



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **RTD and BNSF sign agreements on railroad property for FasTracks program**

### **RTD'S RAILROAD PROPERTY PURCHASE SIGNIFICANT IN MOVING FASTTRACKS FORWARD**

**Denver, March 31, 2010** – The Regional Transportation District (RTD) celebrated a major milestone this morning for the FasTracks transit expansion program as RTD and BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) officials signed final agreements for RTD's purchase of railroad property and relocation of BNSF facilities necessary for FasTracks. The closing on these agreements will enable the FasTracks program to move forward, providing property needed to build the Gold Line, Northwest Rail Corridor, and have access in and out of Denver Union Station (DUS) and the commuter rail maintenance facility.

RTD's Board of Directors approved the agreements with BNSF, totaling \$144 million, on Tuesday, March 23, paving the way for today's closing on the property.

The agreements reached by today's signing include a Purchase and Sale Agreement for acquisition of property from DUS to approximately 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Westminster; a Relocation and Construction Agreement for relocation and construction of BNSF facilities required to make the acquired property available to RTD for use on the Eagle P3 and other commuter rail projects; and a Joint Corridor Use Agreement with the BNSF governing ongoing operations between the two entities in the shared corridors.

Today's signing ceremony marks the culmination of a successful negotiation process between RTD and BNSF.

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## RTD/BNSF Signing Ceremony

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“It is great to celebrate yet another major step forward in the FasTracks program,” said Phil Washington, RTD General Manager. “Our partnership with BNSF is a successful example of how a transit agency and a railroad entity can work together for the best interests of the whole region.”

“BNSF has a cooperative history of working with commuter rail agencies to provide access to our right of way for passenger service while also preserving our capacity to serve freight rail customers,” said DJ Mitchell, BNSF’s Assistant Vice President of Passenger Operations. “We look forward to continuing to work with RTD in their efforts to bring commuter rail service to the Denver region.”

The signing ceremony was held at the Law Offices of Kaplan Kirsch and Rockwell in Denver, CO. Funding for the BNSF agreement is included in the 2010 FasTracks budget.

FasTracks is RTD’s voter-approved transit program to expand rail and bus service throughout the RTD service area. FasTracks will build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county District. The FasTracks investment initiative is projected to create more than 10,000 construction-related jobs during the height of construction, and will pump billions of dollars into the regional economy.

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