

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD ANNOUNCES \$20 MILLION GRANT FOR RTD'S SOUTHWEST LIGHT RAIL CORRIDOR FTA GRANT FINAL PAYMENT OF FULL FUNDING AGREEMENT

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) has been informed by Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has approved the final payment on the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) funding for the Southwest light rail project. The \$20,010,993 grant is the final payment of the full funding grant agreement between FTA and RTD for the completion of the Southwest Corridor.

“This final grant award is further proof that Denver has become a national leader in light rail,” Allard said. “The Southwest Corridor has been a model in light rail construction and will aid Denver metro area residents as Colorado continues to grow.”

FTA and RTD signed the full funding grant agreement on May 9, 1996, committing \$120 million in FTA New Starts funding. This \$20 million FTA grant marks the final payment of federal funding to RTD in that agreement. The Southwest corridor successfully opened on July 14, 1999, extending rail service from the central line at I-25 and Broadway to Santa Fe and Mineral, in Denver.

“Now that RTD has received its final portion of funding on the completed Southwest light rail corridor, it can now focus its full attention on the completion of the Southeast corridor,” Allard added. “The Southwest corridor construction remained on time, on budget and rider-ship projections have exceeded expectations. I am optimistic that construction of the Southeast corridor will progress as smoothly.”

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