

The logo features a stylized graphic of a train on tracks leading towards a city skyline. Below the graphic, the words "EAST CORRIDOR" are written in a large, bold, italicized sans-serif font. Underneath that, "ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT" is written in a smaller, bold, italicized sans-serif font.

# ***EAST CORRIDOR***

## ***ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT***

February 29, 2008

Dear East Corridor Stakeholder:

The East Corridor project team would like to provide you with an update on the progress of the East Corridor Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the next steps in our process.

After working closely with the neighborhoods and agencies involved in the East Corridor, we have identified the Preferred Alternative as electric commuter rail, running from Denver Union Station (DUS) to Denver International Airport (DIA). The alignment for the preferred alternative would run in and along the existing Union Pacific (UP) Railroad corridor from DUS until it turns north at Airport Boulevard to DIA. In recent months, RTD and UP have been engaged in negotiations for several UP properties for FasTracks – including portions of the East Corridor Preferred Alternative.

As part of RTD's system-wide FasTracks negotiations with the railroad, UP recently presented RTD with a package of properties, including portions of the East Corridor alignment and the proposed site for the Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility that was more than our budget. RTD remains in negotiations with UP and anticipates reaching an agreement to purchase several UP properties for FasTracks in the upcoming months.

However, to keep the East Corridor EIS on pace for its scheduled 2015 opening, we have decided to include in our upcoming draft an evaluation of potential refinements to the Preferred Alternative in the portions of the alignment where we would be on UP property between DUS and Quebec Street. RTD currently is pursuing other options for the commuter rail maintenance facility, including a previously evaluated alternative that would locate the facility on RTD's Platte bus facility at 31st Street and Ringsby Court.

We are working to identify refinements to the UP alignment that would work best with the fewest impacts. These refinements will be evaluated using the same criteria the project team has developed in conjunction with the communities and stakeholders, and will receive the same environmental analysis as the Preferred Alternative.

We plan to complete our analysis later this year and publish the Draft EIS by early 2009.

The East Corridor EIS will share these potential refinements through its usual process. Although we previously scheduled corridor-wide meetings for March 12 and 13, we must postpone both meetings until we receive additional information from the railroad negotiations, so we can provide a comprehensive overview of the potential refinements we are considering. When we reschedule the corridor-wide meetings, we'll contact you through mailings, e-mail, flyers and advertisements. Information also will be posted on our project website, [www.eastcorridor.com](http://www.eastcorridor.com).

Thank you for your continued involvement with the East Corridor EIS. We look forward to meeting with you as our work on planning and design of the East Corridor continues.

East Corridor Project Team