

# We Make Lives Better Through Connections.

# Back to Basics DOWNTOWN RAIL RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

**Debra A. Johnson**General Manager and CEO

#### **Outline**













## **Back to Basics**

### **State of Good Repair**

- Ensuring assets are in a state of good repair is one of the agency's highest priorities
  - Guarantees previous investments in the system remain intact
  - Supports operationally safe, accessible, and dependable services
  - Preserves investment in a reliable transit infrastructure
- Required by regulatory oversight entities
- All transit agencies should undertake projects to maintain assets



#### **Agency's Fixed Assets**

- RTD has more than \$9 billion in fixed assets
  - Guided by the FTA-mandated Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan
  - Assets are at varying ages and useful life
  - Regularly monitored and inspected
  - Includes facilities, vehicles, rail track, signals, bridges, stations, etc.



#### **Aging Assets**

#### RTD's enhanced focus on key asset renewals

- 1. Identify equipment and infrastructure at end of useful life
- 2. Minimize risk and maximizes safety
- 3. Prevent unplanned service disruptions





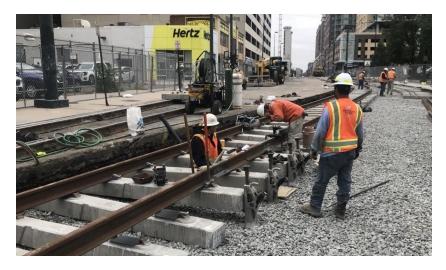


#### Infrastructure

- Full-depth rail reconstruction
- Overhead wire replacement
- Railhead grinding and track maintenance
- Station concrete repairs and replacement



