

July 2015

Welcome to Inside FaTracks -- your monthly update about FaTracks news, progress and people

FaTracks News

RTD staff recommends Board approve Balfour Beatty proposal to extend Southeast Rail Line to RidgeGate Parkway

RTD staff recommended to the RTD Board of Directors to move forward with a proposal from Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Inc. to design and build the Southeast Rail Extension. At its next regular board meeting on July 28, the RTD Board is expected to take formal action on a two-phased contract award. The second construction phase is dependent on award of the federal grant from Federal Transit Administration.

The new Flatiron Flyer bus introduced at ceremony



RTD's vehicle for the new Flatiron Flyer bus rapid transit service was unveiled June 30.



RTD's new vehicle for the U.S. 36 bus rapid transit service called the Flatiron Flyer was revealed June 30 at the Broomfield Park-n-Ride. About 60 people, including public officials, community partners and news media, attended the ceremony and had a chance to take an inaugural ride.

The Flatiron Flyer buses, which can carry 57 passengers each, are specially branded with a unique blue-and-orange paint scheme. The buses offer amenities that include: 120-volt outlets and USB ports for charging laptops, tablets and smartphones; reclining seats; footrests; overhead reading lights; and individual air vents. In addition, each bus can carry up to eight bicycles.

The new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service, which is part of RTD's 2004 voter-approved FaTracks transit expansion program, will begin Jan. 17, 2016. Riders will have their choice between express service with very few stops and the bus running on U.S. 36's new express lanes, or the all-station service, which will run in a combination of express lanes, general purpose lanes and

on the shoulder, with stops at all six stations on the highway.

Check out the photo gallery, facts, and more here: http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/us36_25

RELATED STORY...



U.S. 36 Express Lanes are open. Tolling begins July 22.

The U.S. 36 Express Lanes Project celebrated a milestone June 22 when it officially opened Phase 1 of the highway's newly constructed lanes between Federal Boulevard and 88th Street in Louisville/Superior.

The new lanes offer more choices for travelers on U.S. 36. Drivers can use the two free general purpose lanes, get a transponder to travel free in the express lane as an HOV; or get a pass and pay a toll as a solo driver in the express lane. Get more information on tolling.

<https://www.codot.gov/programs/expresslanes/proposed-toll-rates>

More FasTracks progress at-a-glance

East Rail Line: The first commuter rail trains have arrived and are being tested on tracks while safety outreach programs are underway with schools and community groups along the corridor. This 22.8 mile line, which will run between Union Station and Denver International Airport, opens in 2016.



Gold Line: Tracks carrying commuter rail trains between Union Station and Wheat Ridge and Arvada are being laid and construction is well under way. Plus, all 11



bridges are either complete or nearing completion. This 11.2 mile line will open in 2016.

I-225 Rail Line: All seven light rail bridges are either complete or nearing completion on this light rail line which runs through Aurora and will offer regional connections to the East Rail Line and the Southeast Rail lines. This 10.5 mile line will open in 2016.

For more information on a variety of FasTracks projects and current progress, click on the links below.

FasTracks spreading the word

FasTracks’ public information team has been busy disseminating the latest news about RTD’s transit expansion program. Since the beginning of the year, the team has communicated information through the media, social media, community presentations, elected officials briefings, project tours, safety education presentations, events and festivals, among others. The numbers below show how effective the team is through media outreach, social media and community presentations:

News Stories (Jan 1-May 15)	196
Positive News Stories	147
Negative News Stories	20
Neutral News Stories	29
Stories prompted by 27 media releases	64
Stories appearing without release sent	132
Potential Audience Impressions	8,339,718
Total Word Count	91,719
Total Air Time	51:08

NEWS STORY SUMMARY BY FASTRACKS PROJECT (Jan 1-May 15)	# OF STORIES
Central Extension	3
Denver Union Station	20
Eagle P3	23
East Rail Line	91
FasTracks Program	53
Free MetroRide	2
Gold Line	25
I-225 Rail Line	37
North Metro Line	11
Northwest Rail Line	29
Southeast Extension	23

Southwest Extension	4
US 36 BRT Line	42
West Rail Line	13

Social Media Activity (Jan 1-May 15)	
Facebook	
18,559 fans	
47% women	
53% men	
Twitter	
10,739 followers	
39% female	
61% male	
Flickr	
Exceeded 2 million photo views since launch July 2009	

Community Presentations (Jan 1-May 15)		65
Attendees		2,100

Progress Updates

[Central Rail Extension](#)

[Denver Union Station](#)

[Eagle P3 Project](#)

[East Rail Line](#)

[Free MetroRide](#)

[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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