



#### Community

Information Line:

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[www.rtd-fastracks.com](http://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

The West Corridor light rail project is moving along as construction continues and 100% plans have been delivered. Three construction milestones were met this past month and scheduling indicates that the entire corridor will soon be buzzing with construction activity. We encourage 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, road closures and final design, please [click here](#) to connect to the West Corridor Web site.

### NOVEMBER 2008

#### In this issue you will find:

**Construction Site Vandalism** – What can you do to decrease the added cost to the West Corridor project due to vandalism at the construction sites?

**Construction Update** – Remember – the more construction that takes place, the closer we are to DONE!

**Commodities Pricing** – Find out how RTD is approaching the unstable commodities market

**RTD Right-of-Way** – Find out how the RTD railroad right-of-way will be changing in the coming months and years

**Subcontractor Spotlight** – Meet the newest subcontractor on the West Corridor

**FasTracks Public Meetings Results** – Learn the results of the automatic polling that took place at the recent FasTracks public meetings

**FasTracks Videos on YouTube** – Learn more about Denver's Transit Expansion Program

**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 SITE VANDALISM

RTD, Denver Transit Construction Group and their subcontractors have experienced a high level of vandalism in the Lakewood Dry Gulch area – in Denver between Federal and Sheridan Blvds. Vehicle windows have been broken out, construction zone signs and fences have been moved, pushed over or completely trampled and damage to storm water management devices continues. Graffiti also continues to be an issue in this area.

The West Corridor is a public project and taxpayer dollars help pay for this construction. We encourage you to be alert as construction moves through your area. If you notice anyone loitering around construction equipment or witness any unlawful activities, please contact your local police department immediately. They are well informed about this situation and should respond quickly to your call. Proactive citizens will help RTD control costs on the build-out of the West Corridor.

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

#### Kipling Bridge

Construction on the Kipling Bridge is now complete. Crews will soon begin work on the light rail approach walls to the bridge, but for now, construction activities will be limited to work on the traffic signalization at 13th Avenue and Kipling Street. Look for larger crews to return in early December.

#### Gulch Bridges

Construction in the Denver parks Lakewood Dry Gulch area reached several milestones this past month. The girders on the East Dry Gulch Light Rail Bridge were installed on November 6 and the diaphragms on the east abutment for the bridge have been formed. Crews are currently forming the diaphragms on the west abutment and the overhang and edge of the bridge deck. Pouring the concrete deck will be the next milestone activity on this bridge. The West Dry Gulch Light Rail Bridge girders were set on November 13 and activities there will mirror those at the east bridge. To see the diagram of “parts of a bridge” [click here](#).



The Pedestrian Bridge at Wolff Street was placed on November 12, 2008. This bridge was built off site and transported to the gulch. Once it was on location, crane crews moved it into its final position spanning the gulch. This bridge has been fenced off since the approaches have not yet been constructed. Please stay clear of the bridge until it is open to the public later in the construction timeline. The pedestrian bridges at Hazel Court and Tennyson Street will be set in this same manner and these bridges will open to the public once construction is complete. Dates to place the Tennyson Street and Hazel Court bridges have not been set yet, but should take place before the end of 2008.

### **Storm Sewer/Storm Drainage Upgrades**

Denver Transit Construction Group's newest task is upgrading the storm and sewer drainage systems along the 13th Avenue corridor. Work on the storm drainage system at Pikeview and 13th Avenue has been completed, as has the sanitary sewer upgrades along the bike path in this same location. Holland Street improvements have been finalized and crews are currently working in the area of 13th and Quail Street. Upon completion there, upgrades will take place on Collins Avenue just east of Simms Street. As most of this work occurs in the street, lane closures will be likely. Please visit the West Corridor Web site, Road Closure page often to get up to date information. To visit this site now, [click here](#).

### **COMODOTIES PRICING**

RTD is currently experiencing what the rest of the nation is facing, the sky rocketing price of commodities and a pre-determined budget that did not anticipate these cost hikes. While in recent months, prices of commodities such as copper and crude oil have dropped significantly, other commodities necessary to build the FasTracks projects have either remained unchanged or risen. Due to the ever-changing prices, RTD has developed a commodities pricing strategy that may be beneficial to FasTracks' long term goals. By monitoring daily pricing, RTD is able to strategically buy quantities that can be stored and used for future use. This benefits FasTracks' current construction on the West Corridor, as well as future rail lines.

