



Community

Information Line:

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www.rtd-fastracks.com



The FasTracks West Corridor project consists of constructing a new 12.1 mile light rail line heading west from the existing Auraria West station in downtown Denver, through Lakewood along 13th Avenue to the Denver Federal Center and then west along 6th Avenue and Golden to the Jefferson County Government Center.

WELCOME

Happy New Year! 2009 is here and full construction on the West Corridor will begin in earnest this spring. The long-awaited West Corridor Full Funding Grant Agreement from the Federal Transit Administration was signed this month and secures the \$308 million in federal funding for the project. Now more than ever, it's important for you to keep informed by becoming a subscriber to our e-newsletter, visiting the West Corridor Web site often and utilizing the tools that have been established to keep you updated on progress and impacts. To get the latest information on construction and road closures please [click here](#) to connect to the West Corridor Web site.

January 2009

In this issue you will find:

Construction Update – Read about current and anticipated construction activities

A look back at 2008 – Find out about the accomplishments and milestones of the West Corridor in 2008

A look forward to 2009 – What activities can you expect in 2009?

Project Spotlight – Learn more about RTD's West Corridor Public Information Manager – Brenda Tierney

How do 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

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Lakewood Dry Gulch

The light rail bridges in the Dry Gulch are nearly complete. Crews are working on final touches including bridge railing, fences and waterproofing. When the bridges are complete, the construction team will begin placement of the MSE (Mechanically Stabilized Earth) walls, or retaining walls for the bridge approaches. Wall construction will continue through the summer.

The pedestrian bridge at Wolff Street is set and work continues on the pedestrian bridges at Hazel Court and Tennyson Street. Anticipated completion of the pedestrian bridges is early spring of 2009.

Storm Sewer/Storm Drainage Upgrades

Crews will soon begin working on improvements to the storm drainage

system on the west side of Lamar from 11th Avenue north to 13th Avenue. Work at this location will require lane closures, but the street will remain open. Street parking on the west side of Lamar could be limited during construction. Dependent upon weather, the activities in this area will continue through mid-February.

Kipling Walls

Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) walls are now being placed for the light rail bridge approaches on both the east and west sides of Kipling Street. Crews will continue working on these walls for several months, but as indicated before, this work should not impact traffic, as crews will be working in the RTD right-of-way along the rail bed. You may, however, experience construction equipment moving in and out at the intersections of Lakewood Heights Drive and Kipling Street on the east and 13th Avenue and Kipling Street on the west.

Utility Relocations

Lakewood Sanitary Sewer's system upgrades will be completed by early February and Consolidated Mutual Water's relocation project is nearing completion as well. Local utility providers including Qwest, Comcast and Xcel Energy continue their relocation activities to make way for construction of the West Corridor light rail line. To see a current schedule for utility relocations, [click here](#).

A LOOK BACK AT 2008

2008 was a year of progress for the West Corridor. While physical evidence of construction developed slowly, the achievements were noteworthy. April marked the beginning of early construction on the West Corridor, as crews embarked on their first activity – the Kipling Street Bridge. Girders for this bridge were set in June, and the structure stands over Kipling Street in anticipation of construction of the approach walls. From Kipling Street, the construction team moved to Denver's Lakewood Dry Gulch area and started construction on three light rail bridges and two pedestrian bridges. Both light rail bridges are nearly complete and the pedestrian bridge over Wolff Street is in place. Finally, essential utility upgrades began in early October and crews completed projects on 13th Avenue at Pikeview, Holland, Quail and West Collins Avenue.

In early June, RTD and Denver Transit Construction Group reached agreement on a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for construction of the West Corridor. While this agreement was a significant milestone, it resulted in the unsettling task of deferring some project elements to meet budget constraints. These deferrals were included in the 100% design plans that were completed in late November.

Master agreements between RTD and each of the affected jurisdictions were completed in 2008 and final right-of-way requirements for the corridor were determined.

