

# I-225 CORRIDOR

## Times

SUMMER 2009

RTD FASTRACKS QUARTERLY NEWS LINK

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Comments on the DRAFT I-225 Light Rail Corridor Environmental Evaluation will be accepted until August 10, 2009. You may submit your comments at Public Meeting No. 4 on July 22 (meeting times and location on back panel) or:

Online: [www.RTD-FasTracks.com](http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com)  
Click on I-225 Corridor

Email: [I-225@RTD-FasTracks.com](mailto:I-225@RTD-FasTracks.com)

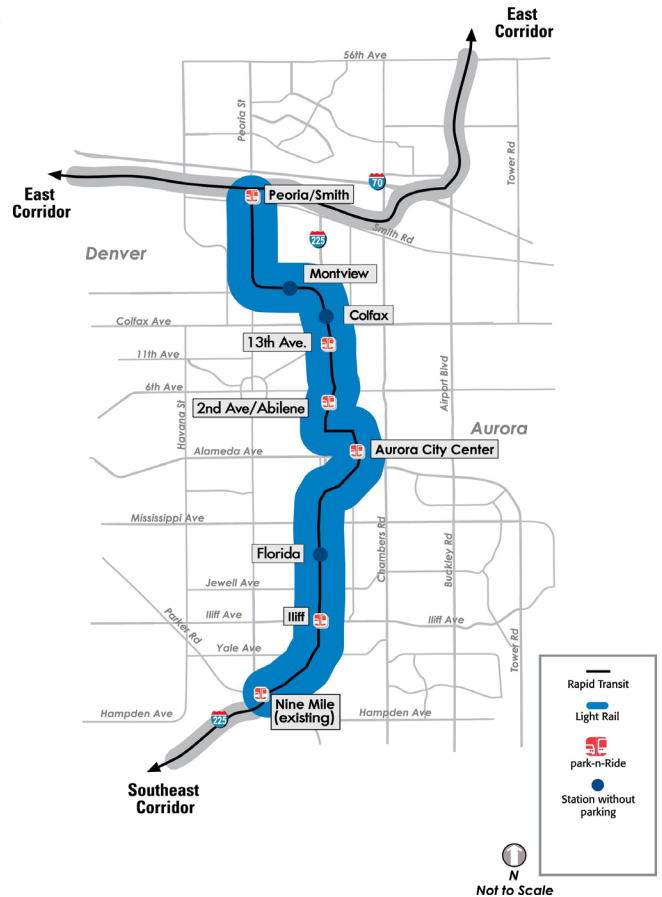
Mail: RTD-FasTracks  
Attn: Tina Jaquez  
1560 Broadway, Suite 700  
Denver, CO 80202

Phone: Nanci Regnier  
I-225 Public Involvement Specialist  
(303) 400-6175

## The DRAFT I-225 Light Rail Corridor Environmental Evaluation is now completed and available for review!

The Environmental Evaluation (EE) and Preliminary Engineering phase of the I-225 FasTracks Light Rail Corridor enters its final stage this summer. Since September 2007, the Project has proceeded through an alternative development and screening process that has included public meetings in November 2007, March 2008 and September 2008. Through this process, the project team developed a Preferred Alternative, shown on the map on the right. The Preferred Alternative, presented for public review and comment in September 2008, has been refined over the past 10 months. Most importantly, RTD has assessed the Preferred Alternative's environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures where impacts could not be avoided.

The draft I-225 EE analyzes the potential impacts of the Preferred Alternative in the I-225 Corridor study area. The document will be available for public review between July 10, 2009 and August 10, 2009. Additionally, it will be presented for public review and comment on July 22, 2009 (see the "What's Happening" box on p. 4 for location and times). You can find the draft EE online at [www.RTD-FasTracks.com](http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com) and at the libraries listed below.



### View the I-225 Light Rail Corridor Environmental Evaluation at one of the following libraries:

- **Hoffman Heights Library**  
1298 Peoria St.  
Aurora, CO 80011
- **Iliff Square Library**  
2245 S. Peoria St.  
Aurora, CO 80014
- **M.L.K., Jr. Library**  
9898 E. Colfax Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80010
- **Central Library**  
14949 E. Alameda Pkwy  
Aurora, CO 80012
- **Mission Viejo Library**  
15324 E. Hampden Cir.  
Aurora, CO 80013
- **Montbello Library**  
12955 Albrook Dr.  
Denver, CO 80239

## What you'll see at the Public Meeting...

The Environmental Evaluation (EE) examined potential impacts to resources within the corridor. Many impacts to resources were avoided. The preliminary engineering process provided opportunities to avoid and minimize impacts to many resources. However, resources including visual and aesthetics, electro-magnetic fields/electro-magnetic interference, floodplains, and wetlands could have impacts that require mitigation. Through input at our public meetings, we heard that residents were most concerned with impacts to property (right-of-way), businesses, and noise and vibration. A brief summary of these potential impacts and mitigation are shown below.

The public's continued participation and input is important to us. We encourage you to attend the Public Meeting No. 4 scheduled for July 22, 2009 at the Summit Event and Conference Center and provide feedback on your review of the EE document.



