



Oct. 28, 2013

Welcome to *Inside RTD FasTracks*—a monthly e-update to keep you informed about the progress of the Regional Transportation District's FasTracks program.

FasTracks News

RTD Board of Directors is hosting fall telephone town hall meetings

First two forums last week draw 7,000 participants for Directors Anderson and Sisk



Photos: RTD Board Chair Lorraine Anderson (second from right in photo at left) and RTD Director Chuck Sisk (on the right in the photo on the right) joined RTD staff at two kick-off telephone town hall meetings last night that drew some 7,000 participants.

Got questions about a FasTracks project or a Regional Transportation District service? Here's your chance to talk directly to an RTD director, learn more about Denver's expanding transit system and participate in live polls. Members of the RTD Board of Directors are hosting live telephone town hall meetings between Oct. 24 and Nov. 13. Residents in each of RTD's 15 districts will be called at random through an automated system and invited to participate in the public forums. The dial-in number for all of the meetings is: **1-877-229-8493, ID No. 112070**. "Not everyone can come to a public meeting, so this allows us to tap into technology to go straight to the people," said Board Chair Lorraine Anderson. RTD expects the interactive calls to reach some 450,000 people across the Denver region. The first two town halls hosted by Chair Anderson and Director Chuck Sisk on Oct. 24 drew 7,000 participants. Residents who participate in upcoming forums can stay on the line after answering their phones and will be connected to the meeting automatically. People who don't receive a call, but wish to participate, can dial into the toll free number above. Click [here](#) to see a full schedule of the telephone town hall meetings.

Mobility study yields preliminary costs, ridership numbers

More analysis needed to evaluate benefits, impacts of transit alternatives



The FasTracks program has a clearer idea of the estimated capital costs and ridership numbers for rail and arterial bus rapid transit in the northwest area of metro Denver. The RTD Board of Directors and stakeholders in RTD's northwest region received an update on transit options for the area the week of Oct. 7. The Northwest Area Mobility Study team is being led by HNTB. The team provided preliminary data from the study, which included a range of costs for building out the

Northwest Rail in phased segments, extending the North Metro Line from the end-of-line at 162nd Avenue to Longmont, and arterial BRT on six potential routes along with corresponding ridership estimates. The first phased segment of Northwest Rail would extend the line from its current end-of-line at 71st Avenue and Lowell Boulevard in Westminster to Broomfield at 116th Avenue at an estimated cost of \$557 million to \$681 million. The estimates include upfront costs needed to operate the entire line, including a new maintenance facility for diesel multiple unit vehicles and the purchase of full-corridor operational rights for using BNSF rail tracks in perpetuity. Capital costs and ridership numbers are just two of more than 40 criteria the study will address. [Read more ...](#)

Staff recommendation on North Metro build-out expected Nov. 5

Four contractors are vying for the opportunity to build rail line to Adams County



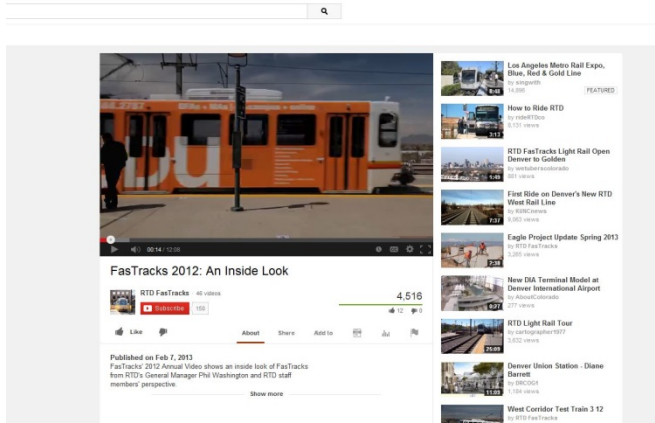
After weeks of reviewing contractor proposals to build out some or all of the North Metro Rail Line, RTD FasTracks staff will present their recommendation for the winning contract to the RTD Board of Directors Nov. 5. RTD issued a June 28 request for proposals for the design and construction of the line to 72nd Avenue—with options to extend it farther north—and received four solid proposals Sept. 23. Contractors Bechtel/Herzog, A Joint Venture; Graham, Balfour Beatty, Hamon Contractors; North Metro Transit Solutions, a

Kiewit/Stacy and Witbeck Joint Venture; and URS Energy and Construction Inc. submitted proposals. The board is expected to make a final decision at its Nov. 26 regular meeting. As FasTracks moves closer to the build-out of the North Metro Rail Line, stay up to date by visiting the project [website](#) and [sign up](#) for a monthly newsletter.

Photo: The artist's rendering above shows what the commuter rail trains for the North Metro Rail Line would look like.

