



**FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
SECTION 4(F) EVALUATION**

SEPTEMBER 2009

VOLUME 1 OF 2

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND
SECTION 4(F) EVALUATION
EAST CORRIDOR PROJECT**

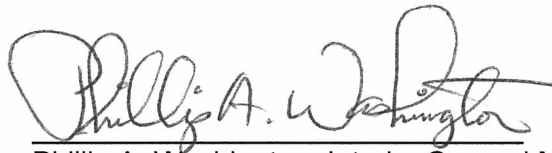
Prepared in Accordance with the
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended
42 USC §4332
and the
Federal Transit Act of 1964, as amended
49 USC §1601 et seq.

by the

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
and the
Regional Transportation District

8/5/09

Date



Phillip A. Washington, Interim General Manager
and Chief Executive Officer
Regional Transportation District

8/5/09

Date



Terry J. Rosapep, Regional Administrator
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RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

Lead Agency: Federal Transit Administration

Sponsoring Agency: Regional Transportation District

Cooperating Agencies: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ABSTRACT

This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Section 4(f) Evaluation describes transportation and environmental impacts associated with transit improvements in the East Corridor. In addition to the No-Action Alternative, a Transportation System Management (TSM) Alternative and a Preferred Alternative have been identified for the East Corridor.

The Preferred Alternative includes 22.8 miles of commuter rail from Denver Union Station (DUS) to the Denver International Airport (DIA), provides connections to existing and planned regional transit services, and expands the opportunity for transit-oriented development (TOD) that has already begun in the region. The commuter rail technology is electrical multiple unit (EMU) and is double tracked. The alignment generally follows the Union Pacific railroad (UPRR) corridor between DUS and Airport Boulevard and then Peña Boulevard to DIA. The alignment uses a combination of railroad, public, and private right of way. In addition to the DUS and DIA stations, recommended stations include 38th/Blake (formerly called 40th/40th), Colorado, Central Park, Peoria, and 40th/Airport. The Preferred Alternative also includes a commuter rail maintenance facility (CRMF) at the Fox North site. The project will improve regional access, create a reliable alternate mode choice, provide additional regional transportation capacity, and minimize local community and environmental impacts.

The Preferred Alternative is evaluated against the other alternatives through a variety of social, environmental, and economic categories. These include social and community facilities; land use, zoning, and economic development; land acquisition, displacements, and relocations; historic, archaeological, and cultural resources; parklands and recreation areas; air quality; energy; noise and vibration; biological resources; natural resources; hazardous materials; and safety and security.

The East Corridor has been accepted by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) into Preliminary Engineering under FTA's New Starts program along with RTD's Gold Line and their shared CRMF. In addition, the project has entered into FTA's Public Private Partnership Pilot Program (Penta-P). It is assumed the Penta-P project costs not covered by the Regional Transportation District (RTD), federal, or local contributions would be financed by the private partner with taxable debt and equity. The *FasTracks Plan* (RTD, 2004) assumes the private partner will bridge the timing gap between expenditures and receipt of federal revenues from a full funding grant agreement during project construction.

COMMENTS

The FEIS is available to the public for a 30-day comment period from September 4, 2009 to October 7, 2009. Comments on this document may be submitted in writing to FTA at the following address:

David Beckhouse
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Two public hearings will be held during the FEIS review and comment period. The date, time, and locations are:

September 23, 2009
North Middle School
12095 Montview Boulevard
Aurora
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 24, 2009
EXDO Event Center
1399 35th Street
Denver
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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