



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 30, 2007

**Media Contact:**  
Pauletta Tonilas  
303-299-2469 (office)  
303-461-2021 (pager)

## **RTD's new bonding program to provide competitive boost to small and minority-owned businesses**

**NEW PROGRAM IS FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE NATION**

**Denver, August 29, 2007** – The Regional Transportation District's (RTD) new innovative bonding program will help small and minority-owned businesses become more competitive for contracting opportunities. The RTD Board of Directors has approved the bonding program to assist small and minority-owned businesses to become insured. RTD has hired an outside broker to evaluate and provide alternatives to performance and payment bonds for subcontractors with contracts that are \$500,000 or less.

The program provides a bonding alternative that allows small and minority-owned businesses the opportunity to competitively bid on subcontracts on the FasTracks program – RTD's transit expansion program. The bonding opportunity was developed in response to the small business community's concerns that procuring bonds is an obstacle to competing for contracts.

"This program is yet another step in RTD's mission to provide small and minority-owned businesses with tools to successfully pursue opportunities with RTD," said RTD Board Member Juanita Chacon, Chair of the Board's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise/Small Business Enterprise (DBE/SBE) Committee.

The process begins with RTD assessing interested businesses to determine their eligibility. The FasTracks DBE/SBE Team is currently scheduling assessments for construction services firms for upcoming opportunities that will become available on the West Corridor light rail project. The program will first be applied on the West Corridor and if it is successful, RTD will look to expand the program to other FasTracks corridors.

RTD has hired the professional services of Marsh USA to provide the bond alternative to businesses. For more information, call the RTD Risk Management Department at 303-299-2715.

FasTracks is RTD's voter-approved 12-year program to expand rail and bus service throughout the RTD service area. Scheduled for completion in 2017, FasTracks will create six new commuter rail and light rail corridors, extend three existing corridors, build 18 miles of Bus Rapid Transit, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and expand bus service across the entire eight-county District.

###