

# transit times

## DISTRICT A RTD FasTracks Final Issue

### DISTRICT A

Downtown Denver

Southeast Denver

Glendale



*Demolition of the pedestrian tunnel at Denver Union Station started in early 2011 as part of the redevelopment of the historic site.*

### GREETINGS FROM YOUR RTD BOARD MEMBER

#### DISTRICT A PROFILE

District A is 26 square miles  
Population of District A is 165,000

#### BOUNDARIES:

**North** –Colfax Avenue from Broadway to Monaco

**East** – Monaco, with portion bounded by Yosemite Way and Parker Road

**South** – Hampden from Monaco to University

**West** – I-25 to Broadway

*\*Boundaries are approximate*

#### CONTACT INFO

For more information on District A or the RTD Board of Directors, contact the RTD Board Office at 303-299-2303 or go to [www.RTD-Denver.com](http://www.RTD-Denver.com)

For existing bus and light rail route and schedule information call RTD at 303-299-6000.

You can contact Director James via e-mail at [bill.james@RTD-Denver.com](mailto:bill.james@RTD-Denver.com) or 303-316-6768.



Dear District Stakeholder:

We are expanding our outreach program at RTD and will be implementing an exciting new technology that will allow the RTD Board to directly connect with constituents in our district. Telephone Town Halls, scheduled to begin this fall, are a great new way to better communicate with you. We recognize not everyone can come to a traditional public meeting, so this will allow us to come to you. Read more on page 2.

The agency's various newsletters will be consolidated into a single, cohesive e-bulletin, to provide a "one-stop-shop" for key stakeholders. To accomplish these new initiatives, several older communication tools have been streamlined and, as part of that, the Transit Times quarterly newsletters will be discontinued after this summer, making this the farewell issue. Our new initiatives will provide far greater outreach opportunities.

If you were downtown recently, you may have noticed the full-scale mock-up of the new commuter rail train that RTD will use on FasTracks lines to Denver International Airport (DIA), Arvada-Wheat Ridge and Westminster. I hope you had a chance to tour the train car and provide your comments.

Speaking of downtown, progress at Denver Union Station continues. Construction is in full-swing as we approach the August opening of the first of many new transit elements, the new light rail station near the Millennium Bridge, just west of the current station. For more information on Denver Union Station, visit [www.denverunionstation.org](http://www.denverunionstation.org).

*Sincerely,*  
**Bill James**  
*RTD Director, District A*

## **Join the Conversation!** **New “Telephone Town Halls” will Bring Your RTD Board Member to You.**

Have you ever wondered how many buses serve your neighborhood? Are you curious about which new FasTracks rail station will be closest to your home or office? Don't have time to attend meetings or find out who to call?

No problem! Starting this fall, your RTD Board Member will be coming directly to you.

RTD is implementing an exciting new technology that will connect you and your neighbors directly with your RTD Board Director via phone, wherever you are.

“Telephone Town Hall” meetings utilize technology that enables thousands of people to

participate in a live conference call with their RTD Director. The format will allow you to ask questions personally answered by your Board Director, share ideas or simply listen. A growing number of organizations – from the White House to the Denver Broncos – use this technology.

Conference call meetings will allow us to reach a much larger group of people than the traditional in-person meeting. We know you're busy and have time constraints that make it difficult to attend public meetings or proactively seek the information you need to get the most from RTD.

These virtual public meetings will make it possible for you to participate, ask questions and get information from the comfort of your home or anywhere your mobile phone operates. We will call you directly – all you have to do is answer your phone and join the conversation.

We also will be consolidating RTD's various newsletters into a single, cohesive email bulletin, designed to provide a “one-stop-shop” for those interested in receiving monthly information updates about all things RTD and FasTracks.

## **THOUSANDS OF VISITORS TOUR RTD'S NEW TRAIN!**

More than 7,500 people visited a model of the train that will be used on the commuter rail lines to DIA, Arvada-Wheat Ridge and Westminster. The model was displayed at Denver Union Station, from May 24 – June 25. Visitors could stroll through the display model, try out the seats and offer feedback on handrails and other features.



