



March 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.

FasTracks News

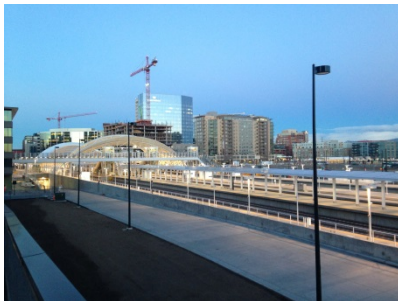
RTD FasTracks breaks ground on North Metro Rail Line



Residents of metro Denver's northern communities—Commerce City, Thornton, Northglenn and Adams County—will have more transit options in the not-so-distant future. The Regional Transportation District and its FasTracks transit expansion program broke ground March 20 on the first 12.5-mile phase of the North Metro Rail commuter line. Commuter rail operates with modern, urban passenger trains that are bigger, heavier and faster and are designed to travel longer distances than light rail trains. At a ceremonial groundbreaking for the project, Colorado Gov. John

Hickenlooper, U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and other local dignitaries attended the gathering of 300 people and spoke about the benefits and revitalization the North Metro Line is expected to bring to the metro area. The line is expected to open in 2018. [Read more about the groundbreaking](#) and the [North Metro Rail Line](#).

RTD bus concourse, Free MetroRide to debut in May



In about a month, RTD will unveil the new Denver Union Station Bus Concourse that will replace Market Street Station in downtown Denver. The debut of the new 22-bay, underground bus facility will take place at a grand opening celebration on Friday, May 9. Denver-area residents are invited to attend the festivities, which will begin with a ceremony and ribbon-cutting at noon. A community festival will follow. Service at the new bus concourse will commence officially Sunday, May 11, when Market Street closes

permanently. On Monday, May 12, RTD will introduce a new, no-fare bus service in downtown Denver called the Free MetroRide, which will complement the 16th Street Free MallRide and travel along 18th and 19th streets. [Read more about the Union Station renovation](#), the [bus concourse](#) and the [Free MetroRide](#).

Denver area gets European-style efficiency with DDI



Ever heard of a diverging diamond interchange or DDI? They make it easier to drive through and across highway interchanges. Starting today, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) will start construction on Denver area's first DDI at McCaslin Boulevard and U.S. 36. DDIs improve traffic flow and reduce long left-turn waits by shifting traffic to the opposite side of the road so vehicles can move onto freeway ramps easily. They also eliminate left turns across

traffic. CDOT's DDI project will affect RTD's northbound 228 bus route to Louisville so RTD has relocated the bus stop to a temporary site near the intersection of Marshall Road and McCaslin. Work on the DDI is expected to last two years and is part of the second phase of the U.S. 36 Express Lanes Project, a partnership between CDOT and RTD. [To understand DDIs, watch a CDOT animation.](#)

Photos illustrate dramatic changes at Airport Station

Dramatic changes are taking place at Denver International Airport's main terminal as workers continue to make progress on the last of six stops along the East Rail Line to DIA. The East Rail Line is one of three commuter rail projects FasTracks is building as part of the Eagle P3, the largest transit public-private partnership project in the United States. The other two are the Gold Line to Arvada and Wheat Ridge and the first leg of the Northwest Rail Line to Westminster. All will open in 2016, providing greater mobility to the metro Denver area as they travel between Denver Union Station and their final stops. [Read more about the East Rail Line and check out photos of the Denver Airport Station's transformation.](#)



Central Rail Mobility Study moves ahead

More than 70 people attended a Central Rail Extension Mobility Study kickoff meeting Feb. 26 at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in Denver. Attendees learned about the study's goals and challenges and the team overseeing the effort sought community feedback on providing a connection from the downtown loop to the future East Rail Line at 38th and Blake. Based on public input and the technical analysis,



the study team will develop and evaluate potential alternatives and recommend a preferred action plan to RTD and stakeholders later this year. RTD will hold another public meeting in late spring and [you can find updates at the rail extension website](#).

Amtrak passenger service returns to Union Station



Denver Union Station celebrated a milestone Friday, Feb. 28, when Amtrak moved back to the historic train station. Amtrak's storied California Zephyr arrived under the station's new train hall canopy for an iconic image. [You can read more about Amtrak's return to Union Station.](#)

East Rail Line's 'wire train' captures public imagination



A unique wire-stringing machine working along the East Rail Line to Denver International Airport has been capturing the interest of passersby since February. This "wire train" is installing overhead power lines for the East Rail and other commuter rail lines under FasTracks' Eagle P3 project. The train's common name is "constant tension stringing unit" or CTSU, manufactured by the company Tesmec S.p.A of Grassobbio, Italy. Denver Transit Partners, the FasTracks contractor and concessionaire working on Eagle P3, says the \$1.9 million wire installer increases efficiency and

safety. [You can read more about the wire train by visiting the FasTracks website.](#)

FasTracks Feature

Stories along the line: Rail to pass historic cemetery



In our feature series "Stories along the Line," we highlight some of the historic places located along our transit project areas. In this issue we feature some history along the North Metro Rail Line, the new commuter rail line that will open in 2018. One of those nearby locales is the Riverside Cemetery, one of Denver's oldest burial grounds. Founded in 1876, the year Colorado became a state, the 77-acre cemetery is located between Denver and Adams County property lines on Brighton Boulevard. Adams County listed the site on the National Register of Historic Districts in the 1990s. Many famous Colorado pioneers are buried at the cemetery, including three territorial governors. [Read more about the site and the feature series other installments.](#)

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.

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.

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