

# SOUTH BROADWAY



ARIZONA TO EXPOSITION & I-25 INTERCHANGE

**SUMMER 2010**

**CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER PUBLIC WORKS**

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## South Broadway Corridor Design Underway!

The City and County of Denver has hired a Consultant Team to move the South Broadway, Arizona to Exposition and I-25 Interchange Project from the planning stages to design and ultimately construction. As one of the City's top priorities, the Consultant Team, led by Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig (FHU), is currently reviewing engineering documents, planning and environmental studies, as well as beginning the 30% design effort to move forward with much needed corridor improvements to balance the needs of drivers, transit users, bicyclists and pedestrians.

South Broadway, a major urban arterial and transportation corridor linking surrounding suburbs, I-25 and Downtown Denver, is experiencing low service levels and peak hour congestion and the I-25 Interchange no longer meets operational needs. If planned improvements are not made, as the area transforms into a vibrant residential and mixed-use destination, conditions and access will continue to deteriorate.

Various city-wide, long-range studies conducted over the past 10 years, such as *Denver's Comprehensive Plan* adopted in 2000 and *Blueprint Denver* adopted in 2002, recommend strategies to accommodate Denver's future growth.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the *South Broadway Environmental Assessment and Section 4 (f) Evaluation* approved and released in March 2008 and the *South Broadway Finding of No Significant Impact* approved in November 2008, were the result of a lengthy study and a extensive public



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THE MILE HIGH CITY

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outreach process through which alternatives were developed, screened and evaluated, culminating in a thoroughly vetted recommendation for a preferred alternative. Planned improvements for the South Broadway, Arizona to Exposition and I-25 Interchange Project are a direct result of these recommendations to ensure that this important corridor meets today's complex multi-modal, safety and operational demands.

The purpose of this project is to provide safe and efficient mobility for all transportation modes (pedestrian, bicycle, transit and automobile), promote transit-oriented development surrounding the RTD I-25/Broadway Light Rail Transit (LRT) Station, accommodate existing, future and planned developments and greatly improve the system-wide transportation infrastructure.

Public participation and input is important to the success of this project. We encourage you to attend the Public Meeting to be held the evening of Tuesday, August 24. Details are provided on the back page of this newsletter. To learn more about the project and environmental process, please visit [www.sobroi25.com](http://www.sobroi25.com).

## Project Elements

**South Broadway** to be reconstructed and widened to accommodate eight travel lanes, turn lanes, landscaped raised medians and detached widened sidewalks. Initially, in an effort to make the corridor more pedestrian oriented, the outside lane in each direction will be utilized for vehicular parking. It will remain this way until it is determined that the lanes are needed to mitigate negative impacts by vehicular traffic.

### **I-25 Interchange:**

**Northbound:** Ramps to be reconfigured to improve traffic operations, increase northbound I-25 on-ramp radius and realign northbound off-ramp.

**Southbound:** I-25 on-ramp to be replaced with a new ramp and alignment, which will cross under I-25 west of Broadway, run parallel to I-25 and then cross over Broadway on a new bridge structure leading to I-25.

### **Surrounding Roadways:**

**Mississippi Avenue:** To be reconstructed and widened to accommodate turn lanes, raised medians and widened sidewalks.

**Exposition Avenue Extension:** Replace the existing Ohio Avenue access into the RTD I-25/Broadway Station from South Broadway with an extension of Exposition Avenue and construction of a short portion of Acoma Street.

**Ohio Avenue at the I-25 Ramp Terminals:** To be reconfigured from South Broadway to the northbound I-25 off-ramp; the reconfiguration will help to prevent cut-through traffic in the adjacent residential neighborhood.

## Sustainability: What It Means and How It Is Incorporated

We often hear the term sustainability tossed around, particularly during conversations about transportation and development. What does it really mean and how can we make sure it is achievable?

*"Greenprint Denver is a pragmatic approach to determine City [sustainability] objectives that can be tracked, measured, refined and reported."*



Sustainability is creating and finding ways to keep an ecological balance, using our resources without depleting or destroying them. In terms of everyday actions, it means finding ways to limit our impact on our environment.

