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Yale Avenue Bridge Opens Ahead of Schedule Bridge Rebuilt for Expansion of the I-225 Light Rail and Highway

DENVER, October 5, 2012—The Regional Transportation District (RTD), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and SEMA Construction today celebrated the reopening of the Yale Avenue Bridge over I-225 two months early. The bridge was rebuilt to make room for the expansion of the I-225 Light Rail and the widening of the highway. Nearly 200 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and participated in the community walk across the bridge. The bridge is now open to traffic.

The Yale Avenue Bridge was estimated to be closed for six months during reconstruction, but crews worked to get it finished earlier.

“This is a great milestone for FasTracks and we appreciate our partnership with CDOT in bringing this project in ahead of schedule,” said Tom Tobiassen, RTD Board Director. “This is a major step in our progress to completing the entire I-225 Rail Line.”

SEMA is building the I-225 light rail segment from Nine Mile to Iliff. The remainder of the project from Iliff to Peoria/Smith Station will be constructed by Kiewit Infrastructure Co. This summer, the RTD Board of Directors formally approved Kiewit’s proposal to complete the I-225 Light Rail Line to Peoria by November 2015. The line would open in mid-2016 after about six months of testing.

The I-225 Rail Line project is part of RTD’s FasTracks program. It is a 10.5-mile light rail extension that will travel through the City of Aurora and a small section of Denver. The line will connect the existing Southeast Light Rail Line at the Nine Mile Station with the planned East Rail Line at the Peoria/Smith Station and will include eight stations.

RTD’s FasTracks transit expansion program will build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county District.

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