CSU confers media award on FasTracks annual video

Video recognized by CSU journalism program features inside look at FasTracks



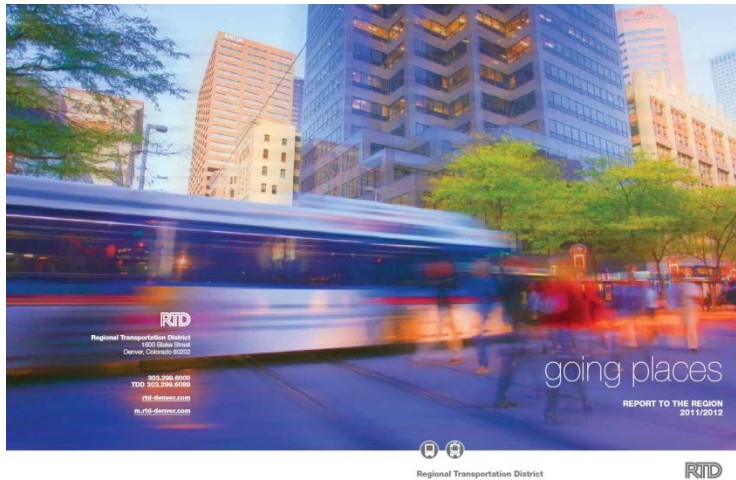
Colorado State University honored the FasTracks Public Information Team for its 2012 annual video, *RTD FasTracks: An Inside Look*. The award was presented at CSU's Sept. 27 media festival. The video features the commitment and innovation involved in getting

the FasTracks program completed from the perspectives of the people who work on FasTracks. Watch the video [here](#).

Photo: RTD FasTracks: An Inside Look video won an award this fall at CSU's annual media festival.

RTD communication efforts net five transportation industry awards

Marketing team wins industry's grand prize for social media outreach



RTD's marketing group picked up the American Public Transportation Association's AdWheel Grand Prize Award for social media campaigns at the trade association's recent annual meeting in Chicago. RTD communications professionals on the operations and FasTracks teams collaborate to share Facebook and Twitter feeds to promote progress and agency news. The team also won four first-place awards for the Report to the Region, an annual assessment and economic impact report; the West Rail

Line direct mail campaign; the West Rail Line pocket map; and the agency's Facebook outreach in the social media category. APTA's AdWheel awards recognize excellence in advertising, communications, marketing and promotion by U.S. transportation agencies. The trade association received more than 500 entries for the competition, which includes print, electronic, campaign and special events categories.

FasTracks Feature



Did you know that the Union Depot and Railroad Company spent \$525,000 to build Denver's original Union Station? The historic train station first opened June 1, 1881, and was the city's largest building at the time. Today, RTD is investing nearly \$500 million to turn Union Station into a modern, multimodal hub for its expanding transit system of light rail and commuter rail trains and buses. When the newly renovated building reopens next year, it will be the crown jewel of the RTD system, offering amenities to commuters and other passengers that include a boutique hotel, gourmet restaurants, electronic ticketing and communication systems, and architectural elements that pay homage to Denver's railroad history.

Photo: At left is the train station canopy at Denver Union Station, which soars over the main platform.

Stories Along the Line

Arvada once was ‘the celery capital of the world’



In the early 1900s, Arvada, Colo., was known as the Celery Capital of the World. In fact, the city’s signature crop was shipped to the White House for the president’s Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Today, Olde Town Arvada is a National Historic District and is undergoing major revitalization with flourishing shops, entertainment venues and restaurants. The Gold Line is a FasTracks commuter rail line that will transport people to Arvada and Wheat Ridge. [Read more](#) about this hidden gem of a story and others about towns and communities along FasTracks projects in our series of Web features called

“Stories Along the Line.”

Project Updates

Read the latest news and updates about the [RTD FasTracks](#) rail and bus rapid transit projects:

[Central Rail Extension](#)

[Denver Union Station](#)

[Downtown Denver Circulator](#)

[Eagle P3 Project](#)

[East Rail Line](#)

[Gold Line](#)

[I-225 Rail Line](#)

[Maintenance Facilities](#)

[North Metro Rail Line](#)

[Northwest Rail Line](#)

[Southeast Rail Extension](#)

[Southwest Rail Extension](#)

[U.S. 36 Bus Rapid Transit](#)

[West Rail Line](#)

RTD Board Meetings

The RTD Board holds regular meetings most Tuesdays. [Learn more...](#)

Calendar of Events

For a complete listing of upcoming events and activities, click [here](#).

Now Presenting

To schedule a FasTracks presentation for your group or organization, contact the FasTracks Public Information Team today at 303-299-6990.

FasTracks is RTD's voter-approved transit expansion program to build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver's historic Union Station and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county district. For more information about FasTracks, visit www.rtd-fastracks.com.

[Unsubscribe](#)