

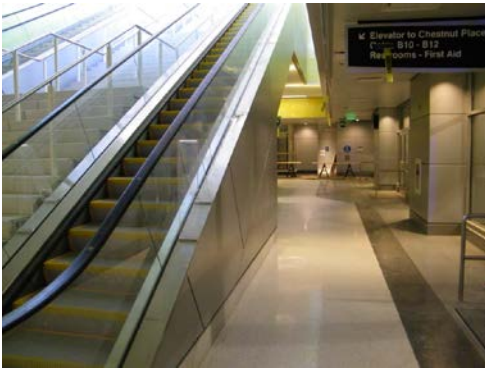


February 2014

Welcome to *Inside RTD FasTracks*—a monthly e-update to keep you informed about the progress of the Regional Transportation District's FasTracks program.

## RTD FasTracks News

### Prep underway for Union Station bus concourse opening



Construction crews are putting the finishing touches on RTD's new Union Station bus concourse, which will make its debut in a few months. On Friday, May 9, RTD will celebrate the grand opening of its new underground bus facility with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and festival. The public will get to tour the concourse and partake in various activities. On May 11, RTD will begin bus service out of Union Station and permanently close Market Street Station after 30 years of service. Visitors from around the nation continue to marvel at the transformation of Union Station, including transit officials from other large U.S. cities who hope to emulate what Denver has accomplished

by rehabbing its historic train station. Once fully operational, the Victorian-era train station will become Denver's version of Grand Central Station and feature a boutique hotel, gourmet restaurants, shops, gardens, a new entertainment venue, and infrastructure for Amtrak trains and RTD buses and light rail and commuter rail trains.

### Rail lines will see biggest construction year yet in 2014



2014 is poised to be the biggest year yet for construction on several RTD FasTracks rail projects, including the I-225 Rail Line. The new 10.5-mile light rail line is set to open in 2016 and will improve mobility along the spur highway running between Interstates 25 and 70. However, because the project is a major endeavor, RTD is asking riders and Aurora residents to bear with construction work during this period of short-term pain for long-term gain. I-225 construction crews anticipate detours and temporary closures as they relocate waterlines and traffic signals and install bridges. The safety of road crews and the public is a priority for RTD, so it's important for everyone to drive carefully through work zones. For construction-related updates, please

visit the project [website](#). Meanwhile, the I-225 Rail Line team is asking employees and the public to remember to support local businesses affected by the project. Click [here](#) for a complete list.

## Rail projects improve emergency communications

RTD FasTracks is receiving credit for improving emergency communications among Denver-area first responders. Additional fiber-optic cable installed along the transit agency's new West Rail Line between Denver Union Station and the Jefferson County Government Center has improved connectivity for police, fire and emergency dispatch centers. Jefferson County Emergency Communication Authority (JCECA) officials say they've already seen the benefits of the fiber-optic cable installed along the W Line and expect to expand those benefits to their counterparts in Arapahoe and other metro counties as more RTD FasTracks rail lines are completed. In the end, the cabling will mean faster and more coordinated public response during emergencies and natural disasters. Experts say rail lines are ideal pathways for fiber-optic cable because they are protected and secure.



## Survey: Denver ahead of national transit curve

The Denver metropolitan region leads the pack nationally when it comes to relying on transit to get into the city core. Commuters traveling into downtown Denver use transit more and drive alone less than the average U.S. commuter. That's according to the Downtown Denver Partnership's 2013 transit [survey](#). The results indicate that 46 percent of the survey's 4,485 respondents use transit to get to work in downtown Denver; 38 percent still choose to drive into downtown Denver alone; 5 percent carpool; 5 percent cycle; and 4 percent walk. The average one-way commute is 14 miles. RTD FasTracks is doing its best to alleviate traffic congestion in the Denver area by building out several rail and bus lines. 2016 will be a big year for the region as five projects open – the East Rail Line to Denver International Airport, the Gold Line to Arvada and Wheat Ridge, the Northwest Rail Line to Westminster, the I-225 Rail Line through Aurora, and a bus rapid transit (BRT) system along U.S. 36.



## Project Updates

Read the latest news and updates about the [RTD FasTracks](#) rail and bus rapid transit projects:

[Central Rail Extension](#)

[Denver Union Station](#)

[Eagle P3 Project](#)

[East Rail Line](#)

[Free MetroRide](#)

[Gold Line](#)

[I-225 Rail Line](#)

[Maintenance Facilities](#)

[North Metro Rail Line](#)

[Northwest Rail Line](#)

[Southeast Rail Extension](#)

[Southwest Rail Extension](#)

[U.S. 36 Bus Rapid Transit](#)

[West Rail Line](#)

## RTD Board Meetings

The RTD Board holds regular meetings most Tuesdays. [Learn more...](#)

## Calendar of Events

For a complete listing of upcoming events and activities, click [here](#).

## Now Presenting

To schedule a FasTracks presentation for your group or organization, contact the FasTracks Public Information Team today at 303-299-6990.

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*FasTracks is RTD's voter-approved transit expansion program to build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver's historic Union Station and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county district. For more information about FasTracks, visit [www.rtd-fastracks.com](http://www.rtd-fastracks.com).*

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