

Southwest **CORRIDOR**

FALL 2009

RTD FASTTRACKS SOUTHWEST QUARTERLY NEWS LINK

Times

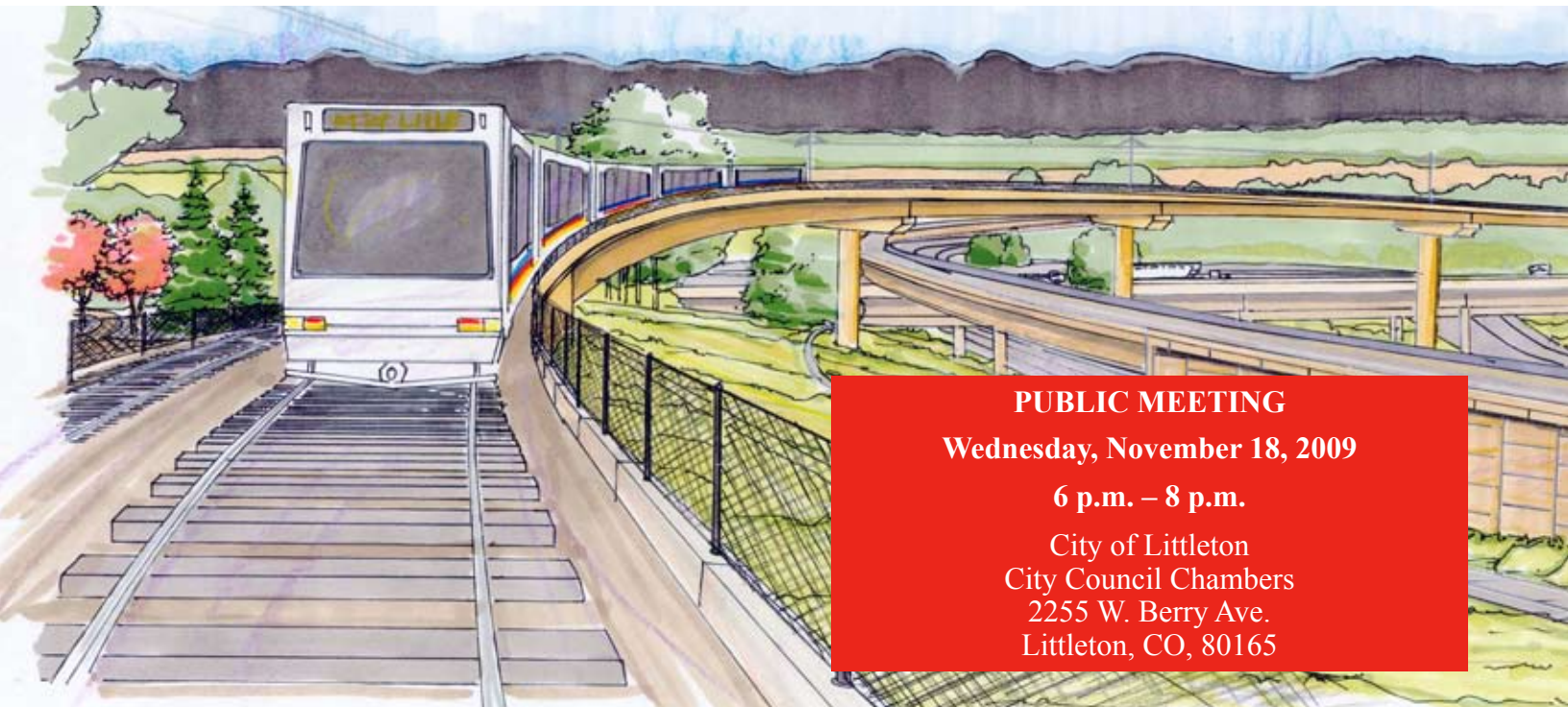
COMING SOON TO A PUBLIC MEETING (OR LIBRARY AND ONLINE) NEAR YOU:

THE SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR EXTENSION ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION!

For the last year and a half, a team of planners and engineers has been working hard on the Southwest Corridor Extension Environmental Evaluation (EE) and Basic Engineering (BE). An EE is a process done by the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to fulfill the RTD Board of Directors' commitment to perform the same level of environmental planning on all FasTracks corridors and projects. The Southwest Corridor Extension is part of a program to extend rail transit through the eight-county Denver metro area.

Now the planners and engineers have finished their work and are looking to you for feedback on the findings of this study. Join us for the third and final public meeting for this phase of the project, where you will learn about:

- The findings of the environmental study
- The selected alignment and station locations for the extension of light rail into your community
- How this line fits into the overall FasTracks system



PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

City of Littleton
City Council Chambers
2255 W. Berry Ave.
Littleton, CO, 80165

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Top Nine Things You Should Know About the Southwest Corridor Extension, Pages 2 – 3

If you can't join us on Nov 18, feel free to view and comment on the Southwest Environmental Evaluation at your local library or online at www.RTD-FasTracks.com. Click on the Southwest tab, where we have created an innovative map that will provide you with a comprehensive, interactive, version of the EE document.

The Top Nine Things You Should Know about the Southwest Corridor Extension

1 Your communities are growing. By 2015, it is anticipated that more than 100,000 people will call Highlands Ranch home. An extension of light rail in the Southwest Corridor is needed to address development and growth in Douglas County and Highlands Ranch, improve local and regional travel options, address high travel

demand, provide a reliable alternative to the automobile, and meet the 2004 voter mandate to implement FasTracks.

2 The line will increase accessibility to light rail. The Southwest Light Rail line will be extended 2.5 miles from its current end-of-line at Mineral Avenue to better serve the south Metro area and relieve congestion at existing stations. The alignment will continue south from just past the Mineral Station along the east side of Santa Fe Drive. It then crosses over County Line Road, two freight rail lines, C-470 and the planned CDOT flyover, and proceeds east, parallel to the south side of C-470. The alignment ends near Lucent Boulevard.