*RTD Director Tom Tobiassen speaks to visitors on Saturday, June 11, at the model of the new commuter rail vehicle.*



*RTD Director Kent Bagley explains the components of the FasTracks plan to visitors at the commuter rail vehicle display.*



*Each train car will fit 232 people – 90 seated and 142 standing.*



*The cars will be equipped with luggage racks for those who are taking the train to and from Denver International Airport.*

## CORRIDOR OVERVIEW

**Central Rail Extension** – Staff recommended to the RTD Board of Directors that of the \$305 million remaining funds, \$5 million be applied to final design and a federal environmental process for the Central Rail Extension. The project team is moving forward with the plan to begin further study of the corridor, including study of a streetcar alternative.

**Denver Union Station** – The new light rail station next to the Consolidated Main Line and the 16th St. Mall Shuttle loop in its permanent location will open on Aug. 15. Work on the track under the Millennium Bridge will be ongoing until then. Work on the interior of the bus facility continues with crews working on installing the electrical/mechanical rough-ins, stairs, elevator trusses and skylights. Demolition of the old pedestrian tunnel and other structures is underway in preparation for the excavation of the next phase of the underground bus facility.

**East Rail Line** – All intergovernmental agreements are in place, and 65 percent of right-of-way has been acquired. The line will have lane and road closures along Smith Road due to water line relocations, and some closures will take up to 30 days.

**Gold Line** – All intergovernmental agreements have been completed. Key design elements including structures and stations are underway. The award of a \$1.03 billion Full Funding Grant Agreement from the Federal Transit Administration is expected this summer. Construction will begin following the award.

**I-225 Rail Line** – A public meeting will be planned later this summer to talk about the next step – building the line to Iliiff Station and adding 600 new parking spaces. RTD and CDOT are working together to begin construction next year.

**North Metro Rail Line** – The North Metro Rail Line received its Record of Decision from the Federal Transit Administration in April, marking the official completion of the planning process. The line is now ready to move into design and construction, with the first section from Denver Union Station to the National Western Stock Show scheduled to begin in 2012.

**Northwest Rail Line** – The first segment of the rail line to south Westminster is included in Phase Two of the Eagle P3 project. Construction is expected to begin in late 2011. As part of the Construction-Ready plan, the RTD Board approved moving ahead with the Longmont station for \$17 million, which can begin after funding for the Eagle P3 project is finalized later this year.

**Southeast Rail Extension** – The Board approved the use of \$9 million of the \$305 million available in short-term funds for the final design and advanced environmental work in anticipation of seeking federal funding for the project.

**Southwest Rail Extension** – The Board approved the use of \$8.5 million of the \$305 million available in short-term funds for the relocation of Union Pacific Railroad track for development of the Southwest Extension.

## RTD FASTRAKS SYSTEM MAP



**US 36 Bus Rapid Transit** – Construction on the Table Mesa Pedestrian Bridge and queue jumps are scheduled to begin this summer. RTD is working with stakeholders and CDOT on the U.S. 36 project, which will build an additional lane in each direction to Interlocken. Construction will begin in 2012.

**West Rail Line** – Construction continues on rail and roadwork at all at-grade crossings in Lakewood. The Jeffco parking garage continues

to make quick progress, and contracts for the design and construction of the Wadsworth and Sheridan parking structures will be awarded this fall. Sheridan Boulevard was re-opened in June to a full four lanes for the first time since November 2009. Federal Boulevard and Decatur Street are also both scheduled to open fully by this fall.

