



July 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 board gives go-ahead to two more transit projects



The Regional Transportation District (RTD) Board of Directors voted July 16 to advance two more transit projects: the Southeast Rail Extension in Douglas County and the Colorado 119 bus rapid transit or BRT project between Boulder and Longmont. RTD will include both projects in an amendment to the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan it will submit to the Denver Regional Council of Governments in early August. This keeps FasTracks' \$207 million Southeast Rail Extension project in the pipeline to receive \$92 million in Federal Transit Administration funding, which would

be a key part of extending the existing light rail line 2.3 miles from Lincoln Station to RidgeGate Parkway in Lone Tree. Southeast corridor stakeholders have committed \$35 million to \$40 million in cash, rights-of-way and other contributions to complete the extension. The board's decision also means more detailed planning for the \$75 million BRT project along Colorado 119 will move forward. The recently concluded Northwest Area Mobility Study identified arterial BRT on Colorado 119 as the top priority to improve the area's mobility.

Read more about the [Southeast Rail Extension](#) and [BRT](#)

Historic Denver Union Station is ready for its close-up

Denver Union Station is ready for its close-up. The historic train station re-opened to the public July 26 and developers introduced all of the building's new amenities, including the Crawford Hotel, restaurants, bars, shops and a spiffed up great hall. The great hall will serve as the station's ticketing center and a place for travelers, visitors, downtown workers and residents to hang out. In fact, renowned Denver preservationist Dana Crawford, who was instrumental in shepherding the station's



renovation, calls the renovated great hall “Denver’s living room.” In the hall are modern and retro elements that pay homage to the region’s railroading past and its contemporary, transit-oriented vibe. Thousands of people turned out for a public celebration and street festival and toured the new historic building; an interactive water fountain outside enabled children and the young-at-heart to cool off. The renovated historic building complements the transit elements RTD built into the train station, which debuted in May, and includes a new underground bus concourse and a train platform with eight tracks for Amtrak trains and the RTD commuter rail trains that will begin service in 2016.

[Read more about the Denver Union Station renovation](#)

Construction on U.S. 36 bus rapid transit project advances

New canopy foundations are going in along the U.S. 36 bus rapid transit or BRT corridor between Denver and Boulder, giving commuters a sneak peak at some of the amenities the route will offer passengers when it opens in 2016. Workers have begun installing the foundations to support passenger canopies at six stations along the route. The canopies will provide shelter and shade to commuters awaiting BRT buses. RTD and the Colorado Department of Transportation are working to complete upgrades along U.S. 36 that include the Denver metro area’s first BRT route. BRT is a more frequent, efficient bus service with modern conveniences such as enhanced shelters, electronic ticketing and programmable information displays.



[Read more about the U.S. 36 BRT project](#)

Art installations continue to go up along W Line



RTD continues to work with commissioned artists who are installing unique artworks along the W Line, a 12.1-mile light rail line between Denver Union Station and the Jefferson County Government Center in Golden. The W Line opened in April 2013 and features 11 stations, six Park-n-Rides and three Call-n-Rides. After an extensive review process, RTD and its stakeholders selected 10 artists to create one-of-a-kind art for stations and other sites along the scenic light rail line, which traverses the Denver area’s western suburbs as it heads

to Golden. Chosen artists have completed several projects, but a few remain in the installation phase. The works are part of RTD’s Art-n-Transit program, designed to enhance the aesthetics and user friendliness of the region’s transit projects.

[Read more about RTD’s Art-n-Transit program and art along the W Line](#)

FasTracks Feature

Elderly woman visits Union Station one last time



Lois Seymour remembers boarding trains at Denver Union Station to travel to her family's cabin up in the Colorado high country. Cherished postcards from her girlhood flooded her memory recently when RTD staff helped fulfill a wish. Seymour, 87, who was diagnosed with a terminal illness, asked to visit Union Station one last time before moving to California to spend her final days with her daughter and grandchildren. Union Station, she says, was a "magical part of the journey" to the Rocky Mountains, the peaks that stood sentinel over her Colorado childhood. In a touching blog by FasTracks Public Information Specialist Tara Miller, Seymour shares her impressions of Union Station's newly renovated great hall and all of RTD's transit-oriented improvements.

[Read more about Lois Seymour's last visit to Union Station](#)

Project Updates

News from the Field ... Construction on a **Free MetroRide** stop at 18th and Market Street will proceed, but a firm start date has not yet been set. ... Design work on the **North Metro Rail Line** continues ... **I-225 Rail Line** design work is almost complete as construction ramps up on almost every section of the alignment this summer. Work continues on the Mississippi, Toll Gate Creek and Colfax Avenue bridges. ... The commuter rail maintenance facility will service **Eagle P3** and **North Metro Rail Line** commuter railcars and is close to completion. ... Girder placement on the **Gold Line's** Kipling Street commuter rail bridge is complete and construction is underway on the Clear Creek Bridge on the **Northwest Rail Line** and the new freight rail bridge over Kipling Parkway. ... Girders will be set on the McCaslin Bridge in mid-August to widen the bridge to accommodate the diverging diamond interchange or DDI for the **U.S. 36** managed lanes project. The McCaslin DDI will be the first of its kind on the Front Range and only the second in the state.

Read more 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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