Typical RTD Light Rail Station Platform

3 The planned line won't interfere with traffic, bicycles or pedestrians. The light rail crosses over three road crossings, two railroads and two trails. All of these crossings are grade-separated, which means that the light rail tracks will be fully separated from street traffic. Importantly, the new line does not interfere with the accessibility of the C-470 bike and pedestrian trail or the High Line Canal.

Southwest Corridor Light Rail Extension

4 There will be more parking. The end-of-line station at Lucent Boulevard will be equipped with a new park-n-Ride. The facility will accommodate 1,000 cars. Most people will arrive at the Lucent Station by car; however, the station will also include facilities to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. Lucent Station will include kiss-n-Ride drop-off and bus transfer areas near the platform.

5 There is the potential for an additional station. Though currently not part of the FasTracks Plan, an intermediate station, which is proposed south of C-470 and west of Erickson Boulevard, could be added at a future date when funding permits. The extension was designed so that this station can be easily added. The intermediate station would include a 400-space park-n-Ride, kiss-n-Ride drop-off area, and bus pull-outs accessed from Blakeland Drive. The station would also include pedestrian connections, which would benefit residents of the Wind Crest and Highlands Ranch communities.



Layout for intermediate station (not a part of FasTracks Plan)

6 Light rail and bus service will be planned to increase convenience and respond to ridership. With construction and operation of the Southwest Corridor Extension, the FastTracks plan provides for increased frequencies of trains on both the C and D lines. Likewise, bus service will be modified to take advantage of the new light rail station at Lucent Boulevard. The final operations plan has not yet been determined, but will continue to be studied as project design progresses.

7 The impacts of the alignment, stations and construction are minimal. Through the EE process, the Southwest Corridor Extension Project Team examined the affected environment, potential impacts, and recommended mitigation needed for the extension. Though no major impacts were identified, there are areas with minor impacts, including right of way (no homes or businesses will be impacted), cultural

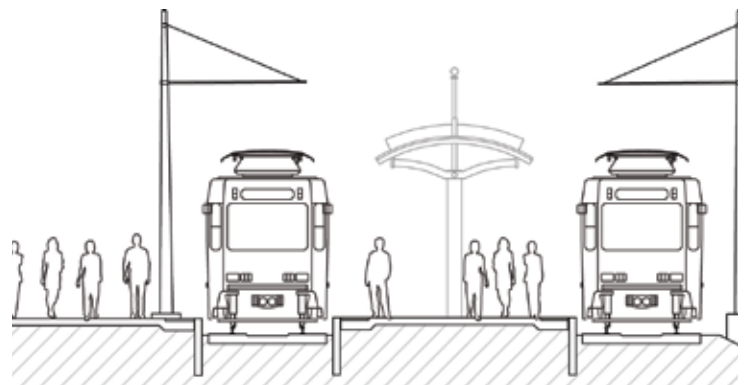
resources, natural resources, wetlands impacts, visual and aesthetic resources and parklands. All of these will be addressed through mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate impacts. These measures include best management practices such as using erosion and sedimentation controls during construction, adding stormwater controls to the stations, and landscaping.



Layout for Lucent Station

8 Other agencies have weighed in on this plan. The Southwest Corridor Extension Project Team has worked closely with the Union Pacific Railroad and BNSF Railway, the City of Littleton, Douglas County and Highlands Ranch Metro District throughout the project to identify and resolve issues related to light rail alignment and station locations.

9 You have a voice in this process. The general public and key community groups were involved through public meetings, Web site updates, project newsletters and individual meetings with businesses and neighborhood associations. Several organizations were actively engaged in the planning process, including Windcrest Senior Community, Wolhurst and Highlands Ranch Community Association.



Typical Light Rail Station with a Center Platform

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Web site:

www.RTD-FasTracks.com
Click on SW Corridor

Email:

swcorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com

Hotline:

(303) 299-2000, follow the prompts

Mail: RTD FasTracks

Attn: Tina Jaquez
1560 Broadway,
Suite 700, Denver, CO 80202

Contacts:

Ed Romero
SW Corridor Public Involvement Specialist:
(303) 803-2941

Tina Jaquez
SW Corridor FasTracks Liaison:
(303) 299-6902

MILESTONES:

- Scoping/Defining Purpose and Need for the Project** – Fall 2008
- Alternative Development/Environmental Evaluation** – Spring/Summer 2009
- Final Results** – Fall/Winter 2009

You are invited!

FasTracks Southwest Corridor Extension Public Meeting/Open House

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

City of Littleton

City Council Chambers

2255 W. Berry Ave.

Littleton, Colorado 80165

Your input is extremely valuable in helping RTD to finish planning the extension of the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Line. Please join us to share your comments about the results of Environmental Evaluation.

Web/Phone

For questions and/or to be notified of future public meetings, visit the project Web site at www.RTD-FasTracks.com and click on Southwest Corridor, or call (303) 299-2000 and follow the prompts.

*Para información en
español, visite
RTD-FasTracks.com
y pulse el enlace con el
Corredor Suroeste
o llame
al 303-299-2000.*

*Si necesita ayuda para
la reunión pública,
llame al 303-803-2941.*

Communication Assistance Available

The following communication assistance is available for Regional Transportation District public meetings: language interpreters, sign-language interpreters, assisted listening devices, alternative formats such as large print or reasonable accommodations for special needs. Contact RTD at (303) 803-2941 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to discuss your special needs and request for accommodation.



RTD-FasTracks
1560 Broadway, Suite 700
Denver CO 80202

