

inside RTD FasTracks



Sept. 30, 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

Four contractors vie to build out North Metro Rail Line

Electric commuter rail line will serve Denver's northern communities



RTD FasTracks is moving closer to the construction of the new electric commuter rail line that will serve Denver's north metro suburbs, including Commerce City, Thornton, Northglenn and other parts of Adams County. The transit expansion program has received four solid proposals from contractors who want to design and build some or all of the planned 18.5-mile **North Metro Rail Line**. The four competing teams are

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. RTD issued the request for proposals for the project in June. RTD staff will provide the RTD Board of Directors with their recommendation for the contract award Nov. 5 and a final board decision is expected at the Nov. 26 regular board meeting. Meanwhile prep work to prepare for the rail line has started at Bambei-Walker Reservoir (*see photo*). RTD is partnering with Denver Water on the mitigation work, which entails filling in small sections of land on the reservoir's perimeter. ●

RTD names free bus service for Union Station-to-Civic Center route

Free MetroRide will complement Free MallRide on 16th Street Mall, provide crosstown service



A free bus service that will debut in downtown Denver next spring has a new name: the **Free MetroRide**. The new bus service will complement the Free MallRide that runs along downtown Denver's 16th Street Mall, but will provide passenger

service down 18th and 19th streets between Union Station and Civic Center. The new service will operate with fewer stops and provide commuters with faster travel times. In contrast to the 31-year-old 16th Street Free MallRide—which stops on every corner—the new service will stop every two to three blocks during peak hours from 6-9 a.m. and from 3-6 p.m. The 60-foot “articulated” buses, or single-deck buses joined by a flexible pivoting point, will feature low floors and three doors for quick passenger loading and unloading. In addition, passengers will be able to identify the buses and bus stops, which will be painted and branded for easy identification and set them apart from other RTD bus routes. ●

Denver’s first electric commuter railcars arrive in Philadelphia

Vehicles to serve four new rail lines, including the East Rail Line to DIA



The first shipment of 10 railcar bodies that will serve the RTD FasTracks **East, Gold, Northwest** and **North Metro** commuter rail lines has arrived in Philadelphia.

Manufacturer Hyundai Rotem shipped the shells to the company’s Philadelphia plant, where they will be fully assembled and tested. More shipments will arrive over the next few months totaling 56 commuter rail car shells—50 of them for the East, Gold and Northwest rail lines and six for the North Metro Rail Line. Late next summer the first of the completed railcars will arrive in Denver for track testing.

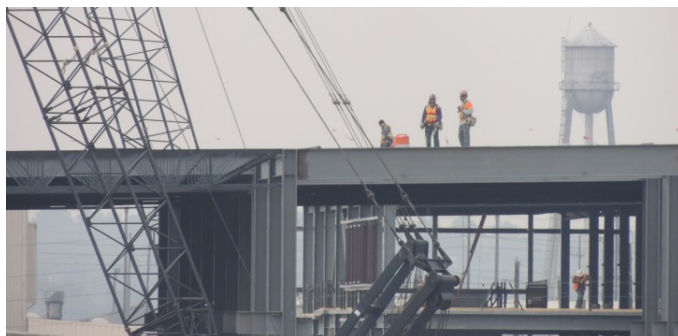
FasTracks and its concessionaire Denver Transit Partners (DTP) are building three commuter rail lines set to open in Denver in 2016, including the East Rail Line to Denver International Airport (DIA), the Gold Line to the West Denver suburbs of Arvada and Wheat Ridge and the first segment of the Northwest Rail Line to the suburb of Westminster. Commuter rail trains are heavier, faster and larger than RTD’s current light rail vehicles and are ideal for traveling longer distances. [Read more](#) about three projects that will bring commuter rail lines to Denver. ●

Meanwhile...Save the Date!

Join RTD and DTP as they co-host an open house on Saturday, Oct. 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Swigert International School at 3480 Syracuse St., Denver, CO 80238. At the open house, DTP will serve hot dogs and hamburgers and give guests an update on the construction of commuter rail lines to DIA, Arvada/Wheat Ridge and Westminster. For more information, contact Joshua.Solis@dtpjv.com.

