

## NOW YOU'RE TALKING

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**Decision-Making for the Regional  
Transportation District Gold Line  
Corridor**

## **Decision-Making for the Regional Transportation District Gold Line Corridor**

### **Issues:**

FasTracks is the Regional Transportation District's 12-year comprehensive plan to build and operate high-speed rail lines throughout the region. The Gold Line is the FasTracks commuter rail corridor that will serve Arvada, Wheat Ridge, Adams County, and Denver.

### **Process:**

The Regional Transportation District asked CDR Associates to develop its agency coordination plan for the Gold Line Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In order to effectively integrate the local municipalities and regulatory agencies into the EIS decision-making process, CDR worked with RTD to convene two committees—the Local Governments Team and an Agency Working Group. Both groups were charged with providing policy guidance and recommendations to RTD and the Federal Transit Administration at each of the key decision milestones. Although both groups were advisory, their feedback, recommendations, and guidance were key elements of RTD's decision-making process. CDR also worked with RTD to integrate the local government and agency process with Public Involvement for the EIS.

### **Players:**

- Regional Transportation District
- Local, State, and Federal Resource and Regulatory Agencies
- Local Governments: City and County of Denver, City of Arvada, City of Wheat Ridge, Town of Mountain View, Jefferson County, Adams County and Denver Regional Council Of Governments.

### **Results:**

There were four decision-making milestones during the Gold Line EIS: Scoping, Conceptual Screening of Alternatives, Detailed Evaluation of Alternatives, Selection of the Preferred Alternative. RTD worked with the state and federal agencies, local governments, and community members to narrow the range of Gold Line alternatives at each phase. The evaluation became

increasingly detailed as alternatives were eliminated and RTD identified a Preferred Alternative in the spring of 2007.