**RTD FASTRACKS  
FACTS**

- Six new rail corridors
- Three extensions of existing rail corridors
- Denver Union Station redevelopment into regional transit hub
- Enhanced transit throughout the region
- 122 miles of rail
- 18 miles of Bus Rapid Transit
- 57 new transit stations
- 31 new park-n-Rides
- 21,213 new parking spaces

# FasTracks Pursues \$1.03 Billion Federal Grant



*Businesses near the future site of the Olde Town Arvada station, one of the stations on the upcoming FasTracks Gold Line.*

RTD FasTracks is one step closer to the completion of a world-class transit system for the Denver metro region. On May 2, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) sent RTD's \$1.03 billion FasTracks Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) request to Congress for the required 60-day review period. The grant will help fund the East Rail Line to Denver International Airport and the Gold Line to Arvada and Wheat Ridge.

In late summer, RTD FasTracks will celebrate the official execution of the FFGA by hosting a signing ceremony with guests from FTA, the Department of Transportation and the general public in Olde Town Arvada, the site of the first station on the Gold Line.

"This major milestone represents a giant step forward in completing FasTracks," said Rick Clarke, RTD FasTracks assistant general manager, capital programs. "The federal government's vote of

confidence in FasTracks speaks volumes about the importance of transit in Colorado."

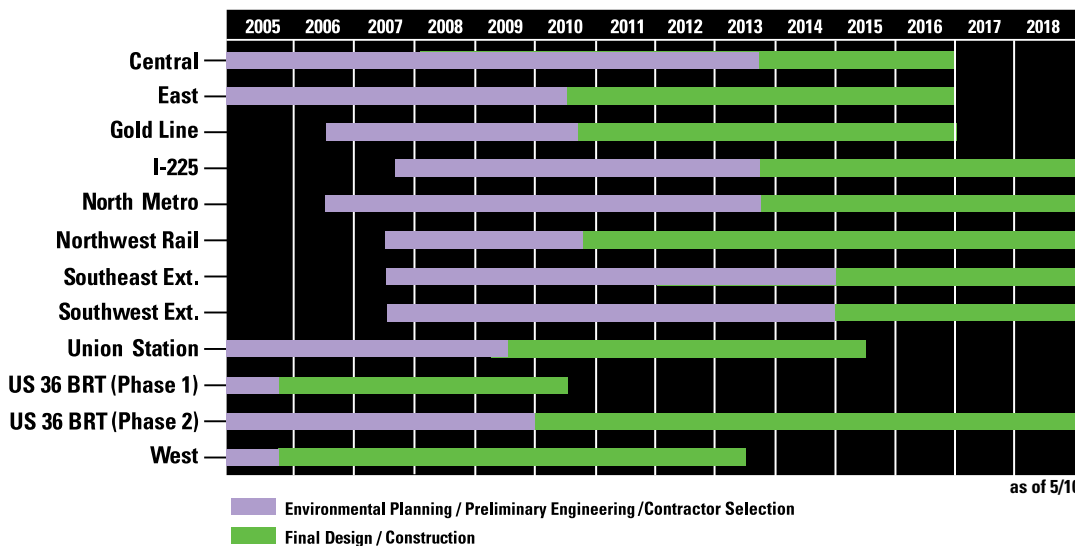
Once the FFGA is officially signed, RTD will begin the following projects with \$305 million available in the short term:

- U.S. 36 BRT - Complete managed lanes to Interlocken (\$90 million)
- North Metro - Complete from DUS to Stock Show Complex (\$90 million)
- I-225 - Complete from Nine-Mile to Iliff (\$90 million)
- Northwest Rail - Complete Longmont Station (\$17 million)
- Central Rail Extension - Additional technical analysis (\$0.5 million)
- Southeast Rail Extension - Final design & federal environmental process (\$9 million)
- Southwest Rail Extension - Relocate Union Pacific Railroad track (\$8.5 million)

**Interested in learning more about FasTracks?**

*To request a presentation for your group or organization, call the FasTracks Public Information Team, at 303-299-6908.*

## RTD FASTRACKS IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE



*did you know?*

*Approximately 7,700 transit agencies provide public transportation in the United States.*

All corridor schedules subject to change and based on actual bid and financial plan adjustments. U.S. 36 (Phase 2) schedule dependent on CDDT funding. Schedule assumes new revenues beginning January 2013.