

RTD's East Rail Line Construction Gearing Up



Get ready for the long-awaited construction of RTD FasTracks commuter train between downtown Denver and Denver International Airport. More than half of this \$1.1 billion, 23-mile project passes through Council District 11.

Early construction work has been underway since spring on what RTD calls the East Rail Line. For the most part, it has consisted of excavating and relocating underground utilities such as water, sewer and communications fiber-optic lines that cross the path of the train along Smith Road. If you've driven Smith since the summer, you've likely had to detour around the construction closures that occurred at Monaco, Quebec, Dahlia, Kearney and Forest streets.

Right now, heavy earth-moving equipment is grading on the north side of the Union Pacific tracks between Sand Creek and

Havana Street for a replacement freight railyard. All of this preparatory work will give way over the winter and into spring to major work on the path for the commuter rail tracks, including bridges and retaining walls. The commuter train tracks will be built along the south side of the existing freight tracks.

Residents and business owners can sign up to receive project-related road closure and traffic information at tiny-url.com/EastTraffic. Detour information and maps are available at http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/ec_14.

The East Rail Line is scheduled to open in early 2016. There will be trains every 15 minutes in each direction. To address noise issues, RTD will build the type of crossing gates and roadway configuration that will allow the federal government to exempt both RTD's trains and the Union Pacific freight locomotives from blowing their horns at each street.

Three of the five stations between downtown and DIA will directly serve District 11 residents. The Central Park Station, located at Smith Road and Ulster Street adjacent to the existing RTD Stapleton park-n-Ride, will be the largest on the line, with 1,500 parking spaces. It will serve the Northeast Park Hill and Stapleton communities. The Peoria Station will be a straight shot down Peoria Street from Montbello, via Peoria Street. It will be on the west side of Peoria, south of Smith Road, and will have 550 parking spaces. The 40th/Airport Station serves Montbello, Gateway and Green Valley Ranch neighborhoods with 1,079 parking spaces at the existing park-n-Ride.

If you have questions about the project, please contact Kevin Flynn, RTD's public information manager, at 303-299-2898 or Kevin.Flynn@rtd-denver.com.

