



Community

Information Line:

303-299-2401

rtd-fastracks.com



The \$511.8-million FasTracks West Corridor project consists of constructing a new 12.1-mile, double-track light rail line, extending west from the existing light rail line at Auraria West Station in downtown Denver, through Lakewood along 13th Avenue, continuing along 6th Avenue (U.S. 6) and ending at the

E-NEWS



WELCOME!

July flew by as the West Corridor team wrapped up another busy month. We enjoyed meeting with the community members who attended the Environmental Assessment public meeting last month and look forward to the completion of the draft Environmental Assessment this month. August begins with the revised 65 percent design submission, and we continue to move forward with design with the 90 percent design submission planned for November. We encourage you to attend our upcoming Urban Design Committee meetings to take a closer look at the design details and continue to share your thoughts.

August 2007

In this issue you will find:

Save the Date - Mark your calendars for several upcoming events and meetings.

Urban Design Committee Meetings - A look at the upcoming August Urban Design Committee meetings.

Construction Update - Get an update on the progress of early construction.

Nelson Street Pedestrian Crossing - Learn more about the potential pedestrian crossing under consideration at Nelson Street.

Environmental Assessment Update - Learn about the current status of the project's Environmental Assessment.

How Can I Get (or Stay) Involved? - Find out where to get more information on meetings and events, and the best ways to have your questions answered.

Other Meetings in the Area - Information on other related or similar projects underway.

Save the Date

Urban Design Committee Meetings:

Aug. 22, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Rude Recreation Center (2855 W. Holden Place, Denver)

Aug. 23, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Clements Community Center (1580 Yarrow Street, Lakewood)

Environmental Assessment Public Hearing:

The Environmental Assessment Public Hearing will be a chance for you to share your comments on the Environmental Assessment document with RTD and the West Corridor project team. This meeting is scheduled for:
Sept. 19, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Jefferson County Fairgrounds (15200 W. 6th Avenue, Golden)

Urban Design Committee Meetings

Our final series of Urban Design Committee (UDC) meetings will provide an excellent opportunity for the public to view the latest station designs and platform concepts, including 3-D models and 3-D renditions of select stations. Samples of elements being considered along the corridor and at stations will be on display including lighting options, benches, trashcans and fence materials.

West Corridor UDC Meeting #1
Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2007, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Rude Recreation Center
2855 W. Holden Place, Denver

West Corridor UDC Meeting #2
Thursday, Aug. 23, 2007, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Clements Community Center
1580 Yarrow Street, Lakewood

Construction Update

The removal of the old tracks and ties has been completed between Quail and Knox Court. The crew will continue with cleanup for a couple more weeks. Congratulations on surviving the first of many construction activities for the West Corridor project.

Xcel Energy is finalizing permits for their first section of utility relocation from Quail to Kipling and has been working with property owners to acquire easements along the alignment. If there are any specific questions for the utility companies, we ask that you contact them directly. Contacts for the three companies will be:

Xcel Energy - Craig Coon, 303-425-3982
Qwest Communications - Adrienne Morrow, 303-451-3240
Comcast - Scott Moore, 303-603-2932

This October, work will begin on the Kipling bridge and the pedestrian bridges in the Denver parks. More information will be provided in upcoming issues.

Nelson Street Pedestrian Crossing

RTD is considering constructing a pedestrian crossing between Oak and Kipling in response to input received from the community. We have evaluated several suggested locations and found that Nelson Street is the best possible location for an additional crossing. Adding the Nelson Street Pedestrian Crossing will improve access. It will allow people who live, work or shop on one side of the alignment to reach parks and businesses on the other side without having to go to the Oak or Kipling crossings.

There are potential issues when adding any additional pedestrian crossings. There are noise walls planned on all four corners of the Nelson Street intersection. Adding a crossing would require a break in these walls. There are also safety concerns with drivers of approaching trains being able to see pedestrians preparing to cross the tracks. While it is not standard operating procedure for the driver to blow the horn, it would be at his or her discretion to do so in the event of potential danger. This may increase potential noise impacts to residents near the intersection. The final layout of the Nelson Street Pedestrian Crossing needs to be approved by the RTD Fire Life Safety Committee and the Public Utilities Commission before any final decisions will be made.

We encourage you to comment on whether there should be a pedestrian crossing at Nelson. If you would like to comment, [click here](#).

Environmental Assessment Update

The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to update the 2003 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) with the new changes to the project. The draft EA will present the impacts of these changes on social, economic and environmental resources as well as provide updated information such as new future forecasts of traffic and transit ridership. Changed effects being studied include such resources as wetlands and streams, sensitive noise and visual areas, and historic properties. The EA document will be completed and ready for review by the public and agencies in September. A public hearing is scheduled for September 19 to get comments on the items in the EA.

During this time, RTD is also preparing the budget for the Full Funding Grant Agreement application that will be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) the first week of December 2007. In addition, we have submitted a Letter of No Prejudice to FTA that will allow us to begin securing materials and start construction work this fall.

How Can I Get (or Stay) Involved?

One of the best ways to get the information that will help you stay involved in the West Corridor design process is to ensure we have your e-mail

address. Our periodic e-mails will provide you with information essential to being an active participant. Especially as the project continues to evolve and develop, it will be important to keep all members of the community updated and informed on findings, decisions and achievements. Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up on our e-mail list to receive up-to-date information.

Don't forget to visit our new Web site, where you'll find all the latest information about the West Corridor.

Where can I get more information?

Web site: <http://rtd-fastracks.com>

E-mail: rtdwestcorridor@praco.com

Phone: Kim Podobnik, 303-779-3392

Brenda Tierney, 303-299-2401

Mail: RTD West Corridor

c/o PRACO

5460 S. Quebec St., Suite 330

Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Other Meetings in the Area

1. The Colorado Department of Transportation is studying improvements to the 6th Avenue and Wadsworth interchange. A Public Scoping Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 21 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with informational presentations at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information visit: www.US6wadsworth.com.

Communication Assistance Available

The following communication assistance is available for all 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 303-299-2401 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to discuss your special needs and request for accommodation.**