As part of the South Broadway, Arizona to Exposition and I-25 Interchange Project, we are finding practical ways to integrate into the design, implementation

and construction, guidelines identified in *Greenprint Denver*. *Greenprint Denver*, introduced to the citizens of Denver in 2006, outlines seven key elements and broad-based goals to maintaining and improving our environment include:

- **Energy:** Reduce economic, social and environmental impacts of unnecessary energy use.
- **Air and Emissions:** Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, prepare for the local effects of global climate change and prevent the public health impacts of poor air quality.
- **Water:** Conserve Denver's drinking water resources and improve the water quality of streams and lakes to be safe for recreational use.
- **Land:** Protect, care for and enhance the quality of Denver's landscapes.

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- **Transportation:** Create a vibrant, livable urban center that is pedestrian friendly, supports mass transit and decreases reliance on cars.
- **Waste:** Reduce costs, consumption of raw materials, and energy use through thoughtful purchasing, waste reduction, and recycling of existing roadway materials.
- **Community:** Building a sustainable community together, today.

*Greenprint Denver* further identifies specific measurable and achievable goals that are part of the overall comprehensive vision for Denver's future.

To view *Greenprint Denver*, visit [www.denvergov.org](http://www.denvergov.org) and search for *Greenprint Denver*.

## South Broadway – Then and Now

To look at it, you would never know that South Broadway started as the path Tom Skerrit used to move his fruit from Englewood to Denver in the 1870's.

By 1874, horse drawn trolleys operating on rails were moving people in Denver. Cable cars were introduced in 1888, lasting only 11 months due to tangling of cables.

In December 1889, the first electrified trolley line was introduced in Denver - - which happened to be along South Broadway!! Trolley stops were made upon request and included what became the Gates complex. The route extending to Orchard Place, now Englewood, operated until June 3, 1950.

It wasn't until 1898 that South Broadway was designated an official roadway by the City of Denver. With a right of way width of 100 feet, it was appropriately named *Broadway*.

Many changes have occurred since then to alter the landscape of one of Denver's most vibrant transit and transportation hubs. As is the case with bustling thoroughfares throughout the world, South Broadway attracted industry, jobs and residents to the area.

Henry Ford built a plant on South Broadway and Kentucky which manufactured the Model T Truck.

In 1914, Charles and Hazel Gates moved their fledgling business, the "The Colorado Tire and Leather Company" a producer of leather and rubber goods to the South Broadway area.



Passengers Disembarking the Trolley at Gates Rubber Company on South Broadway  
Photo Courtesy Sundance Publications - *Denver's Street Railways Volume II*  
David Clint Jr. Photo, Don Robertson Collection

By 1945, Gates had purchased the old Ford Building and moved some of its operations there. Eventually, the "Gates Rubber Company" complex occupied 25 blocks and consisted of 30 interconnected buildings, remaining a major employment center and a vital part of the community.

Today, the area is recognized as one of the largest growth centers in the City. Redevelopment, as has occurred in Lowry and Stapleton, promises an increase in density and population in the coming decades that will contribute to the area's desirability as a place to live, work, shop and visit.

COME SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Next Steps

The City and Consultant Team will continue to develop strategies that improve multi-modal connectivity and system-wide functionality, refine the need for additional right-of-way and utility impacts and implement sustainability principles through the 30% design effort. The Project Team will also identify funding sources and phasing of the final design and construction of the project.

### Please join us for an Open House for the South Broadway: Arizona to Exposition and I-25 Interchange Project

The City and County of Denver will present the latest information on the South Broadway: Arizona to Exposition and I-25 Interchange Project. The open house will include a brief presentation at 6:30 p.m. to introduce the Project Team, explain upcoming design efforts and answer any questions.

**Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2010**

**6 to 8 p.m.**

**Denver Design Center**

**595 S. Broadway, East Building, Denver, CO**

*\* Location served by RTD bus routes 0 and 0 LTD.*

**Parking Instructions:** Enter the Denver Design Center from South Broadway on Center Street. Continue down the driveway until just before the fountain and turn left into the parking lot. Walk to the east building and follow the signs to the meeting room.

**ADA Assistance:** Persons with disabilities or hearing impairments may request special accommodations by calling (303) 680-6849 or sending an email to [nanci@regnierassociates.com](mailto:nanci@regnierassociates.com) to arrange for services at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

**En Español:** Si necesita ayuda o información en español favor de comunicarse al (303) 913-8183.

## SOUTH BROADWAY



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