

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

Week in Review



86-Day Schedule
49 Days to Go



Friday, October 10, 2025

Overview:

This week, crews continued placing **rail** and **concrete ties** on both sides of Kalamath Street. “Skeleton track” has been assembled for both track A and B. Crews held daily **safety briefings** and performed 42 of 81 **thermite welds**. Welding crews and RTD inspectors documented **quality** and process information for each weld. Work remains **on schedule**.



Safety Moment: Hearing loss is the third most common chronic health condition in the US. Noise exposure away from your job can damage your hearing just as much as working in a noisy place. Everyday activities like mowing the lawn, attending a sporting event, or listening to loud music can all damage hearing. Protect your ears by using earplugs, protective ear muffs, or noise-canceling headphones when near loud noises, and turn down the volume on your personal devices when possible.



Project Lookahead

Over the weekend, crews will continue to **weld rail**. Next week, crews will perform **ultrasonic testing** on the completed welds and will begin flooding the skeleton track with more **ballast**. They will also prepare for the removal and reconstruction of the tracks on Kalamath Street, which will require a **full closure** of southbound Kalamath lasting approximately one week. RTD is in close communication with stakeholders near the work, and closure information will be distributed ahead of time.



Week in Review



1 | Skeleton Track

Kalamath Street Crossing | Oct. 8, 8:39 AM



2 | Welding Rail

Colfax at Auraria Station | Oct. 7, 10:34 AM

Crews continued reconstruction work over the weekend, placing ties and rail to construct “**skeleton track**” for both track A and track B. Crews constructed 1075 feet of “skeleton track” in total so far.

Certified welding crews performed the first of 81 **thermite welds** on Tuesday morning. As of Friday morning, a total of 42 welds have been completed.

Amplifying Results

This week, crews removed several **dead trees** from the north side of the **Colfax at Auraria Station** platform. After crews completed tree removal and compacted the **subgrade**, they added **tie bars** to secure the new paving to the existing sidewalk. Crews completed this work on Wednesday morning, pouring **new concrete** and adding joint patterns to match the existing platform and sidewalk.





Safety Observations



Safety Briefing

Kalamath Street Crossing | Oct. 6, 7:03 AM



Quality Observations



Weld Labeling

Kalamath Street Crossing | Oct. 9, 8:57 AM

Before starting work each day, crews held **safety briefings** to review the **potential risks** and **hazards** of the specific activities they were performing. Crews discussed the proper procedures and **personal protective equipment** (PPE) necessary to safely complete the work. Starting on Tuesday this week, these safety briefings covered the additional precautions and PPE needed to perform **thermite welding**.

RTD inspectors and welding crews **documented** information about each weld as it was performed. They recorded the date, time, welder name, rail temperature, ambient temperature, and location of the weld in addition to other **technical criteria**. This information was recorded in **written logs** and directly on the rail next to each weld.

Did You Know...

Railroad ties hold the rails upright and maintain their **spacing**, also known as the **gauge**. Ties also transfer and distribute the **weight** of the trains into the surrounding **ballast** and subgrade. Various types and sizes of ties are used to achieve the right track gauge. In areas with **curves**, like those found at Kalamath, it is especially important to place these ties in the correct configuration to maintain the desired spacing of the rails.





Kalamath Street Crossing 86-Day Schedule

Full-Depth Rail Reconstruction



~~Week 1~~

~~Week 2~~

~~Week 3~~

~~Week 4~~

~~Week 5~~

Week 6

Week 7

Week 8

Week 9

Week 10

Week 11

Week 12

Week 13

**Project Completion
Nov. 27**



37%

Total Progress

26%



Track Replacement*
0/1300 Track Feet

22%



Special Trackwork
0/1100 Track Feet

0%



Vehicle Crossing
0/1 Upgraded

0%



Pedestrian Crossing
0/2 Upgraded



Amplifying Results

- ☒ Concrete Repairs
- ☐ Tactile Warning Strips
- ☐ Pavement Markings
- ☐ Curb and Gutter Repair
- ☐ Station Improvements

**Percentage of track replacement includes special trackwork and crossings*