

Gateway NEWS

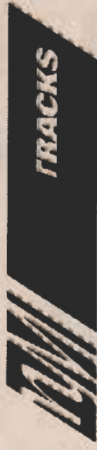
CELEBRATING THE CITY THE HOLIDAY BUSINESS EXPLOSION

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RTD FasTracks Present Results of Transit Alternatives Screening



n o r t h m e t r o

Denver, Colo. - The FasTracks North Metro Corridor team will present the results of Level 1 and 2 analysis of transit alternatives on the corridor at two public meetings on Nov. 29 and 30. The analysis is part of the corridor's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) planning phase, and part of the Regional Transportation District's 119-mile rapid transit program.

The North Metro Corridor is a proposed 18-mile transit corridor between Denver Union Station and the 162nd Avenue area. During the scoping period of the project, the team gathered feedback and comments about the community's needs and recommendations for transit and alignment alternatives for the corridor.

Based on community input, new alignments were added to the initial list of alternatives and evaluated based on a Level 2 screening criteria. New alignments include Light Rail on the I-25 corridor and Light Rail on Washington Street. These alignments are in addition to the initial alternatives presented in the first public meetings, which included Light Rail and two types of commuter rail (Electrical Multiple Unit and Diesel Multiple Unit) on the UPRR Boulder Branch rail corridor from Denver Union Station.

"We heard from hundreds of people during the scoping process, and I am pleased to share the results and new alternatives with the community," said Dave Shelley, RTD FasTracks North Metro Corridor Project Manager. "The North Metro EIS is an important step in implementing the regionally approved FasTracks Plan approved by the voters, and

we look forward to our continued work with the communities to create a solution to some of the transportation issues in the north area."

The following alternatives are still being evaluated:

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Transportation System Management/Travel Demand Management

Alternative 3: Light Rail Transit, on UPRR Boulder Rail Corridor (with 2 options)

I-25 Corridor

Washington Street Corridor

Alternative 4: Electrical Multiple Unit (EMU), on

UPRR Boulder Rail Corridor (with 2 options)

Alternative 5: Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU), on

UPRR Boulder Rail Corridor (with 2

options)

Following input on the alternatives from the community, the North Metro Corridor team will continue to evaluate and further screen the alternatives. After three screening steps, the project will develop the Preferred Alternative.

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) began the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the FasTracks North Metro Corridor in September 2006. The EIS is scheduled to be complete in 2008. After final design and construction, the North Metro Corridor is scheduled to open to the public in 2016.

FasTracks is RTD's voter-approved \$4.7 billion, 12-year transit expansion program across the RTD service area. Scheduled for completion in 2017, FasTracks will create six new commuter rail and light rail corridors, extend three existing corridors, add 21,000 new parking spaces, and expand bus service.