



Jan. 29, 2014

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

### Northwest area residents turn out for public meetings

*Gatherings shed light on proposed transit scenarios in RTD's northwest region*



A northwest area resident scans a FasTracks system map for more information at a recent public meeting in Boulder, Colo.

Nearly 200 residents who live in the Regional Transportation District's northwest area turned out for three public meetings this month to receive an update on the progress of the transit agency's [Northwest Area Mobility Study](#). Participants also gathered information, asked questions and provided input on mobility options. An average of 60 people attended meetings in Westminster Jan. 15, Boulder Jan. 16 and Longmont Jan. 27. A consultant team led by HNTB began the study last spring. The team's goal is to help RTD and stakeholders in the northwest area

agree on a prioritized set of transit improvements for the area given the financial challenge with completing the Northwest Rail Line to Longmont as planned. Construction on the rail line's first 6.2-mile segment to Westminster is underway and is scheduled to open in 2016.

### I-225 Rail Line focuses on safety as new construction begins

*Utility relocations will require closures, detours to ensure worker, public safety*



The I-225 Rail Line will enter a new construction phase later this month when work crews start relocating large waterlines, storm sewers and traffic lights and realign roads and sidewalks along Abilene Street in Aurora. Because of the complexity of the work, the projects will require the I-225 team and its prime contractor Kiewit Infrastructure Co. to close Abilene between Iliff and Jewell avenues. However, worker and public safety tops the list for the closure, which will occur at the end of the month. Large workloads will occur between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. through spring and could extend

later into the evening some days. All schedules will depend on weather conditions. Residents who live in the targeted area should watch for signs about temporary detours and access to businesses located at Iliff and Blackhawk Street and Abilene and Jewell Avenue. Check the [I-225 Rail Line website](#) for more information and read our [safety](#) feature.

## RTD FasTracks names new North Metro Rail project manager

*Ashland Vaughn to lead newest commuter rail line project in north Denver*

[North Metro Rail](#), the latest of several rail lines RTD FasTracks is building for the Denver metro area, will arrive in 2018. Veteran RTD Project Manager Ashland Vaughn, left, will oversee the project, which will celebrate the official groundbreaking March 20. Vaughn brings more than 25 years of engineering experience to the position and, most recently, was construction manager of another large RTD FasTracks project, [Eagle P3](#). “I’m excited and humbled to step into this challenging role to carry the North Metro Rail Line forward into construction and operation,” he said. “I look forward to working with the talented team already assembled on this project.” [Regional Rail Partners](#) (RRP), the project’s prime contractor, has committed to designing and building the first 13.5-mile phase of the line through 124th Avenue by 2018, with options to extend it to 162nd Avenue-Colorado Highway 7 as funds become available.



## New ‘I am FasTracks’ campaign personalizes transit

*Denver-area residents help put a face on RTD’s FasTracks initiative*

RTD kicked off a unique public education campaign this month featuring the stories of Denver-area citizens who embody the FasTracks spirit of progress. Participants include Ed Dimmer, left, and his wife Maro Dimmer, owners of Olde Town Arvada’s landmark [Rheinlander Bakery](#). Other featured residents are Nettie Moore, a longtime Denver-area community activist and volunteer who was named among the city’s “[150 Unsung Heroes](#)” during Denver’s 150th anniversary celebration; and Beverly Grant, founder of [Mo’ Bettah Greens Marketplace](#), the first farmers market in Denver’s historic Five Points neighborhood. All rely on RTD’s bus and rail system to get around the city and promote their work. Look for ads featuring their faces and others in light rail cars, on bus panels, community paper ads and on the [Web](#).



## Systems integration at heart of commuter rail car assembly

*RTD leaders tour Philadelphia plant, get firsthand look at new cars*



A lot of work goes into creating modern electric commuter rail trains, which are smoother and quieter than diesel trains. Denver-area residents will get a taste of the state-of-the-art technology when new RTD FasTracks electric commuter rail lines open over the next few years. The transit expansion program’s Eagle P3 project is bringing to life the East Rail Line to Denver International

Airport, the Gold Line to Arvada and Wheat Ridge and the first segment of the Northwest Rail Line to Westminster. The trio of heavy commuter rail projects is set to debut in 2016, providing fast, easy mobility across longer distances and complementing Denver's light rail system. In 2018, North Metro Rail will open and provide service through Denver's northern communities. At the Hyundai Rotem plant in Philadelphia, workers are assembling 20 electric commuter rail cars for Denver's transit system, integrating propulsion, braking and electrical systems into the trains. The first shipment is due to arrive later this year. Learn more about [commuter rail technology](#) and watch for more news about these [RTD FasTracks projects](#).

