

# THREE TRANSIT OPTIONS BEING EVALUATED IN THE NORTHWEST SERVICE AREA

*As the Regional Transportation District (RTD) implements the FasTracks expansion program, the RTD Board of Directors is considering the most effective way to provide service to the northwest area. Because the cost to build and operate the Northwest Rail Line has significantly increased, these options are being evaluated:*

## OPTION 1

Complete the Northwest Rail Line as planned and extend the completion date from 2020 to 2024. Given significant cost increases associated with building and operating the commuter rail line in the Northwest Corridor—from \$894.6 million to \$1.7 billion, following recent information from the BNSF Railway—the previous project completion date of 2020 is unachievable.

The Northwest Rail Line is part of what voters approved in 2004.



## OPTION 2

Complete the Northwest Rail Line as planned and extend the completion date from 2020 to 2024. This option would



accelerate construction of several new RTD park-n-Rides and provide interim bus service to them. It also increases bus service on US 36 and to/from other key



destinations in the Northwest Corridor. Once the commuter rail is complete, the interim bus service

will be rerouted to feed riders to/from the transit stations. This option postpones the completion of six other FasTracks projects by approximately six months each.

## OPTION 3

Replace the Northwest Rail Line with an expanded and enhanced Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. The Northwest



BRT would operate in high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes along US 36 and SH 119 and with transit priority on non-freeway roads. Transit priority measures include enhancements such as off-board fare collection, signal priority, and bus bypass lanes at intersections. Similar to the rail stations, Bus Rapid Transit stations would be constructed at key points along each route, complete with parking and station branding identifying the BRT system. RTD would commit the remaining Northwest Rail project funds—capped at \$894.6 million—to the BRT system.

*Each of these three options assumes a successful FasTracks sales tax election in 2012.*

*RTD is accepting input on the Northwest options through March 1, 2012 at [www.rtd-fastracks.com](http://www.rtd-fastracks.com)*



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**RTD FasTracks**