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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

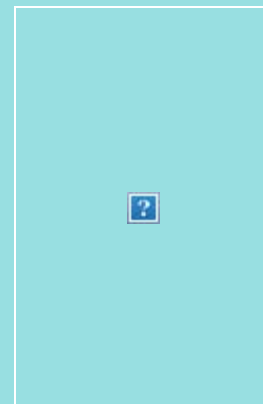
Winter weather has finally found its way to the Denver area and with that, construction efforts are hampered by snow and ice which may cause schedule changes. For the most current and up-to-date information about construction, residents should visit the West Corridor [website](#) often and become a subscriber to our e-newsletter. You can sign up by visiting the website, and while there, utilize the tools that have been established to keep you updated on progress and impacts.

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DTCG WINS COLORADO CONTRACTOR ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Denver Transit Construction Group (DTCG) was honored with several awards for the West Corridor project at the Colorado Contractors Association (CCA) Awards Banquet in late January. In the Safety Category, DTCG won the *Best Overall Safety Group Division 3*, the *Zero Incident Rate Group 3* and the *Most Improved Safety* awards. DTCG was also presented with the Environmental Excellence Award.



The Colorado Contractors Association represents contractors who build the “necessities of life” such as airports, light rail facilities, bridges, dams, highways and streets. The CCA was established in 1933 and is comprised of more than 370 firms. Contractors are awarded membership based upon the nature of their projects and CCA members who are in good standing with the Association are eligible to apply for and receive awards. The goals of these awards are to promote exemplary safety, workforce development and environmental competence and to recognize those CCA

members and their employees who have demonstrated these elements in their performance.

DTCG's safety awards were based on the tabulation of the number of days a contractor went without a recordable safety incident. DTCG and their subcontractors on the project had **zero** recordable safety incidents in 2010. The Environmental Excellence award highlights environmental policies and practices, as well as controls and solutions. DTCG was recognized for their innovative solutions and achievements when encountering operating challenges on the individual jobsites along the corridor. We are very proud to have an environmentally sound and safe contractor leading the way for other contractors yet to come on the FasTracks program.

WEST CORRIDOR - A MASSIVE PROJECT

As construction takes place in many people's front yards, it's sometimes difficult to remember how big this project really is. Not only will the West Corridor project lead to much-needed expanded transportation options for the metro Denver community well into the future, it also currently represents business opportunities and employment for hundreds of local individuals and businesses involved in construction of the project.

When the West Corridor is completely built out, there will have been four General Contractors (GC) involved in the project: Denver Transit Construction Group (DTCG), Balfour Beatty Rail, Inc. (BBRI) and two as yet unknown General Contractors who will build the parking structures at Sheridan Boulevard and Wadsworth Boulevard.

DTCG, currently the most active GC on the project, counts hundreds of people dedicated to construction of the West Corridor. DTCG has contracted with over 45 firms that supply needed materials to the project. They have also subcontracted to over 55 subcontractors who employ crews and purchase supplies from local distributors. RTD has 38 people dedicated to the West Corridor project. In total, more than 500 people are employed due to the West Corridor.

The trucking consortium, consisting of local certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms, has 30 active trucking companies that have utilized 34 tandem trucks, 98 tractors, 35 side dump trailers, 57 end dump trailers, 19 belly dump trailers, six flatbed trucks and two step decks.

Total construction of the West Corridor has used more than a half million man hours and we're only half way through construction!

Any project requires open and quick communications between stakeholders, RTD, construction field forces and you – our neighbors. The sheer size of this project prompted the City of Lakewood to hire an ombudsman to assist Lakewood residents with questions and concerns during the construction phase. Lakewood representatives meet with the DTCG crew on a weekly basis to review plans for the next week. DTCG also holds a daily schedule briefing that outlines activities upcoming the following day and hosts a weekly meeting to present the schedule to RTD and the cities and counties involved in the project.

Even with all this information, things still change. While the Public Information team tries to keep the more than 1000 residents and businesses adjacent to the corridor up-to-date on scheduled activities through e-mail notices and door hangers, we also encourage you to access the website whenever you have questions. On the West Corridor website, there is a [5-week lookahead schedule](#) that is updated every Wednesday. In addition, updated info is posted daily on the [construction](#) and [road closure](#) pages. These website pages will be your best source of information as we head into another summer of escalated construction activity.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Management on the West Corridor project has determined that a minimum temperature must be established before starting any equipment in the morning. If temperatures don't reach that minimum by 10 a.m. it will be considered a weather day, and no construction work will take place. There may be exceptions to the rule, but this is the guideline for work during the coming months.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

The Jefferson County Government Center changes daily as crews continue work on the parking garage, walls and systems installation. The walls for the ramps to access the parking garage are being poured and the precast concrete



fabrication of the structure has begun. Retaining wall construction is underway as well and crews continue to lay out conduits for future systems and Traction Powered Substations (TPSS).

The final grade has been reached on the guideway between Johnson Road and Colfax Avenue and sub-ballast has been placed. Track crews continue to distribute strands of rail between Ulysses and Colfax and the initial track in this area could be in place by the middle of March.

