



E - NEWS



Community

Information Line:

303-299-2401

www.rtd-fastracks.com


The \$ 635 -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 Jefferson County Government Center.

WELCOME!

March brings exciting news to the FasTracks West Corridor Light Rail Project. The eagerly anticipated start of construction is finally here, with construction activity beginning on the Kipling Street Bridge. The Project team is excited to move into the next phase of the West Corridor Light Rail Project and we encourage you to stay informed. Activities will be increasing daily and we will continue to provide timely, up-to-date information every month in our E-newsletter and on the West Corridor Web site.

March 2008

In this issue you will find:

Kipling Bridge Construction – Find out what to expect as the Kipling Street Bridge is constructed.

Utility Relocation Update – Get an update on the progress of utility relocations.

Effects of Utility Easements – Find out how utility easements may affect you.

Construction Video coming in April – Read about the upcoming FasTracks construction video.

Contractor Construction Guidelines – Find out how the contractor will conduct construction of the West Corridor.

The Facts about Property Acquisition - Clear up confusion over postcards sent to some property owners by an outside party, not RTD.

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.

KIPLING BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

Denver Transit Construction Group, the West Corridor construction contractor, will begin early construction on the Kipling Street Bridge this month. You may have already noticed minor activity to the east and west of Kipling Street on the RTD right-of-way as crews begin to bring in equipment, set signs and temporary fencing, and prepare the area for construction. The bridge itself will be constructed on the RTD right-of-way on both sides of Kipling and won't be set across Kipling Street for approximately three months. The approach ramps for the train to get to the bridge will not be built until later in the project.

Denver Transit Construction Group will be using the RTD-owned property located at 13th Avenue and Kipling Street to store materials and equipment. A work trailer will be placed there temporarily during this

phase of construction. You may also see equipment and materials on the RTD right-of-way east and west of Kipling Street.

For the most part, construction of the bridge will not have significant affects on the adjoining neighborhood. Traffic impacts will be minimal until the girders (the beams that support the bridge deck) are placed and the concrete deck (the pavement surface) is poured. These activities are scheduled for late spring or early summer and will be conducted overnight to minimize traffic disruptions. We will inform you of these activities and will plan detours during these hours to lessen neighborhood congestion.

This is an exciting time for the West Corridor Project Team. The transition into construction is a milestone for RTD as well as the communities that will benefit from the addition of light rail in their neighborhoods!

UTILITY RELOCATION UPDATE

Progress continues on the utility relocations along the West Corridor. Xcel Energy has completed their work between Oak Street and Kipling Street, allowing Denver Transit Construction Group (the RTD contractor) to commence construction in that area. Xcel's utility relocations will continue on 13th Avenue east of Kipling until all existing utilities have been successfully relocated. Comcast is working between Nelson Street and Kipling Street and their relocations from Kipling Street to the east will be starting within the next few months. Qwest crews are also working between Nelson Street and Kipling Street and anticipate starting work east of Kipling Street in early April. Xcel Energy's gas line relocation project from Pierce Street to Harlan Street has begun and the Sanitary Sewer relocation from Carr Street to Harlan St. will begin in March.

HOW DO UTILITY EASEMENTS AFFECT ME?

We've all heard the phrase "utility easement" but what does that mean to you as a homeowner? A utility easement is the right held by a utility company to the use of your land for overhead and underground power lines, gas pipelines and substations. An easement gives the utility companies the right to run their pipes, wires, cables, conduits, etc. across that portion of your property both over and under the ground. Although land within the easement belongs to the property owner, the easement gives the utility company the right to access the property for maintenance, repair or replacement and to set poles, switch cabinets or other equipment on. As utility relocations continue on the West Corridor, work on private property within the utility easements is becoming more common. Each utility company (Xcel Energy, Qwest, Comcast, etc.) employs their own sub-contractors and at any given time their work may require access to the utility easements on your property. To see a list of currently employed subcontractors, [click here](#). Please review your land title or survey and identify if and where easements are located on your property. While effort is placed on prior notification by the utility companies, there may be instances where you find crews temporarily working on these easements. They will make every attempt to work efficiently and quickly. These contractors are also responsible for making sure your property is left in the condition it was found. If you have concerns about crews on your property, please contact Kathy Berumen at 303-299-2175 to verify the utility work being performed.

CONSTRUCTION VIDEO

FasTracks is an enormous program with lots of construction to come in each of the FasTracks corridor. When completed FasTracks will provide

more than 122 miles of light and commuter rail and 18 miles of Bus Rapid Transit. FasTracks will also provide 57 new transit stations and 21,213 additional parking spaces at transit Park-n-Ride facilities. Clearly, this is a huge economic contributor to the vitality of the Denver area, but getting there will mean construction impacts. It's important that residents understand how construction will affect their everyday lives.

Therefore, the FasTracks Public Information Team is producing a construction video as a method of communicating what you can expect during a construction project of this magnitude. The video will include information on construction elements including materials and equipment and should help you visualize what to expect as construction winds through your neighborhood.

The video will be completed in April and will be shown at local government and community meetings, along with a PowerPoint presentation detailing specifics. We will make the video and PowerPoint presentation available in a number of different ways. We encourage you to spend some time reviewing this video to familiarize yourself with the upcoming construction activity.

CONTRACTOR CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

Denver Transit Construction Group has created a draft document outlining how they will be conducting construction on the West Corridor. This document titled "Conduct of Construction" was written using guidelines submitted by all affected government jurisdictions, as well as RTD, the FTA and CDOT. The Conduct of Construction is currently in a draft form and will be an ever changing document throughout construction. [View the draft document \(PDF\)](#).

THE FACTS ABOUT PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Since RTD began the property acquisition process for properties the agency needs to purchase for the West Corridor Project, the eminent domain process has gotten a lot of attention. Unfortunately, there has been a great deal of misinformation and misinterpretation about the process. Recently, some property owners have received very misleading postcards by an outside party – NOT by RTD. If RTD needs to purchase your property for the project, RTD will contact you directly.

RTD follows all federal regulations and state laws for our property acquisitions, specifically, the federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970), and Colorado's Eminent Domain Statute. This is the same acquisition process that RTD has used in the past for our federally-assisted projects, including the Transportation Expansion (T-REX) Project completed in partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation.

RTD notifies property owners as soon as possible once we know for certain that we need a property for a project. Every effort is made to negotiate with the property owner on a mutually agreed-upon purchase price, based on fair market value, and in most cases we are able to come to such an agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, RTD will have no choice but to proceed to condemnation, which still results in the property owner receiving fair-market value for their property. Negotiations can continue throughout the condemnation process in an effort to reach a mutual agreement, which often happens.

RTD has developed a basic fact sheet on the property acquisition process, which is available on the FasTracks Web site at www.RTD-FasTracks.com along with a Frequently Asked Questions sheet. For complete information about the Uniform Act you can visit the federal Web site at www.fhwa.dot.gov/realestate/act.htm.

How Can I Get (or Stay) Involved?

One of the best ways to get information that will help you stay involved in 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>

E-mail: westcorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com

Phone: Kathy Berumen, 303-299-2175

Brenda Tierney, 303-299-2401

Mail: RTD West Corridor
1560 Broadway #700
Denver, CO 80202

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.