In August the price for copper was \$3.35/lb and in September the price dropped to \$1.89/lb. Crude oil, which was priced at \$110.00/barrel in August, dropped to \$68.24/barrel in September. Other commodities significant to the build-out of FasTracks include steel rail, which is priced at \$1,500/ton and has remained unchanged, and concrete, which sold for \$111.50/cubic yard in September up from \$96.00/cubic yard in August. RTD will continue to monitor these prices and buy strategically to accommodate the FasTracks budget to the greatest extent possible.

### **RTD RIGHT-OF-WAY**

For several years now the RTD right-of-way along the 13th Avenue corridor

has been part of your neighborhood. Trees have provided shade and vegetation has added to the beauty that is adjacent to your homes. While we are pleased that this strip of land has become a piece of your neighborhood, it now needs to serve its ultimate purpose.

As construction makes its way through the corridor, you will notice a significant change in the appearance of the RTD right-of-way. Trees will be removed, grass and vegetation will be replaced with gravel and dirt and the overall landscaping of the area will transform in preparation of the installation of tracks for the light rail. Change can be difficult and the transition from the green as you know it now to a rail bed will be an adjustment as construction on the West Corridor moves forward.

### **SUBCONTRACTOR CORNER**

American West Construction is the newest member of the RTD West Corridor construction project. They provide skilled professionals with incomparable knowledge in earthwork, grading, waterlines, sanitary sewer lines and storm lines. They have begun their work in Lakewood improving the sanitary sewer and storm drainage along 13th Avenue and will move east towards Denver in this same role.

Their most recent experience includes the East 148th Avenue water line augmentation in Brighton, Phase One of the Peña Boulevard landscaping project for the City of Denver and the infrastructure improvements to Bromley Park Filing 102 in Brighton.

American West Construction's senior management team has over fifty years of heavy/highway construction experience. A solid background in infrastructure improvements, utility work, drainage and channel work and environmental mitigation will guarantee professionalism and turnkey site work for the West Corridor project. American West's superior service and experience are a welcome addition to the construction team.

### **FASTRACKS PUBLIC MEETINGS**

As we reported last month, the FasTracks Public Information Team held a series of public meetings in September and October to gather input regarding the future direction of the FasTracks program based on the current budget challenges. Nearly 600 people attended the meetings to hear the five options that RTD has evaluated for keeping the program moving forward. All options presented begin with the same basic assumptions: Build the corridors currently under construction, such as West and US 36 BRT Phase 1; construct the Denver Union Station transit improvements and the maintenance facilities that will support the whole system; complete all environmental documentation, basic engineering and purchase of railroad right-of-way for all corridors; and build the Gold Line and East Corridor to retain the eligibility of \$1 billion in federal funds and \$1 billion in private funds.

If you were unable to attend the meetings, but would like to learn more about the options and see the presentation please visit [www.RTD-FasTracks.com](http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com).

### **FASTRACKS ON YOUTUBE**

FasTracks is jumping online with the debut of several videos on YouTube! See first-hand what construction will look like and learn specifics about the nation's biggest transit system expansion program. Click on the links below to take you straight to these videos:

Construction Overview

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XJWK2oDnn8>

Keeping FasTracks On-Track

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvzDZ7s-FGs>

### **Individual Project Information Videos**

Gold Line	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygCGogQ-vK4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygCGogQ-vK4</a>
West Corridor	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkK3nfQUWKw">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkK3nfQUWKw</a>
Northwest Rail	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2khkmGo1O4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2khkmGo1O4</a>
North Metro	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvdDz9UC3cU">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvdDz9UC3cU</a>
East	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKbqq79R7d0">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKbqq79R7d0</a>
Southeast	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxB2m-ZNn20">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxB2m-ZNn20</a>
Southwest	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOmK3fFgz_8">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOmK3fFgz_8</a>
US 36 Corridor	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bzk7EjXjL4o">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bzk7EjXjL4o</a>
Denver Union Station	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPZzwZE85Po">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPZzwZE85Po</a>
I-225 Corridor	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfoezhP4Mnc">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfoezhP4Mnc</a>

Share this link with your family and friends!!

Check back for more updates to videos as we keep moving forward with FasTracks! Click on <http://www.youtube.com/user/RTDFasTracks> for a direct link to all of our videos!

### **HOW CAN I GET (OR STAY) INVOLVED?**

One of the best ways to get information to 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 keep you up to date on construction impacts. As the project evolves, it will be very important to keep all members of the community updated 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: [www.RTD-FasTracks.com](http://www.RTD-FasTracks.com)  
E Mail: [WestCorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com](mailto:WestCorridor@RTD-FasTracks.com)  
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