Fencing now sits on top of the Colfax Bridge and evidence of the initial track from I-70 east to Colfax Avenue can be seen from the roadway. Now that crews have completed the installation of plinth (a method of directly attaching the track to the concrete deck) on the Indiana Bridge, they have rolled over to the Colfax Bridge to begin this same process there. Construction of the foundation for the TPSS at Juniper Street continues and the grounding mat will be installed this month. Once the grounding mat is in place, the area will be backfilled.

What is a grounding mat? A high-voltage system such as the TPSS presents potential shock hazard around the building. To eliminate this risk, crews lay out a copper wire grid a few feet under the substation foundation which overlaps the footprint of the site. This grid is then attached to several rods driven into the ground and then to the substation building and the perimeter

fence. This "grounding mat" will prevent shock or electrocution to any person nearby, should there be an electrical fault at the site.

As mentioned above, construction of the plinths on the Indiana Bridge has been completed and the area is currently being cleaned up. Track installation east of the bridge continues and construction of the TPSS foundation at the future Red Rocks Community College Station will continue through February.

Activities in and around Union Boulevard have resumed and demolition of the wall on the east side will soon be visible. The area will be cleared of vegetation, followed by excavation for placement of caissons for the new wall that will retain the guideway as it approaches the tunnel under Union Boulevard.

Construction of the new park-n-Ride at the Federal Center is moving forward and curb and gutter should be placed on Routt Street later this month or in early March. The current schedule is to close the Cold Spring park-n-Ride in May and move all parking and bus operations to the new Federal Center Station about two blocks to the south.

Upcoming Activities

Guideway construction, sub-ballast and rail installation will continue through the winter months, as well as construction at the Federal Center.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

Installation of the LED lights on the 6th Avenue Bridge cables is expected to begin in early March; however they won't be activated until the West Corridor opens. Wall and fencing installation continues between 6th Avenue and Collins Avenue and construction of the TPSS foundation at 8th Avenue should be completed in early March. The track crossing at Oak Street was completed within 10 days in January and Lakewood now boasts its first light rail track crossing.



In early March, crews will begin to distribute rail between Oak Street and Kipling Street. At the same time, fencing on walls between Kipling and Independence will be put into place. The rubber tire ballast mat in this area has been installed and crews are preparing to lay initial ballast between Kipling and Independence later this month.

Construction of the Garrison Street station platform moved quickly and installation of ballast walls and platform paving are the only activities left to complete the foundations for this station.

Work has begun on the elevator pits at the future Wadsworth station and crews will soon begin working on the upper stairs to the station platform. The approach slabs to the bridge will be installed in late February or early March. Once this activity is complete, the wood forms that overhang the bridge will be removed. This activity could require some lane closures on

Wadsworth Boulevard. We will provide notification prior to any closures. Several walls are being constructed on the east side of Wadsworth between Saulsbury and Harlan and grading crews are also in this area preparing for track installation.

The soundwall on the east side of the Wadsworth Bridge has been placed and fencing installation in this area will continue through February. Wall construction is underway between Teller and Lamar and underground work at the Lamar Street Station has begun. Construction of the TPSS foundation on the northeast side of 13th Avenue and Lamar began early last week and will continue through the next few months. Upgrades on the drainage system in Harlan Street will continue through February and Harlan remains closed between 13th Avenue and 11th Avenue. Channel improvements east of Harlan continue with construction of the second drainage structure to widen the channel.

Upcoming Activities

Work on a TPSS foundation under the Wadsworth Bridge will commence in the next few weeks. Wall, guideway and trackwork construction will continue through the winter.

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

Current and Ongoing Activities

Work on the Sheridan Bridge continues, as the approach slabs are being poured and preliminary work on the station under the bridge have begun. Construction of the retaining walls approaching the passenger station at Sheridan will soon be visible.



Construction of a new underground drainage system at Perry Street got underway in late January. This activity requires the complete closure of Perry Street between 12th and 13th Avenues. Once the drainage improvements are completed, crews will install the track crossing and repave the roadway before re-opening Perry Street this summer. To avoid traffic havoc, commuters can use Sheridan Boulevard or Knox Court as a detour around this closure.

Wall construction along the light rail guideway between Perry and Federal continues and the excavation under Federal Boulevard to reconstruct the channel and build four large walls is progressing on schedule. The excavation will significantly change the landscape in this area. Work on the bridge itself continues with a deck pour scheduled for early to mid-March.

Crews working on the Decatur Street Bridge are placing the steel railing and should be pouring the approach slabs in early March. Work on the South Platte River Bridge has been on-hold as crews complete the deck pours on the Consolidated Mainline (CML) Bridge. Once the CML deck is completed, crews will pour the deck on the South Platte River Bridge.

The area in and around the Consolidated Mainline area changes

daily, as crews work on underground improvements, the CML Bridge and coordinate with the Union Pacific railroad relocating their freight rail tracks as needed to facilitate the future light rail tracks.

Work on the Auraria campus continues with Union Pacific crews working to move their tracks. The remainder of the current work in this area is underground.

Upcoming Activities

Construction of the elevator pits at Sheridan will begin in late February or early March. Work on the passenger station at Knox Court could start by the end of February.

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 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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