



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **FasTracks West Corridor to roll out signature bridge across 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

### **INNOVATIVE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE SAVES MONTHS OF TRAFFIC IMPACTS**

**Lakewood, April 28, 2010** – After postponing operations last weekend due to weather, the RTD FasTracks West Corridor team will roll out the main span of a double-track light rail bridge across 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue just east of Simms/Union this weekend, April 30 through May 2. All lanes of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Simms/Union and Kipling Street will close starting at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 30 to prepare the area for the roll-out, scheduled to begin early Saturday morning. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue will re-open by 5:30 a.m. Monday, May 3.

Eastbound Detour - south on Union, east on Alameda, north on Kipling to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Westbound Detour – north on Kipling, west on Colfax, south on Simms to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue

For the past several months, crews have been assembling the steel tied arch structure along the south side of the highway. Now, crews will transport the bridge into its final position over the highway via a large dolly consisting of two 35' platforms with eight axles each. The arch will travel on guided rollers which are pushed by hydraulic rams capable of up to 270,000 pounds per square inch of force. At speeds ranging from 10 to 25 feet per hour, the actual roll-out is expected to take up to 30 hours for the bridge to connect with the north span already in place across the north 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Frontage Road.

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## 6<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE BRIDGE (PAGE 2)

Had the structure been built over 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, traveling motorists would have endured months of lane closures and traffic congestion. This approach to bridge construction enabled West Corridor crews to work in a safe environment outside of traffic and significantly minimize impacts to commuters using the 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue freeway.

“If the bridge had been constructed in place over the highway, we would have had to impact traffic on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue many times over the course of construction instead of just one weekend as we are doing,” said Jim Starling, RTD’s West Corridor Project Manager. “But safety is always the utmost priority and weather permitting, we will move forward with the operation this weekend.”

The 12.1-mile West Corridor light rail project is the first rail line of RTD’s FasTracks program to start construction. The West Corridor line will operate between Denver Union Station in downtown Denver and the Jefferson County Government Center in Golden; serving Denver, Lakewood, the Denver Federal Center, Golden and Jefferson County. The corridor is scheduled to open to the public in 2013.

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 jobs during the height of construction, and will pump billions of dollars into the regional economy.

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