

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



#### 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 West Corridor project team is gearing up for heavy road construction as DTCG maximizes crews for their final summer on the civil construction portion of the project. To stay abreast of construction information, visit the West Corridor [website](#) often and become a subscriber to our e-newsletter. While on the website, utilize the tools that have been established to keep you updated on progress and impacts.

### In This Issue:

[RTD'S CALL TO THE PEOPLE](#)

[HISTORIC MONUMENT PRESERVED](#)

[WEST CORRIDOR TOURS](#)

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

[CONSTRUCTION UPDATE –AREA 2 \(East of the Federal Center to Sheridan\)](#)

[CONSTRUCTION UPDATE –AREA 3 \(East of Sheridan to the Auraria Campus\)](#)

[HOW CAN I GET \(OR STAY\) INVOLVED?](#)

## RTD'S CALL TO THE PEOPLE

The Regional Transportation District wants to hear from YOU! As the RTD Board of Directors contemplates whether to pursue a sales tax increase vote in 2011 to complete the FasTracks program, we want to provide them with as much information as possible to assist in this very important decision. One of the most important pieces of information we are seeking is how the general public feels about this matter being put into their hands this year or perhaps sometime in the future.



From April 3 – April 22, 2011, RTD is putting out a "Call to the People" asking you to tell us what you think. Below is a link to a brief personal video message from RTD General Manager Phil Washington. Please view the video message about FasTracks, why we are looking for additional revenues to complete the program and when RTD should bring a tax vote to the public to decide. Then weigh in on this important regional matter by telling us your preference on a potential sales tax vote by selecting one of the below options:

1. In 2011 to complete FasTracks in the next 8 years by 2019.
2. In the future, which will increase the cost and schedule for completing FasTracks.
3. With no additional sales taxes, which would complete FasTracks in the next 31 years by 2042.

You can weigh in through one of three ways by April 22:

- Take a quick online survey on our website at [rtd-denver.com](http://rtd-denver.com).
- Text, "2011" or "FUTURE" or "NONE" to 720.336.3303.
- Call 303-299-2000 and follow the prompts.

To learn more, view our video message at [rtd-denver.com](http://rtd-denver.com). There's still one week for you to "Drive the Train".

## HISTORIC MONUMENT PRESERVED

RTD and DTCG recently assisted in the preservation of a small piece of history in the Eiber neighborhood; that of the last remaining relic of the historic Smith Farm – a cobblestone fence post marking the southwest corner boundary of the farm.



What is now known as the Eiber neighborhood – a north Lakewood neighborhood existing between Wadsworth Blvd and Oak St – developed as the Denver metro region began to transition from homesteaded farmland to rural residential use in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Around the turn of the 20th century, many of these farms were subdivided into five-acre lots.

One of the last farms to be subdivided in the area was the Smith farm, located in the vicinity of Colfax Ave. and Garrison Street (known at the time as Smith Rd). With the advent of the trolley line in the 1890s, a stop – known as Smith Station – was constructed at Smith Rd and what is now 13th Ave, and was primarily used as a landing for getting local produce, from the Smith farm and others, to Denver markets. The Smith farm is believed to have produced sugar beets, as some of the local elders recall.

In post-WWII 1940s, the Smith farm was partially subdivided into small lots fronting Garrison St, whereupon several officers' quarters from Lowry AFB were relocated. Behind these bungalows, the remaining Smith property was converted to a small 9 hole, par 3 golf course.

In the early 1970s, shortly after Lakewood's incorporation, another housing boom occurred, and the golf course gave way to apartment complexes and a supermarket, with most of the relocated Lowry homes on Garrison Street being torn down in the process. Along with this teardown went the cobblestone fence posts, including a wrought iron driveway arch set atop two 15-foot cobblestone columns. All that remained to identify the Smith farm's original Garrison frontage was the single corner fence post at 13th and Garrison.

On April 1, 2011, that last remaining fence post was moved intact onto the adjacent private property, in order to vacate the Garrison Street right-of-way and make way for development of RTD's Garrison Station. It is the intent of the private property owner, with the neighborhood's support, to relocate the fence post as close as possible to its original location after construction of the Garrison Station is complete. With some preservation and a bit of TLC, perhaps this marker will remain for another 100 years, helping to recall a bygone era of frontier agriculture on Denver's west side.

## WEST CORRIDOR TOURS

Don't forget to sign up for a tour of West Corridor rail construction. Tours are held on the third Friday of each month (April through September) between 9-11 a.m. If you are interested in attending a tour, please click [here](#). Once you have signed up, you will be notified via email if you have a space on the tour, as well as the location to meet.



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

### Current and Ongoing Activities

- Erection of the parking garage at the Jefferson County Government Center is ongoing.
- The final retaining walls at the Jefferson County Government Center are complete and construction of the pedestrian bridge adjacent to the parking structure will begin within the next month.
- Crews are adding final finishes to the guideway between Colfax and Ulysses.
- Overhead Catenary Systems (OCS) pole installation will begin soon between Union and Indiana.
- Signals installation at the Red Rocks Station platform will begin in the month of April.
- The Traction-Powered Substation (TPSS) conduits near the Colfax Bridge have been installed.
- Street reconstruction is ongoing on 6th Avenue at the I-70 on-ramp and track work continues from Indiana to I-70.
- Construction of sidewalks and bus bays near the Red Rocks Station on the 6th Avenue Frontage Road between Deframe Court and Arbutus Drive will continue through the month of April.