**Planned Service Disruptions** 





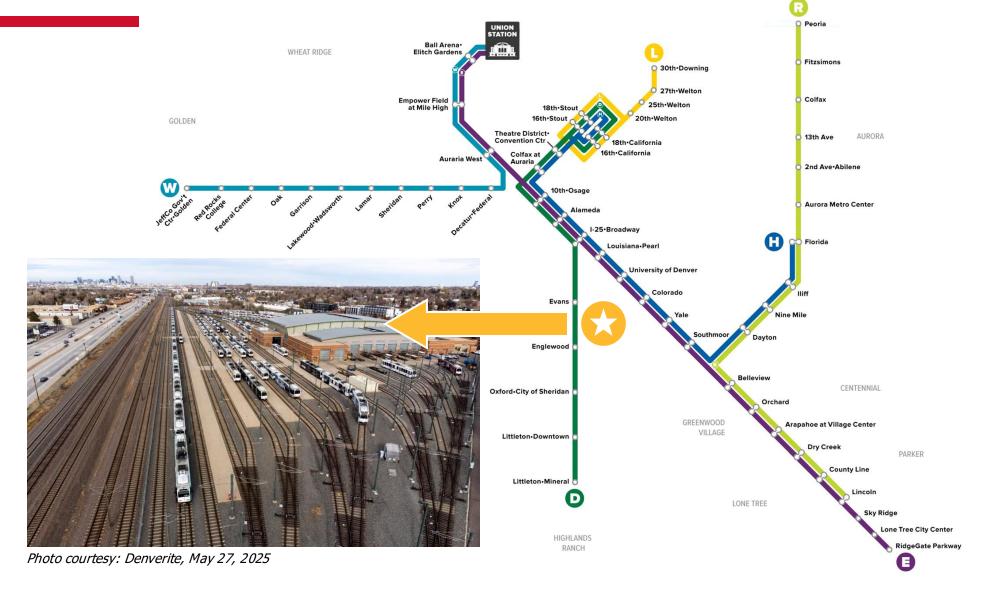


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## **Proactive Strategies**

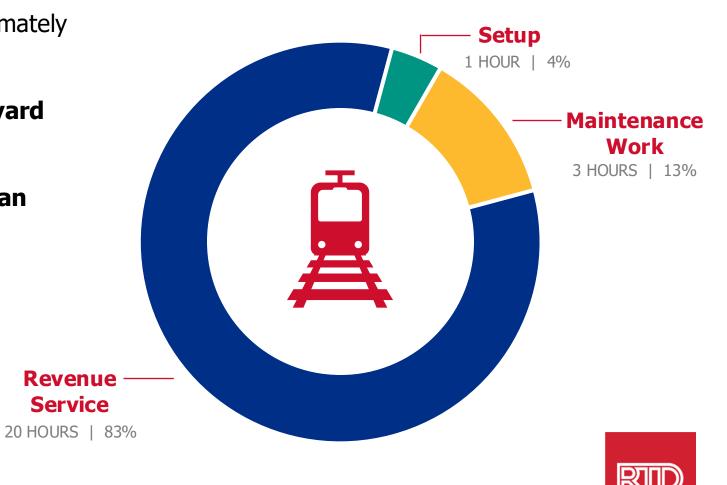
## **Elati Light Rail Operating Facility**





#### **Right-of-Way Access**

- Light rail revenue service is provided approximately
   20 out of 24 hours every day
- All light rail trains must return to the rail yard prior to work commencing
- Overnight maintenance windows are less than four hours
- Adding days raises costs and increases risks



#### **Strategies and Tactics**



When possible, complete work during off-peak hours or overnight windows



Consolidate work



Communicate in advance and provide regular updates



Provide bus shuttles for shortterm, full closures and communicate alternate services



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#### **Communication Tactics**

Customers	Stakeholders	Board of Directors	Public
<ul> <li>Service Alerts</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>Web and mobile application notices</li> <li>On-vehicle and facility signage</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Project toolkits, FAQs, community meetings, and outreach events</li> <li>Transit Management Associations/Organizations</li> <li>Subregional Service Councils and local</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Project toolkits and presentation materials</li> <li>Regular cadence of status updates</li> <li>Director-specific updates and outreach meetings based on project's location</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>News releases, media advisories, and reporter interviews</li> <li>Project website</li> <li>Paid media campaign</li> <li>Community outreach and engagement events</li> </ul>
<ul><li>Impact Team</li><li>Digital signs</li><li>Customer Care scripts</li></ul>	<ul><li>municipalities</li><li>Non-profit and neighborhood-based organizations</li></ul>		



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# Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

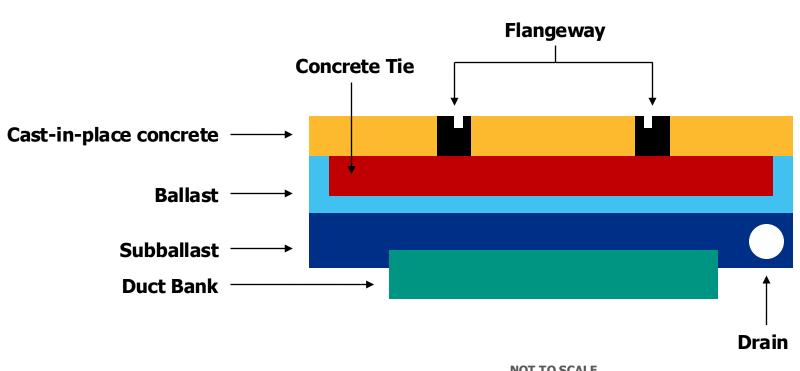
#### **Reconstruction Project Overview**

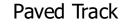
- Project was prioritized to maintain assets in a state of good repair
  - Work emphasizes planned closures versus unplanned service disruptions
  - Time-specific closures to minimize inconvenience to customers
- Reconstruction will be completed in four phases
  - Phase One was completed in 2024
  - Work will be completed out of the phase's numerical sequence
- RTD is regularly meeting with the City and County of Denver (CCD) to discuss potential street closures and develop traffic detour plans for subsequent phases