## Keeping FasTracks Moving Forward

The summer has been busy as the Regional Transportation District (RTD) continues to make progress on the FasTracks program. Among the many things that the agency has on its plate right now is a transition in leadership, as General Manager Clarence (Cal) Marsella moves on to another business opportunity after 14 years. While we are sad to see him go, we wish Cal the very best in his new endeavors and look forward to his continuous support of FasTracks and RTD.

Taking over the reins at RTD as Interim General Manager will be Phil Washington, who has served as RTD's Assistant General Manager of Administration for the past nine years. Phil also had a 24-year decorated military career in the Army before joining RTD. The RTD Board will lead a recruitment process for a permanent General Manager who possesses the skills and qualities to build upon the successes RTD has already achieved. In the meantime RTD will continue forging ahead to keep the agency and the FasTracks program moving forward.

Big decisions will continue to be important as FasTracks evolves. One recent decision by the Board was not to seek an additional sales tax increase in 2009 to fund the current \$2.2 billion budget gap in order to complete the program by 2017. The main reasons for holding off on a vote include the

uncertainty of the economy, the challenge in generating support for a campaign in an off-year election and the transition in RTD leadership. The Board will continue to evaluate the options for implementing FasTracks and when would be a prudent time to seek a sales tax increase.

Additionally, the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the East Corridor and Gold Line Eagle P3 Project has been delayed. Reasons for the delay include the need to determine a final site for the commuter rail maintenance facility, the uncertainty on timing of a new federal transportation spending bill, and the need to resolve some questions that have been raised about the potential impact the State's TABOR law may have on the P3 financing. RTD is fully committed to the Eagle P3 Project and intends to issue an RFP as soon as some of the current issues are resolved.

While we face some challenges, we are making progress as the West Corridor moves into full construction, and construction ramps up at Denver Union Station and along the U.S. 36 Corridor. Even more progress will be realized as our various corridor environmental processes wrap up.

To stay current on FasTracks developments and for more information on upcoming construction, check the FasTracks Web site at [www.RTD-FasTracks.com](http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com).

## The Ride to Dream School Program

The Ride to Dream school program was conceived as a way to encourage young people to explore careers in planning, engineering, construction, and other transportation related fields. The primary goals of the program were to educate students about the FasTracks I-225 Light Rail project; to identify scholarship, college, and career opportunities in the transportation industry; and to provide mentoring opportunities with transportation professionals and other students. To learn more about Ride to Dream or to see what the students achieved in this program, visit the I-225 section of the FasTracks website at [www.RTD-FasTracks.com](http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com).



Utility relocation exercise

Bridge construction exercise

Graduation!

**Congratulations to the students and families who participated in the 2008/2009 Ride to Dream School Program!!!!**

### Right-of-way and Relocations

- 18 businesses and 250 storage units would be displaced
- 66 acres from 127 parcels would be acquired
- 46 acres of CDOT and 37 acres of City of Aurora right-of-way would be impacted
- RTD will work with the affected property owners in accordance with the Uniform Act, which provides compensation and assistance

### Economic, Social, and Environmental Justice

- Improved accessibility to light rail transit
- No residential acquisitions and no impacts to community facilities
- Temporary changes in local traffic patterns including business access, detours, or delays during construction
- Acquisition and relocation of businesses and changes in business access
- RTD will evaluate new access based on input from business owners and prepare a Construction Management Plan to reduce or mitigate impacts of construction

### Noise and Vibration

- Two moderate noise impact locations; however noise mitigation is not considered feasible as impact is not within the top 50 percent of "moderate" impact range
- Additional detailed noise analysis will be completed during final design
- Potential for vibration impacts depending on the future location of sensitive equipment within Anschutz/Fitzsimons Medical Campus
- Vibration mitigation measures will include continued coordination with stakeholders within vibration impact areas or those who own sensitive equipment

**The I-225 Light Rail Corridor DRAFT Environmental Evaluation is now available for review!**  
**Please join us for Public Meeting No. 4.**

The I-225 Corridor Team is proud to present the DRAFT I-225 Light Rail Corridor Environmental Evaluation document, which is now available for 30-day public review and comment. The public meeting will include a brief presentation of the Environmental Evaluation findings, and opportunities to submit verbal, written or electronic comments. Your input and comments are important to us!

**When: Wednesday, July 22, 2009**

Session One: 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Session Two: 6:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The same information will be presented at both sessions.

**Where: Summit Conference and Event Center**

411 Sable Boulevard • Aurora, CO 80011

(off 6th Ave. and Sable Blvd., next to Hobby Lobby)

Location served by RTD Bus Routes 10 and 15L

**WEB/PHONE:**

For questions and/or to be notified of future public meetings, visit our project Website at [www.RTD-FasTracks.com](http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com) and click on I-225 Corridor, or call (303) 299-2000 and follow the prompts.

**COMMUNICATION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:**

The following communication assistance is available for all RTD public meetings: language interpreters, sign-language interpreters, assisted listening devices, alternate formats such as large print or reasonable accommodations for special needs. Contact RTD at (303) 400-6175 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to discuss your special needs and request for accommodations.



RTD - FasTracks  
1560 Broadway, Suite 700  
Denver, CO 80202