Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

FACT SHEET

In May 2024, RTD will begin the first phase of a multi-phased project to improve rail lines in downtown Denver. The first phase will address reconstruction of five intersections in Denver’s Downtown Loop that serve as at-grade crossings for D, H and L light rail lines. These intersections include 15th and Stout, 17th and Stout, 15th and California, 17th and California, and Broadway and Welton. Ten at-grade crossings, which are part of the agency’s oldest operating line, have already been improved. The Downtown Loop and Welton Street corridor lines will be de-energized while crews perform a full-depth reconstruction of rail at the five downtown crossings. The rail was installed more than 30 years ago as part of the Central Corridor Line, which was RTD’s first operating line.

RTD spent $19 million on isolated downtown rail projects between 2012 and 2023.

Why is this needed?

RTD is investing in the future of its transit system and the metro area. By addressing aging infrastructure needs, RTD is protecting the public’s investment in key transportation assets and contributing to the revitalization of downtown Denver. This project will address issues with rail at intersections that have experienced settling due to heavy usage over time by an increasing amount of train and vehicular traffic.

Work Hours

Monday–Friday: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday–Sunday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Impacts

RTD and Denver are working together to minimize impacts to customers and the public. The agencies are collaborating on best practices to maintain access through the crossings while minimizing disruption for downtown businesses, transit customers and the public. Beginning May 28, all D and H line trains will be rerouted to Denver Union Station and L Line service will be suspended as no light rail service will operate in RTD’s Downtown Loop through September 2024 to allow for completion of the project’s first phase. Impacted bus routes will detour around the intersections as the project progresses.

Learn More

For detailed project information and updates, or to submit a question, visit the project webpage at rtddenver.com/railproject. Customers are also encouraged to sign up for Service Alerts.

Regional Transportation District
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