FasTracks’ positive economic impacts resonate across Denver area

Transit expansion project injects \$2.8 billion into local economy since 2004



The **RTD FasTracks** transit expansion project continues to generate positive economic impacts for the Denver region. FasTracks data through July of this year indicate the program has expended or committed \$5 billion across RTD’s eight-county district and has injected \$2.8 billion into the local economy since its 2004 inception. Upon its completion,

FasTracks is expected to generate a total of \$150 million in wages and salaries across the Denver area each year. Since January 2005, FasTracks has created more than 11,000 direct, full-time jobs. Through July of this year, it has created 6,400 direct and indirect jobs during the height of construction. According to the American Public Transportation Association, Denver will see a \$4 return on investment over a 20-year period for every \$1 it spends on transit infrastructure. ●

Photo: Workers stand atop steel beams they are setting at the commuter rail maintenance facility in Denver's Globeville neighborhood. Click [here](#) to see a slideshow of progress being made on the facility, which is part of the FasTracks Eagle P3 commuter rail line project.

West Rail Line ranked among top 10 IRWA projects in 2013

Denver light rail line wins national accolades from right-of-way industry experts



Recognition for the RTD **W Line** continues to stack up five months after opening day. The light rail line, which opened April 26, placed No. 6 in the International Right of Way Association's project of the year competition. The W Line runs 12.1 miles between Union Station in Denver to Golden, Colo., and was the first rail project completed under the FasTracks transit expansion project. As a top 10 finisher, the W Line will be featured in several upcoming international publicity campaigns led by IRWA, including a feature story early next year in the association's *Right of Way Magazine*. IRWA's rankings are expected to receive more than 100 million online impressions through online news sites such as *Yahoo*, *Forbes*, *Market Watch* and other leading business journals. The trade association ranked the Louisville-Southern Indiana Ohio River Bridges project in Indiana as the top right-of-way project of the year. ●

Photo: The W Line's Sixth Avenue Bridge before the line opened officially in April.

RTD FasTracks Citizens Advisory Committee seeks new members

Group advises RTD on implementation of transit expansion across metro Denver



The **RTD FasTracks Citizens Advisory Committee** is searching for new members to serve on the all-volunteer **CAC**, which advises RTD on the implementation of the FasTracks transit expansion project. Applicants will be considered for vacancies that arise this year and next. Those interested in playing an active role in advising RTD on the decisions it makes with regard to the light rail, commuter rail and bus rapid transit (BRT) projects under construction across the

Denver region should submit letters of interest to Dale.Honor@rtd-denver.com. Letters must be received by the close of business on Friday, Oct. 25, 2013, and should include a brief statement of

interest; specific qualifications; related experience; and a résumé. For more information, contact CAC facilitator Roger Sherman at 303-592-5465. ●

Photo: Current members of the RTD Citizens Advisory Committee

FasTracks Feature



Did you know...FasTracks is overseeing a plan to extend its original light rail line through downtown Denver another 0.8 miles? The Central Rail Line opened in 1994 and would be extended on the north end of Denver. It is the shortest of all of the FasTracks rail projects. Unlike most other FasTracks rail line corridors, this light rail line was entirely built within a developed urban environment. When the light rail line is extended, it will give travelers another option into downtown Denver from Denver International Airport without traveling to Union

Station. That's because the extension would connect to the East Rail Line, which will transport passengers to and from DIA. A study led by Steer Davies Gleave to determine the best operating plan for the Central Rail Extension project kicked off this month. ●

Stories Along the Line

Learn more about the history of neighborhoods near new rail lines



Ever wondered where Colfax Avenue got its name? Here's your chance to find out: Read our ongoing Web series called "Stories Along the Line." Each month we'll feature a new story about the history of neighborhoods and communities adjacent to the various rail lines FasTracks is building across the Denver region. This month we feature the history of Colfax Avenue near the [Colfax Station](#) on the I-225 Light Rail Line, which will travel through Aurora and Denver when it opens in 2016. ●

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.

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