## **RTD Board of Directors elects 2014 officers**

*Boulder attorney Chuck Sisk is the panel's new chair*



It's a new year. It's a new day – and five members of the [RTD Board of Directors](#) are taking on new roles, too. Earlier this month, the board elected new 2014 officers. Director Chuck Sisk, left, who represents District O, is the board's new chair. In his new role he will be supported by the new First Vice Chair and Director Larry Hoy, District J; new Second Vice Chair and Director Bill James, District A; new Secretary and Director Jeff Walker, District D; and new Treasurer and Director Tom Tobiassen, District F. Directors are elected to four-year terms and can run for re-election for a total of eight years of service. Appointees must complete the terms of directors who step down before they can run for re-election and also serve for a maximum of eight years.

## **Denver transit projects honored for innovation, sustainability**

*West Rail Line, Denver Union Station renovation garner top industry awards*



At left is an artist's rendering of Denver Union Station and the surrounding neighborhood. On the right thousands of people celebrate the April 26, 2013, grand opening of the West Rail Line (Rendering courtesy of SOM).

The [West Rail Line](#) and [Denver Union Station](#) are drawing high praise and top honors from transportation and design experts across the country. The Colorado chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) named the West Rail Line its project of the year and top transportation project of the year under the large community category. On Feb. 20, the Colorado chapter of the [Women's Transportation Seminar](#) (WTS) will honor the light rail line, the first to open under FasTracks, as its 2013 project of the year. WTS, the international professional organization that promotes women in transportation, will also recognize RTD Board Director Claudia Folska with its Diversity Leadership Award and give RTD bus operator Laura Kessler the Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship, which is awarded to women pursuing graduate studies in transportation or a related field. The [American Institute of Architects](#) (AIA) conferred its 2014 Neighborhood Transformation Award on Denver Union Station renovation architect Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP. The AIA award jury said the project "sets a new standard for sustainability" as an "integrated, LEED-certified transportation hub that both serves the transit needs of the community and advances the quality of life for Denver residents and visitors."

## Central Rail Extension Mobility Study is in full swing

*Study focused on improving light rail travel in and around downtown Denver*



Creating greater mobility for RTD customers is a big part of RTD's FasTracks program. This year, the transit expansion program will continue with its yearlong [Central Rail Extension Mobility Study](#) to identify the best solution for a direct connection between the 38th/Blake Station and downtown Denver with no transfers. RTD expects to complete the study this year, creating a consensus among stakeholders and community members on its extension of the Central Rail Line, which was the first light rail line to open in the Denver area in 1994. The study will gather information to measure

and evaluate a potential route and operating plan for the rail line extension. Another goal is to determine how to implement the extension with minimal impacts to traffic, buses, bicyclists and pedestrians. Right now, the project team is collaborating with the City and County of Denver on traffic modeling for the study. We encourage all stakeholders and residents living in and around the Central Rail Line area to attend an upcoming public meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 5-7 p.m. at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library's first-floor conference room at 2401 Welton St. in Denver.

## FasTracks Feature

### Stories Along the Line: National Western Stock Show Station



Workers will break ground on North Metro Rail March 20 and the first phase of construction will include six stations. One of them will be the National Western Stock Show Station near the historic Denver Stockyards, which date back to the 1880s. Beginning in 2019, passengers disembarking from trains will be able to walk about one block to reach the National Western Stock Show Complex. As it turns out, the new train service and station will hark back to an era 110 years ago when a streetcar line carried visitors from central Denver to the doors of the stock show's Stadium Arena, which opened in 1909. Today, the stock show attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists, cowboys, cowgirls and locals eager to tap into

Colorado's Western heritage. This is just one of the many stories about the history, people and places along RTD FasTracks' rail projects in our series 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.

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*FasTracks is RTD's 2004 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 connect the eight-county district better. For more information, visit [www.rtd-fastracks.com](http://www.rtd-fastracks.com).*

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