- The station at Red Rocks is now sporting the first platform shelters set on the West Corridor project.
- Crews are installing guardrail on eastbound 6th Avenue from Indiana Street to Simms/Union, requiring a single lane closure on eastbound 6th Avenue during non-peak daytime hours.
- Crews have begun the reconstruction of Union Boulevard and the 6th Avenue on and off ramps at Simms/Union. This activity requires lane closures on Union Boulevard between 8th Avenue and 4th Avenue and may affect the 6th Avenue on and off ramps. Construction work and lane closures will be phased as crews complete activities. To get detailed information about work on Union Boulevard, click [here](#).
- Crews have begun constructing the retaining walls on the east side of the Union Tunnel in the Cold Spring park-n-Ride.
- Construction of the passenger station at the Federal Center and the new Routh Street will continue for the next few months. Current scheduling indicates the Cold Spring park-n-Ride will close on Saturday, June 18, 2011 and the Federal Center Station will open simultaneously for parking and buses.

#### **Upcoming Activities**

Construction activities on Union Boulevard, Routh Street, the new Federal Center Station and wall construction will continue for the next four to six weeks.

---

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

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

- Crews are working on drainage and water system improvements on 8th Avenue between Quail Street and Simms Street. Lane closures will be in place, but two-way traffic will be flagged through this area.



- Current scheduling indicates the reconstruction of Quail Street will begin at the end of this week. Quail Street between Collins Avenue and Colfax Avenue will be closed for approximately two weeks.
- The reconstruction of Oak Street is nearly completed and crews will be moving out of the area by the end of this week.
- Construction of the bike ramp west of the Kipling Bridge continues and crews are preparing to place concrete in early May.
- The “Rail Dogs” continue to lay ties and track from Kipling Street to Wadsworth Boulevard.
- The track crossing at Garrison Street is complete and crews continue to work on the roadway re-surfacing. Current scheduling

indicates Garrison Street should open by the 19th of April.

- Crews continue to work on the TPSS foundation under the Wadsworth Bridge.
- Installation of the systems duct bank between Pierce Street and Reed Street on 13th Avenue has been completed. Ballast wall construction in this area continues.
- The platform work at the Lamar Street station is complete.
- Work on the drainage structures between Harlan Street and Sheridan Boulevard continues with plans to complete the channel work by early May.
- The systems contractor is installing Relay Houses and Communication House foundations in various places along the corridor.

### **Upcoming Activities**

Quail Street will close for approximately two weeks beginning on April 18, 2011 so crews can reconstruct the area near the track crossing. Work will begin on the Richey Park bike path in early May. The reconstruction of Carr Street (north and south of 13th Avenue) and 13th Avenue between Carr and Brentwood should start on April 22. Carr Street will be closed for approximately three weeks for this activity. In late April or early May, crews will be closing Harlan Street during daytime hours to pull rail from Harlan to the west.

---

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

### **Current and Ongoing Activities**

- Work continues on the Sheridan Bridge, the elevator pits and the passenger station below. Sheridan Boulevard should reopen to four lane traffic later this spring.
- Work on the drainage culvert in Perry Street between 12th and 13th Avenues continues. Once the culvert has been backfilled, crews will install the track crossing and repave the road. Perry will re-open early this summer.
- Wall construction in the guideway just west of Knox Court is ongoing, as is work on storm sewer improvements in this area.
- Work on the Federal Bridge continues with traffic signal installation and placement of final support walls near the bridge. Federal Boulevard is expected to open in its final configuration in early summer.
- The drainage structures under and on both sides of Federal Boulevard are rising up quickly and crews may shift the temporary channel at Decatur Street sometime in May. This would tie the West Corridor improvements into the City and County of



Denver's channel improvements.

- Final construction activities on the Decatur Street Bridge continue as crews build retaining walls, install drainage improvements and re-grade the roadway to prepare for final pavement. Decatur Street and all roadways around Invesco Field at Mile High will be open for the 2011 Bronco season.
- Work on the bridge over the South Platte is basically complete. Crews will be installing expansion joints and approach slabs through May 2011.
- The Consolidated Mainline Bridge should also be completed by May 2011.
- Union Pacific Railroad crews have closed 13th Avenue between Osage Street and Rio Court to finalize tie-ins for the freight rail tracks. Once the railroad has completed their operation, West Corridor crews will begin installing the light rail tracks.
- Crews are installing systems foundations and duct banks in the Auraria campus area. This work will continue through May.

#### **Upcoming Activities**

Construction of the West Corridor line will require the closure of light rail through the Central Platte Valley for three weeks in late July, early August to link into the newly relocated Auraria West station. More information on this closing will be forthcoming.

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 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 two years, it is the best way to stay informed of construction activities.

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

**Web site:**

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

**E Mail:**

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

**Phone:**

Kathy Berumen, 303-626-6762

Brenda Tierney, 303-299-2401

RTD West Corridor  
1560 Broadway Suite 700 FAS-WC  
Denver, CO 80202

Our telephone:  
303-299-2000

Copyright (C) 2011 FasTracks Regional Transportation District of Denver (RTD)  
All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#) from this list.  
[Forward](#) this email to a friend  
[Update your profile](#)