

Final Environmental Impact Statement and Final Section 4(f) Evaluation

Denver Union Station Project Denver, Colorado

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

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended, 42 United States Code (USC) §4332(2); the regulation of the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500–1508; Federal Transit Laws, 49 USC 53; Environmental Impact and Related Procedures—Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration, 23 CFR 771; the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 USC §470(f); Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, as amended, 49 USC §303; Parks, Recreation Areas, Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges, and Historic Sites (Section 4(F)), 23 CFR 774; Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, 16 USC §4601-U; the Clean Air Act as amended, 42 USC §7401–7671; the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 USC §1531; Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended, 42 USC §4601; Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, 33 USC §1342; Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low Income Populations; Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands; Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management; and all relevant laws and procedures of the State of Colorado.

7/24/08
Date


for Clarence W. Marsella, General Manager
Regional Transportation District

7/24/08
Date


Terry J. Rosapep, Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration, Region VIII

Abstract: This Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) describes the transportation and environmental impacts associated with proposed transportation improvements at Denver Union Station (DUS) located in the lower downtown area of Denver, Colorado. Three alternatives are considered in this Final EIS: the No Action Alternative, the Build Alternative, and the Phase I Alternative of the Vision Plan. The Build Alternative is part of a transportation plan for DUS and was selected by the Executive Oversight Committee (EOC) in November 2006. An alternatives screening process was conducted to compare the Build Alternative against the vision and goals of the *DUS Master Plan*. Through this process, it was determined that the Build Alternative meets the vision and goals of this plan and has been selected as the preferred alternative for the project. The Build Alternative includes construction of at-grade passenger rail, below-grade regional bus, at-grade Light Rail Transit (LRT) station at the Consolidated Mainline, relocation of the existing 16th Street Mall Shuttle turnaround, construction of bus bays in the regional bus facility for the future Downtown Circulator, and related site improvements.

The Vision Plan, which was evaluated in the Draft EIS, represents the full build-out of the transportation improvements identified in the *DUS Master Plan* (September 2004). The Phase I Alternative of the Vision Plan was the initially funded portion of full build-out. Phase I Alternative included construction of a below-grade light rail station comprised of three tracks and platforms, enhanced at-grade passenger rail service, relocation of the existing 16th Street Mall Shuttle turnaround, and related site improvements.

The purpose of this Final EIS is to provide decision makers with all relevant information related to the impacts of the proposed transportation improvements. The potential impacts of the alternatives are identified for a broad range of environmental categories including: land use, social and economic, transportation, air quality, noise and vibration, water resources, visual and aesthetics, hazardous materials, water resources, cultural resources, and utilities. Responses to the comments submitted for the Draft EIS are included in Appendix H of this document and have been incorporated into the text of this Final EIS as necessary.

Comments: A public comment period for this Final EIS will extend from July 11, 2008 through August 25, 2008. A public hearing will be held on July 31, 2008 at the following location:

City and County of Denver
Wellington Webb Building
201 West Colfax Avenue, Rooms 4F6 / 4G2
Denver, CO 80202
5:30-7:30 PM

For further information concerning this document, contact the following individuals:

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Written comments on this Final EIS are due by August 25, 2008 and should be submitted to Gina McAfee at the above address. Comments may also be submitted on the project website at: www.denverunionstation.org, or through the public involvement contact, Roger Sherman, at 303-592-5465.

Copies of the *DUS Master Plan*, Draft EIS and Final EIS are available through the project website or by contacting Roger Sherman.

Final Environmental Impact Statement Availability

Copies of this document are available in hard copy format for public review at the following locations:

Federal Transit Administration

12300 West Dakota Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado 80228, Suite 310

RTD-FasTracks Office

1560 Broadway, Denver, CO 80202, Suite 700 (7th Floor Receptionist)

CDOT Region 6 Planning and Environment Office

2000 South Holly St., Denver, CO, 80222 (2nd floor Administrative Assistant)

Denver Regional Council of Governments

1290 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203, Suite 700 (Marty Burgess, Policy Development and Communication Division)

City and County of Denver

201 W. Colfax Avenue, Denver, CO 80202, Dept. 608 (6th Floor Public Works Manager's Office)

1437 Bannock St., Denver, CO 80202, Room 350 (Mayor's Office)

Public Libraries

City and County of Denver

Belmar Library
555 S. Allison Pkwy., Lakewood CO 80226

Denver Main Library
10 W 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver, CO 80204

Adams County

Thornton Branch
8992 N. Washington St., Thornton, CO 80229

Northglenn Branch
10530 N. Huron St., Northglenn, CO 80234

Commerce City Branch
7185 Monaco, Commerce City, CO 80022

Boulder

Boulder Public Library Main Branch
1000 Canyon Blvd., Boulder, CO 80302

Broomfield

Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library
3 Community Park Rd., Broomfield, CO 80020

Jefferson County

Jefferson County Public Library
10200 W. 20th Ave., Lakewood, CO 80215

To request a copy (CD or hard copy) of the Final EIS, Draft EIS, or Technical Reports, call the public involvement contact, Roger Sherman, (303-592-5465) or visit the project website (www.denverunionstation.org). The Final EIS and Draft EIS are available for review on the website.