## **Full-Depth Reconstruction**

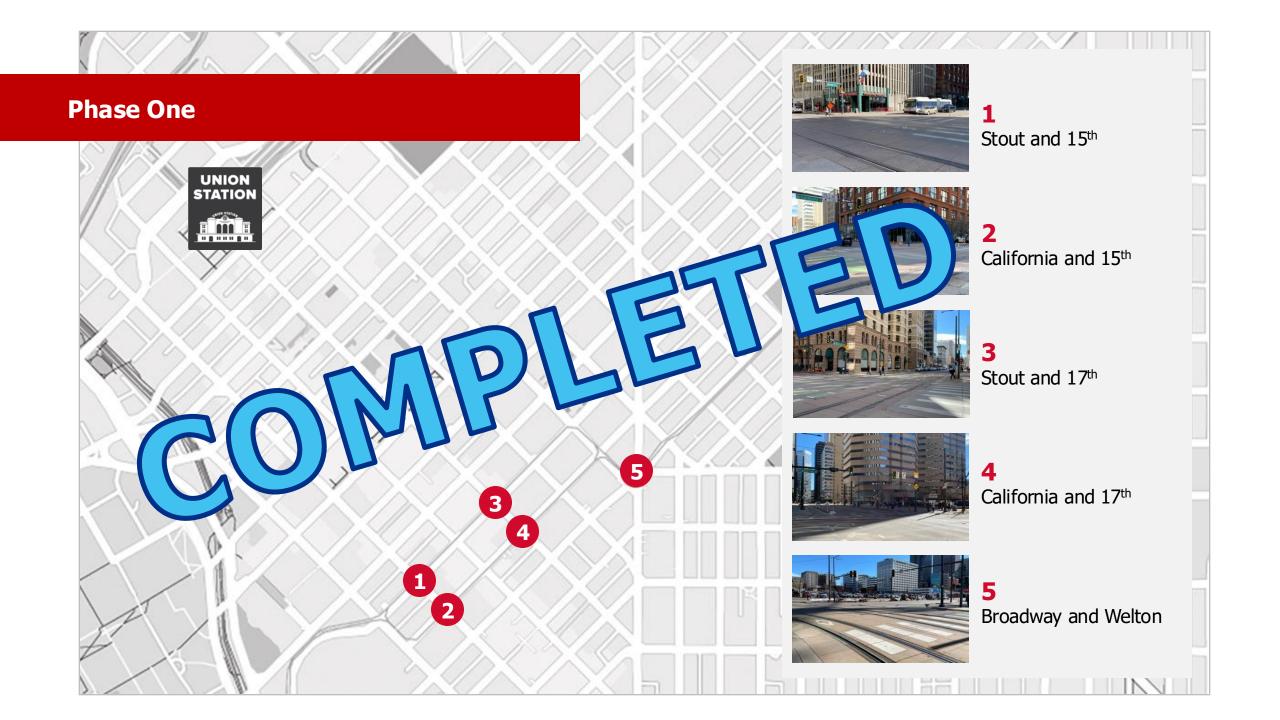


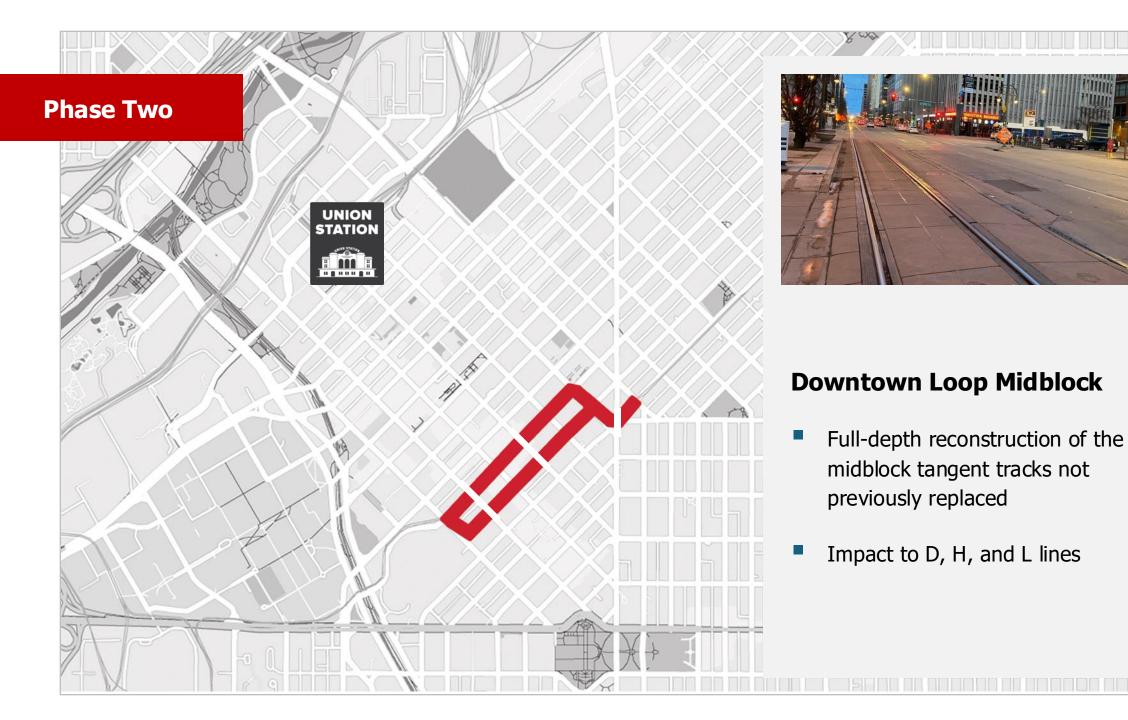


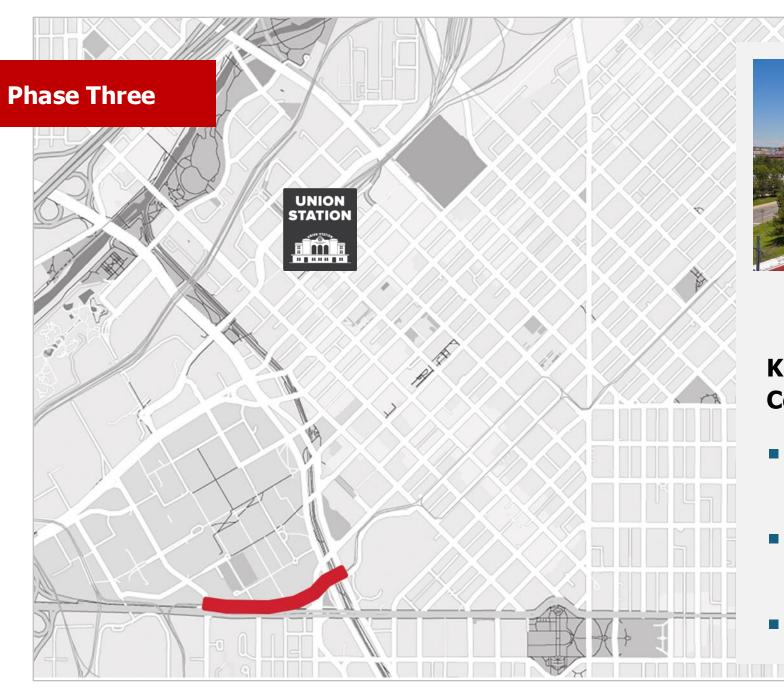




**NOT TO SCALE** 









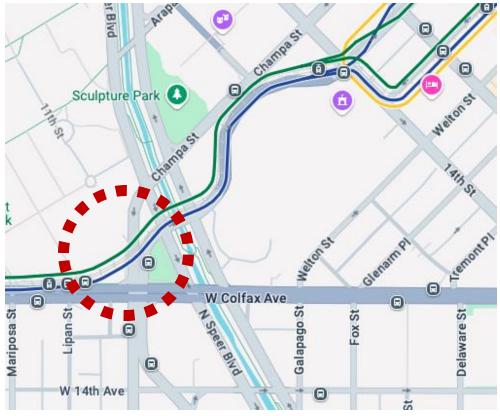
## **Kalamath Crossing and Colfax Alignment**

- Full-depth reconstruction of existing light rail track
- Excludes track near the Colorado Convention Center
- Impact to D and H lines

#### **Phase Three: Kalamath Street Crossing**

- The at-grade crossing is part of RTD's original light rail line
- Serves the D and H lines in and out of the Downtown Loop
  - Approximately 16 trains each hour cross Kalamath Street
- Temporary maintenance work was completed in 2024 to stabilize the rail base