Throughout 2008 you've learned about Conducts of Construction, construction safety and construction methods. You were quick studies on noise walls and Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) walls. You were educated on Storm Water Management, property easements and commodities pricing. You experienced road closures, traffic impacts and increased noise levels as early construction of the West Corridor moved forward.

The West Corridor Public Information team distributed approximately 35,250 e-newsletters, more than 150 construction posters and hung close to 375 construction notification door hangers. The West Corridor website was revised to include construction activities, road closures and a Construction Discussion forum. The team gave over 50 presentations to neighborhood groups and organized eight Elected Officials Briefings.

And finally, the community in RTD's District M said goodbye to Director Dave Ruchman and welcomed Matt Cohen as their representative on the RTD Board of Directors.

A LOOK FORWARD TO 2009

What a way to start off a new year! The Federal Transit Administration confirmed \$308 million for the West Corridor from the federal government at a special ceremony on January 16. The funds will be dispersed to RTD over the next few years.

The coming year will bring RTD's application to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) requesting that no bells be used on crossing gates in the residential areas and final decisions on opting-out of noise walls are due by the end of January – a task that Lakewood and RTD have been working on since June 2007!

Now that 100% design has been reached and the Issued For Construction (IFC) documents are close at hand, Denver Transit Construction Group will gear up to begin major construction on the West Corridor this year.

Current schedules indicate DTCG will have crews working on structures from one end of the line to the other by mid-summer. The bridges at Colfax, Indiana and 6th Avenue will begin construction in 2009. The Simms/Union tunnel is planned to be completed and work on the parking structures at Jeffco and the Denver Federal Center will be in full swing. While we don't anticipate completion of the bridges at Federal, Sheridan or Wadsworth in 2009, construction on all of these structures could be evident.

MSE (mechanically stabilized earth) walls will be noticeable along the corridor and the third party utility relocations should be completed. While the majority of work in 2008 was being completed by utility companies,

Denver Transit Construction Group will fully mobilize as the main contractor of construction along the corridor in 2009.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Brenda Tierney has been with the Regional Transportation District for 21 years and now serves as the RTD Public Information (PI) Manager for the West Corridor and is a member of the overall FasTracks Program Public Information Team. She managed the public involvement during planning, design, construction and implementation of Denver's first light rail line, the Central Corridor. She also worked on PI during

the design and construction of the Central Platte Valley, and was involved in PI during planning of Denver Union Station and the overall FasTracks plan.

Prior to joining RTD in 1987 she taught 4th grade for a couple of years and was the catering director for a local catering company. At RTD, she has held a variety of positions in the Planning and Development department as well as spending five years as the Executive Manager to the RTD Board. She is also responsible for setting up the art-n-Transit program at RTD and has been managing the program for the last 14 years.

Brenda has been the hub of public involvement for the West Corridor since its early stages. She worked with stakeholders through planning and design and continues to be an integral part of many components of the project. Her expertise and knowledge of the community and their needs will help to minimize impacts as the West Corridor moves into full construction.

When not working, Brenda enjoys traveling, gourmet cooking and home renovations. She has degrees in Elementary Education and Psychology and lives in Monument with her husband Chip, two large dogs and a cat. Brenda has two grown sons, Ben and Beau.

The West Corridor project team, communities and stakeholders can rest assured that Brenda is committed to helping take care of their needs as the project moves into full construction. Her enthusiasm is contagious, her energy immeasurable and her commitment honorable. Brenda will ensure clear and concise communications as the project advances and will always be available to discuss your concerns.

How Can I Get (or Stay) Involved?

One of the best ways to get the latest information on the West Corridor construction phase is to ensure we have your e-mail address. Our periodic

e-mails will provide you with information essential to being an active participant. As the project evolves and develops, it will be important to keep all members of the community informed on construction activities. Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up on our e-mail list to receive up-to-date information, and if your e-mail address changes, please notify us.

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

Where Can I Get More Information?

Web site: <http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com>

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