid wall and/or fencing. However, final aesthetic design has not yet been determined. Pedestrians will still be able to cross the tracks at all open intersections. RTD continues to work toward a balance between safe, efficient light rail operations and neighborhood cohesion. Several streets along the West Corridor line will be affected by permanent closures. From east to west, the streets scheduled to close, as identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), include:

- Cottonwood Street at 14th Avenue
- Marshall Street
- Otis Street
- Vance Street
- Allison Street
- Brentwood Street
- Holland Street
- Nelson Street

### **Noise Study Update**

KM Chng Environmental, Inc., subconsultant for David

Evans and Associates (DEA), the West Corridor design team, has completed the background noise measurements to establish the baseline conditions for the West Corridor. The next step is to calculate the projected noise levels from light rail operations and confirm that areas identified in the FEIS will be impacted by noise. For more details please visit our [Web site](#), and click on the "Noise Level Comparisons" graphic to view on screen. Please note you may also download the graphic for viewing using the link at the bottom of the screen.

Once the noise impacts are confirmed, RTD will discuss potential mitigation measures with the affected neighborhoods. In addition, the noise consultant will be at the [Coffee with Dennis](#) sessions on October 24 and 25, so sign up if you are interested in learning more.

### **Bike Path Update**

The West Corridor project team is making progress on the final design of the bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the corridor. One of the major pieces of this effort is finalizing the preliminary plans for the bike path between Sheridan Boulevard and Quail Street, which were produced for the FEIS. The main efforts in this area have been:

- Coordinating the bicycle and pedestrian facilities with all the other elements required to have a successful and functional light rail system. The bicycle and pedestrian facilities designers have worked with others on the engineering team to coordinate between all disciplines to pursue a great end-product for everyone.
- Developing concept designs for potential bike path bridges over Wadsworth Boulevard and Kipling Street. Although the FEIS did not include these facilities, the City of Lakewood obtained funding from the Denver Regional Council of Governments for these two potential enhancements. The engineering design team is currently examining these enhancements for feasibility, cost and constructability.
- Working through specific design challenges as the project team continues to receive more detailed information than what was gathered during the FEIS process. This may result in minor changes from the assumptions in the FEIS. For example, one area that has been affected is near the Oak

Street Station. The alignment is "space challenged" near this station due to station elements, a bus transfer facility and park-n-Ride, light rail operations, safety requirements and access. The bicycle and pedestrian facilities designers are working with the engineering team to develop the best alternative for maintaining a bike path in this area.

We will keep you up to date as the project team works through the design and resolves these challenges.

### *Coffee with Dennis Small Group Meeting Fall Schedule*

One of our primary public involvement efforts, our *Coffee with Dennis* series, will take place again at the end of October. These small group meetings have been extremely well received and offer the public the opportunity to meet with Project Manager Dennis Cole and other members of the design team. Our meeting format has evolved during these last several months and although our next round will be focused on specific topics, you are welcome to come and discuss anything on your mind.

Of particular note, on October 18, Steve Long, Project Engineer with DEA, will preside and be available to answer detailed questions related to the 65 percent design completion, in addition to general project-related questions. This project milestone is quickly approaching and will mark a significant objective in the design process. Also, on October 24 and 25, Rich Letty from KM Chng will be available to answer questions related to noise impacts and the noise analysis process.

<b>October Dates</b>	<b>October Locations</b>	<b>October Times</b>
Oct. 17 <b>(Full)</b>	Lakewood <b>(Full)</b>	12:00 noon <b>(Full)</b>
<b>Oct. 18</b>	Lakewood	5:30 p.m.
<b>Oct. 19</b>	Denver	7:00 a.m.
<b>Oct. 24</b>	Lakewood	5:30 p.m.
<b>Oct. 25</b>	Lakewood	12:00 noon

Oct. 26

Denver

12:00 noon

Be sure to [visit us online to sign up](#) for one or several of these dates! Reservations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis and space is limited.

### *Environmental Assessment (EA) Update*

The EA is proceeding on schedule. The project team will incorporate input received during the combined Public Open House and UDC meeting into the analysis that is being completed. The project team has been meeting with state and federal agencies to minimize impacts to resources such as wetlands and historic assets. Additionally, preliminary noise and vibration impact information will be available in early November. The EA will be available for public review in January of 2007.

### *How Can I Get (or Stay) Involved?*

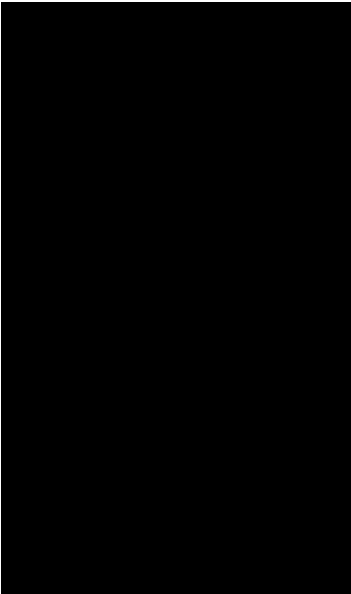
Getting and staying involved in the West Corridor project is essential to ensuring a successful process! We strongly encourage you to register via our Web site by providing your e-mail and regular mailing addresses to receive periodic updates on new information, events and activities. Encouraging your friends and neighbors to add themselves to the list is another way to make sure everyone in your community is kept informed about the project. Visit us online at [www.rtdwestcorridor.com](http://www.rtdwestcorridor.com) and click on the "Get Involved Now" link for several ways to be part of the process!

### *Where Can I Get More Information?*

Web site:	<u><a href="http://www.rtdwestcorridor.com">www.rtdwestcorridor.com</a></u>
E-mail:	<u><a href="mailto:rtdwestcorridor@praco.com">rtdwestcorridor@praco.com</a></u>
Phone:	Kim Podobnik, 303-779-3392 Brenda Tierney, 303-299-2401
Mail:	RTD West Corridor c/o PRACO 5460 S. Quebec St., Suite 330 Greenwood Village, CO 80111

### **Communication Assistance Available**

The following communication assistance is available for all



**299-2401 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to discuss your special needs and request for accommodation.**

