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Community

Information Line:

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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.

E-NEWS



WELCOME

"Spring is a wish made in December, come true in May". This quote says it all, as West Corridor crews move into a spring season that has been in the planning stages since early winter. Roadway and track construction have picked up momentum and will continue to intensify for the next several months. Don't be left out. Stay informed by visiting the West Corridor [website](#) often and become a subscriber to our e-newsletter. While on the website, utilize the tools that have been established to keep you updated on progress and impacts.

In This Issue:

[FASTRACKS UPDATE](#)

[COMMUNITY MEMBER RECOGNIZED AS "WEST CORRIDOR'S MOST COOPERATIVE PARTNER"](#)

[FEDERAL CENTER STATION GRAND OPENING EVENT](#)

[CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – AREA 1 \(Jeffco Government Center to Federal Center\)](#)

[CONSTRUCTION UPDATE –AREA 2 \(East of the Federal Center to Sheridan\)](#)

[CONSTRUCTION UPDATE –AREA 3 \(East of Sheridan to the Auraria Campus\)](#)

[HOW CAN I GET \(OR STAY\) INVOLVED?](#)

FASTRACKS UPDATE

At a Special Board Meeting on April 26, the RTD Board of Directors decided not to ask residents of the eight-county district for a FasTracks sales tax increase in 2011. Over the past several months, RTD has evaluated and reviewed significant information, including economic indicators and input from regional stakeholders and the general public. Before their decision, the Board received a presentation of additional research from two outside economic experts and RTD staff, who then presented its recommendation to move ahead with the current FasTracks Financial Plan, which assumes a 2012 sales tax increase of .4 percent to complete FasTracks by 2020.

"The RTD Board realizes that while economic conditions are slowly but steadily improving in the Denver Metro area, the timing is not right for a 2011 ballot initiative," said RTD Board Chair Lee Kemp. "We remain committed to continuing to work with our regional partners to complete FasTracks sooner rather than later."

RTD plans to take steps in the coming months to determine if 2012 is, in fact, the right time to let voters decide on whether to make an additional investment to complete FasTracks within the

next decade. The RTD Board will have to take a separate, formal vote in the future to make a decision on pursuing a sales tax election in 2012. Without a tax increase in the near future, RTD estimates that completion of the final FasTracks program elements will occur by 2042.

COMMUNITY MEMBER RECOGNIZED AS "WEST CORRIDOR'S MOST COOPERATIVE PARTNER"

Every two months, partners on the West Corridor project, including RTD, the contractors, and our stakeholders, recognize a "peer" from the alternate agencies for their continued dedication and "partnering spirit" in the two months prior.



Paul Ditson, Eiberhood resident, was recognized with the stakeholder award for the months of March and April for his continued contributions to the successful build out of the West Corridor. When RTD applied to the PUC regarding the quiet crossings earlier this year, we were met with surprising opposition from the visually impaired community. Paul set up meetings and tours with the visually impaired community and worked hand in hand with them, as well as RTD, to come to a mutually acceptable compromise. In addition, he was the person who stepped up at the last minute to coordinate with RTD and DTCG in order to preserve the stone monument located at the corner of 13th and Garrison.

But even before that, Paul was a highly visible fixture at West Corridor public meetings, selflessly advocating for his community. His involvement goes back to the early planning phases of the project. He was very involved in meetings during the Environmental Impact Statement process and was an outspoken member of the Urban Design Committee. He has been involved with the Eiber neighborhood for many years and has worked tirelessly to make sure that light rail in this neighborhood will be the best it can be.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation, the West Corridor project team salutes Paul for his efforts to create a community rich in transit and history.

FEDERAL CENTER STATION GRAND OPENING EVENT

Join us as we celebrate the opening of the Federal Center Station, the first station to open on the West Corridor. The commemorative event will be held on Thursday, June 16 at 10 a.m. in the new Federal Center Station parking lot and will feature speakers from RTD, Lakewood, and the General Services Administration. A formal invitation will be emailed to the West Corridor community as the event draws closer. The closure of Cold Spring park-n-Ride and the actual start of bus operations



and parking at the new Federal Center Station will be on Saturday, June 18, 2011.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – AREA 1 (Jeffco Government Center to Federal Center)

Current and Ongoing Activities

- Erection of the parking garage at the Jefferson County Government Center has reached 50% and the final pieces of the garage should be in place by the end of June.
- Civil construction between Ulysses Street and Indiana Street will be substantially completed by late May and this area will be turned over to Balfour Beatty Rail for the installation of the Overhead Catenary Systems (OCS) poles and systems operational equipment.
- OCS pole installation is moving quickly between Union Boulevard and Indiana Street.
- Installation of the signals at the Red Rocks Station platform continues.
- Street reconstruction is ongoing on 6th Avenue at the I-70 on-ramp
- Construction of sidewalks and bus bays near the Red Rocks Station between DeFrame Court and Arbutus Drive has been completed.
- Crews continue the reconstruction of Union Boulevard and the 6th Avenue on and off ramps at Simms/Union. Construction and lane closures in this area will be phased as crews complete activities. To get detailed information about work on Union Boulevard, click [here](#).
- Construction of the retaining walls east of the Union Tunnel in the Cold Spring park-n-Ride is ongoing and once the Cold Spring park-n-Ride closes on Saturday, June 18, crews will begin excavating the tunnel under Union Boulevard.
- Construction of the parking lot at the Federal Center Station will be completed in time for the Federal Center Station opening on Saturday, June 18, 2011. Other work at the station will be ongoing through the summer.



