

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

Week in Review



86-Day Schedule

42 Days to Go



Friday, October 17, 2025

Overview:

This week, crews continued **welding rail** on both sides of Kalamath Street, completing a total of **62 thermite welds** so far. Crews performed **grinding, ultrasonic testing, and magnetic particle testing** on completed welds. Work remains **on schedule**.



[Watch Video](#)



Safety Moment: Back-related injuries account for one in every five workplace injuries. Improper lifting is one of the most prevalent causes of these injuries. Keep your feet shoulder-width apart, lift objects close to your body, and bend at the knees and hips while keeping your back straight. Always get help lifting items that are too heavy to lift alone.



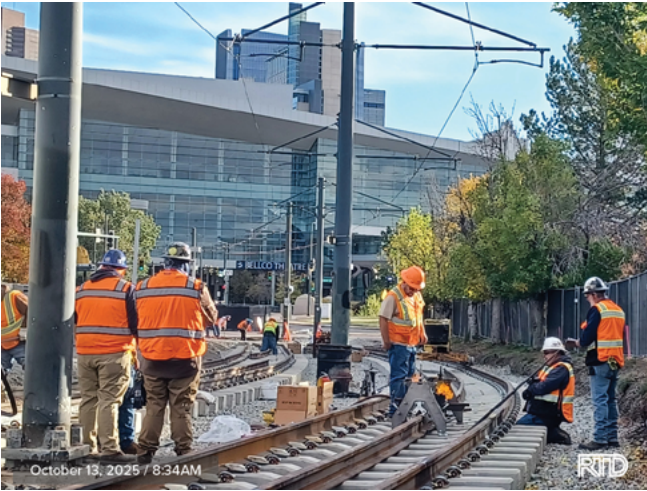
Project Lookahead



On **Sunday, Oct. 19**, crews will begin a **full closure** of **southbound Kalamath Street** between Speer Boulevard and Colfax Avenue. Crews will begin removal and **reconstruction** of the tracks on Kalamath Street, which is anticipated to last approximately one week. Adjacent bus stops served by the **Route 16** and **ART** will not be affected by this closure.



Week in Review



1 | Thermite Welding

Kalamath Street Crossing | Oct. 13, 8:39 AM



2 | Grinding Rail

Kalamath Street Crossing | Oct. 15, 8:27 AM

Certified welding crews performed more **thermite welds** this week, completing a total of 62 welds so far. Crews used a **weld shear** to cut the **excess metal** from the welds before using **rail profile grinders** to shape the weld to match the rail profile. Crews also took samples of **ballast** this week to perform gradation testing.

Amplifying Results

Other crews began work on a rail repair near **14th and California Streets**. Like most metals, steel rails expand and contract with **temperature fluctuations**. When temperatures drop quickly, the metal **contracts**, and with a large enough temperature swing, this can cause the rail to **break** at weaker locations, like welds. This repair work addresses a rail break that happened in January of this year.





Safety Observations



Concrete Jersey Barriers

Kalamath Street Crossing | Oct. 16, 7:13 AM



Quality Observations



Ultrasonic Testing

Kalamath Street Crossing | Oct. 15, 10:13 AM

Crews delivered **concrete Jersey barriers** to site this week in preparation for the **full closure** of Kalamath Street, starting **Sunday, Oct. 19**. The barriers will be placed strategically to minimize the likelihood of vehicles accidentally crossing into the work area during the full street closure.

Crews performed **ultrasonic testing** and **magnetic particle testing** on completed welds. These tests are performed on all welds before returning the rail to service. **Certified testers** inspected each weld and documented the test results as a part of the **quality control** process. Test results were written directly on the rail next to each weld.

Did You Know...

Ultrasonic testing is a non-destructive method of detecting **internal defects** within the rail. To perform this test, a technician uses a machine and a specialized **transducer** to send high-frequency waves into the rail. Parts of the wave reflect back to the transducer if there are any **discontinuities** in the weld, indicating a potential defect. If a defect is detected, that section of the rail is cut out and the rail is re-welded.





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**



40%

Total Progress

30%



Track Replacement*
0/1300 Track Feet

26%



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*

