

Recycling/Crushing Operations

Recycling on the West Rail Line

- Recycling of asphalt and concrete is an integral part of construction on the West Rail Line. RTD and our contractors are committed to recycling as much material as possible, not just on this corridor, but throughout the FasTracks program.
- Denver Transit Construction Group (DTCG), RTD's contractor for the West Corridor light rail project, has use of the RTD property located at 10th and Sheridan. One of the uses of this property is the recycling of asphalt and concrete. The recycling is done by Recycled Materials Company, Inc. (RMCI), a sub-contractor to DTCG.
- 10th and Sheridan is one of two recycling locations on the West Rail Line; the other is located at 13th Avenue and Quail Street in Lakewood. These locations were chosen due to the proximity of the demolition materials slated for recycling. This means the apartment buildings on 10th and Sheridan, as well as Sheridan and Federal Boulevards, will be demolished and reconstructed.
- Recycling of the asphalt and concrete includes grinding the materials and stockpiling them until they are relocated. RMCI is required to water the grinding operation as well as periodically water the stockpiles. Recycling on West Rail Line will continue in 2011, but will occur less frequently as demolition wanes.
- In June of 2008 DTCG was issued a Fugitive Dust permit from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) encompassing the entire West Rail project. The recycling operations at 10th and Sheridan and 13th and Quail are included in this permit.
- The Fugitive Dust permit stipulates that CDPHE Inspectors must visibly inspect sites for emission violations. In late September 2010, an inspection done by CDPHE and Denver Environmental at the 10th and Sheridan location determined DTCG was in compliance with all fugitive dust regulations.
- When done on-site, crushing aggregate asphalt reduces the pollution generated when compared with transporting material out. This also eliminates the need for potentially dozens of large truck trips in and out of the area each day.
- RMCI offers more than 20 years of experience in aggregate recycling and reuse. Their proposal to the West Rail Line project included the capability to take possession of the unused aggregate/concrete and distribute it as needed.
- CDPHE has recently stated that RMCI may need an additional permit for a specific piece of equipment on site. RMCI developed customary practices in good faith and in consultation with the CDPHE and is currently working with the CDPHE to determine the extent to which any of RMCI's customary practices are inconsistent with specific CDPHE regulatory requirements. RMCI will work with CDPHE to implement any necessary corrections in a timely fashion.

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Recycling Benefits

- The Federal Highway Administration reports that 73 million of the 92 million metric tons of asphalt pavement that is removed each year is reused as part of new roads, roadbeds, shoulders and embankments. That's a recycling rate of 80 percent.
- Recycling of aggregate asphalt saves energy, conserves diminishing resources of aggregates and petroleum products and reduces disposal requirements.