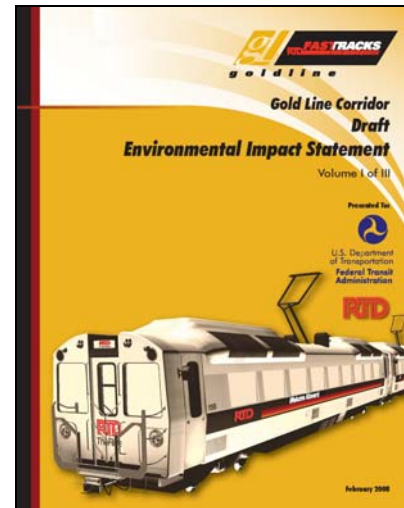


Gold Line Draft Environmental Impact Statement Overview

The Gold Line Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) contains the comprehensive environmental analysis and proposed mitigation measures for the RTD FasTracks rail line proposed to run from Denver Union Station to Ward Road in Wheat Ridge. After two years of screening and analysis, the DEIS was made available to the public on July 18, 2008. The publication of the DEIS kicked off a 45-day public comment period that includes public hearings on August 6 and 7. Public comments on the DEIS will be accepted until September 1, 2008.

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

In June 2006, RTD FasTracks began a comprehensive planning study of transit alternatives between Denver Union Station and Ward Road through Northwest Denver, Adams County, Arvada and Wheat Ridge. This study is summarized in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Gold Line EIS selects a “Preferred Alternative,” identifies the impacts that may be caused by its implementation and recommends ways of mitigating those impacts where appropriate. The document also compares the impacts that may be caused by the project’s implementation with the impacts of a “No Action” Alternative, which includes all changes that will occur if the Gold Line is not built. The No Action Alternative provides a baseline from which all of the Gold Line’s potential impacts can be evaluated.



TIPS FOR SUBMITTING AN EFFECTIVE COMMENT

Because the DEIS is a large document, developing comments can sometimes feel a bit overwhelming. However, there are a few things that you can do to develop more focused, effective DEIS comments:

- **Review the Executive Summary:** It provides a good overview of the entire document and can help you determine what chapters or sections you want to review in greater detail.
- **Include References:** In your comment, reference specific chapters, page numbers, tables or parts of the document. This will help to facilitate a more targeted response to your comment.
- **Consider the Options:** Pay particular attention to the areas in the DEIS where the project team has identified multiple options. In these instances, clearly state your preference – and the reasons for your preference – in your comments. For example, the DEIS includes multiple options for some station locations and for the track route between Denver Union Station and Pecos Street.
- **Don’t Forget the Positives:** It is tempting to only comment on things you disagree with or do not like. But it is just as important that your comments mention what you support about the project team’s analysis and recommendations.
- **Emphasize What’s Most Important:** You may have numerous comments on the Gold Line, but there are probably a few key issues that you consider to be higher priorities. Make sure to emphasize which areas are of greatest importance to you, so that we can respond appropriately.

HOW TO SUBMIT DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT COMMENTS

Online

www.rtdgoldline.com

By Email

comments@rtdgoldline.com

By Mail

RTD Gold Line Comments
Dave Beckhouse, FTA
c/o GBSM, Inc.
600 17th Street 2020-S
Denver, CO 80202

In Person

At the public hearings:

Wednesday, August 6

6 p.m.
Highland Masonic Center
3550 Federal Blvd.
Denver, CO

Thursday, August 7

6 p.m.
Arvada Center
6901 Wadsworth Blvd
Arvada, CO



Please note that the comment period ends on September 1, 2008.

WHERE TO REVIEW THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Gold Line Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is available at www.rtdgoldline.com and can also be reviewed at the following libraries and university campuses throughout the study area:

Denver Public Libraries

Central Library

10 W. 14th Avenue Parkway
Denver, CO 80204
720-865-1111

Smiley

4501 W. 46th Avenue
Denver, CO 80212
303-477-3622

Woodbury

3265 Federal Boulevard
Denver, CO 80211
720-865-0930

Jefferson County Libraries

Arvada Library

7525 W. 57th Avenue
Arvada, CO 80002
303-403-5380

Standley Lake Library

8485 Kipling Street
Arvada, CO 80005
303-456-0806

Westminster Public Library

7392 Irving Street
Westminster, CO 80030
303-430-2400 ext. 2300

Wheat Ridge Library

5475 W. 32nd Avenue
Wheat Ridge, CO 80212
303-463-3145

Rangeview Libraries

Perl Mack

7611 Hilltop Circle
Denver, CO 80221
303-428-3576

Universities

Regis University Library

3333 Regis Boulevard
Denver, CO 80221
303-458-4030

Red Rocks Community College – Arvada Campus*

5420 Miller Street
Arvada, CO 80002
303-914-6010

** DEIS will be available at the front desk
of the campus lobby.*

NEXT STEPS

After the DEIS comment period closes on September 1, 2008, RTD will begin working on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which is scheduled for release in early 2009. Comments submitted on the DEIS will be responded to in the FEIS. The final document will then be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration for review and approval, which RTD plans to receive by spring of 2009. Construction on the Gold Line is anticipated to begin by 2011, with the line opening to the public by 2016.