#### **Kalamath Street Crossing**



86

Sept. 2

to

Nov. 27





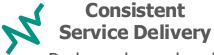
Track Replacement

Full depth rail reconstruction

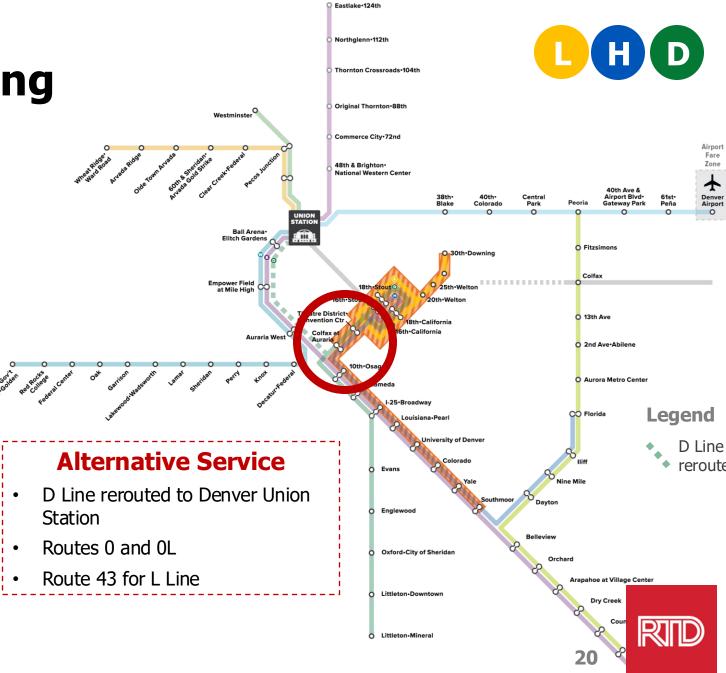




**Safety** 

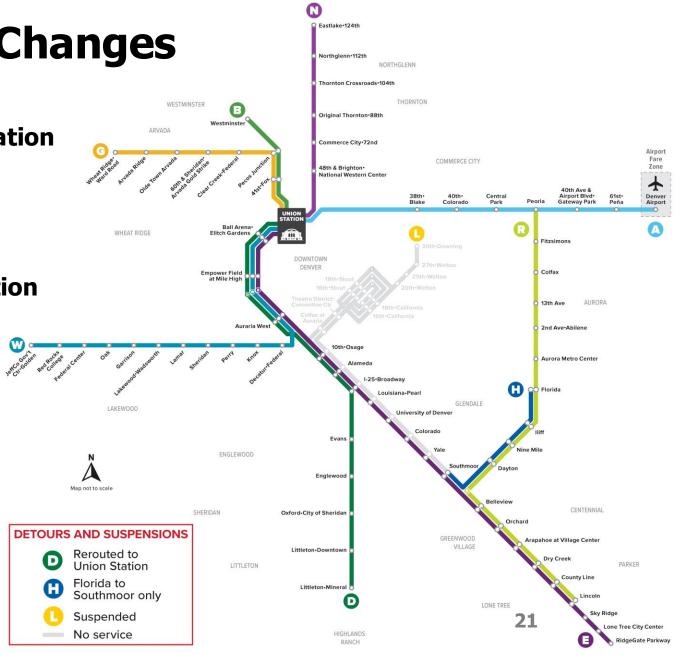


Reduce planned and unplanned maintenance



## **Proposed August Service Changes**

- D Line will be rerouted to Denver Union Station
  - Littleton-Mineral Station to Union Station
  - Maintain 15-minute frequencies
- H Line will be truncated at Southmoor Station
  - Florida Station to Southmoor Station
  - Maintain 15-minute frequencies
- L Line service will be suspended
  - Bus Route 43 is an alternative







## **Next Steps**

#### **Near-Term Timeline**

June July 2025 2025 If approved, service Staff finalize Board actions: 1) Progressive design changes go into effect communications plan to build contract for Phases on August 31 leverage owned, earned, and paid media Two, Three, and Four; 3) August 2025 Service Changes November 2026 2025 Kalamath Street Work commences on Crossing work concludes Phases Two and Three

#### **September** 2025

August

2025

Work commences on Phase Three: Kalamath Street Crossing



# Thank you.