Upcoming Activities

Preliminary construction of the Jefferson County Government Center station and bike path, and final reconstruction of several cul-de-sacs in Jefferson County will begin in early to late June.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – AREA 2 (East of the Federal Center to Sheridan)

Current and Ongoing Activities

- Crews will be visible on and near the 6th Avenue Bridge in the coming months, as the deck of the bridge is sandblasted and waterproofed.
- Drainage and water system improvements on 8th Avenue



between Quail Street and Simms Street have been completed.

- Collins Avenue is currently closed as crews install the track crossing and reconstruct Collins Avenue. Collins Avenue will be closed through Friday, May 27, 2011.
- Final paving of Quail Street has been delayed due to underground dry utility conflicts. Once these utilities are relocated, West Corridor crews will move back into the area to complete operations.
- The reconstruction of Oak Street was also stalled as Qwest relocates a utility vault. As with Quail Street, once Qwest has completed their relocation, West Corridor crews will move back in to finish paving operations.
- Track and grading crews are working in the area bounded by Kipling Street and Wadsworth Boulevard.
- Final roadway reconstruction of Garrison Street has been postponed to relocate underground utilities.
- Work on the track crossing and road reconstruction is ongoing at Carr Street. Carr Street is closed to through traffic through mid to late May.
- Reconstruction of 13th Avenue between Yukon Street and Wadsworth Boulevard is underway. Once work here is complete, 13th Avenue on the west side of Wadsworth will open up to traffic.
- Crews will begin to remove the wooden forms off of the Wadsworth Bridge next week, requiring lane closures during evening hours. Work will begin at 9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18 and carry through until 5:30 a.m. Thursday, May 19, 2011 and then again the night of Thursday, May 19, beginning at 9 p.m. through 5:30 a.m. Friday, May 20, 2011.
- West Corridor crews will be installing the light rail track crossing at Teller Street. This activity will require the closure of Teller Street between 12th Avenue and 14th Avenue; as well as 13th Avenue at Teller Street. Work is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 and continue through Saturday, May 28, 2011.
- Systems work is ongoing on 13th Avenue between Pierce Street and Newland Street and will continue through mid-May requiring the complete closure of 13th Avenue on the north side.
- Work on the drainage structures between Harlan Street and Sheridan Boulevard should be completed by late May.

Upcoming Activities

Reconstruction of 8th Avenue between Simms Street and Quail Street is scheduled to begin in mid June. Once the track crossing is installed at Teller Street, crews will move to Pierce Street requiring the full closure of Pierce. Check the West Corridor website often for new details regarding this work.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE –AREA 3 (East of Sheridan to the Auraria Campus)

Current and Ongoing Activities

- Work on the station under Sheridan continues and platforms should be poured by late June.
- Final activities necessary to complete the Sheridan Bridge are moving quickly. Barring unforeseen circumstances,



Sheridan Boulevard will close at 9 p.m. on Friday, May 20th and remain closed until 5:30 a.m. Monday, May 23, 2011. When Sheridan reopens, it will be in its final configuration of two lanes in each direction accompanied by 10' sidewalks on both sides.

- Underground work continues on Perry Street between 12th Avenue and 13th Avenue. Roadway work will begin late this month and Perry Street should re-open early this summer.
- Wall construction continues near Knox Court and the platforms for the passenger station are now under construction.
- Activities under the Federal Bridge continue with underground utility installations, wall construction and channel improvements.
- Work on the Federal Bridge is winding down and crews are now working on paving the slope and preparing the sidewalk areas. Federal Boulevard is expected to open in its final configuration in early summer.
- Final construction activities on the Decatur Street Bridge are ongoing as crews work to complete drainage improvements and realign the channel. The track crossing at Decatur Street will be constructed while Decatur Street is closed.
- The subcontractor building the bridge over the South Platte will be removing equipment and leaving the area by mid-June.
- Crews continue to construct the approach walls at the Consolidated Mainline Bridge.
- Redesign of the storm sewer on Old Colfax Avenue is moving along and crews anticipate repairs could begin later this month or in early June.
- 5th Street was closed on Friday, May 13th and will remain closed through most of the summer months to facilitate light rail track construction.

Upcoming Activities

Construction of the West Corridor line will require the closure of light rail through the Central Platte Valley for three weeks in late July or early August. This closure is necessary to link track to the newly relocated Auraria West station. More information on this closing will be forthcoming.

For more information on construction please visit the [Construction Information](#) page on the West Corridor website.

HOW CAN I GET (OR STAY) INVOLVED?

One of the best ways to get the latest information on the West Corridor is to ensure we have your email address. Our periodic emails will provide you with information essential to being an active participant. Visit our [website](#), where you'll find all the latest information about the West Corridor. As full construction continues for the next two years, it is the best way to stay informed of construction activities.

Where Can I Get More Information?

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