

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

Resuming June 7



Tuesday, June 2, 2026

On June 7, RTD will continue work in the Downtown Loop Midblocks and Colfax Avenue Alignment areas as a part of the ongoing, multi-year [Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project](#) to reconstruct its oldest light rail infrastructure and maintain the long-term integrity of the network.

Work in both areas is expected to be complete by the end of the first quarter (Q1) of 2027. Each previous phase of Downtown Rail Reconstruction work was completed on-schedule or ahead of schedule, and during the next phase of work, RTD is committed to restoring service as quickly as possible while completing quality work for long-lasting improvements.



Over the last few months, RTD has notified customers, partners and key stakeholders of the Downtown Rail Reconstruction project through digital outreach, media engagement, partner collaboration and signage at stations and in the downtown area.

The project team is available to answer questions through the project email address (railproject@rtd-denver.com) and the hotline (720.902.8817).



On Thursday, May 28, RTD hosted various media outlets on the Auraria Campus to discuss the upcoming construction work.



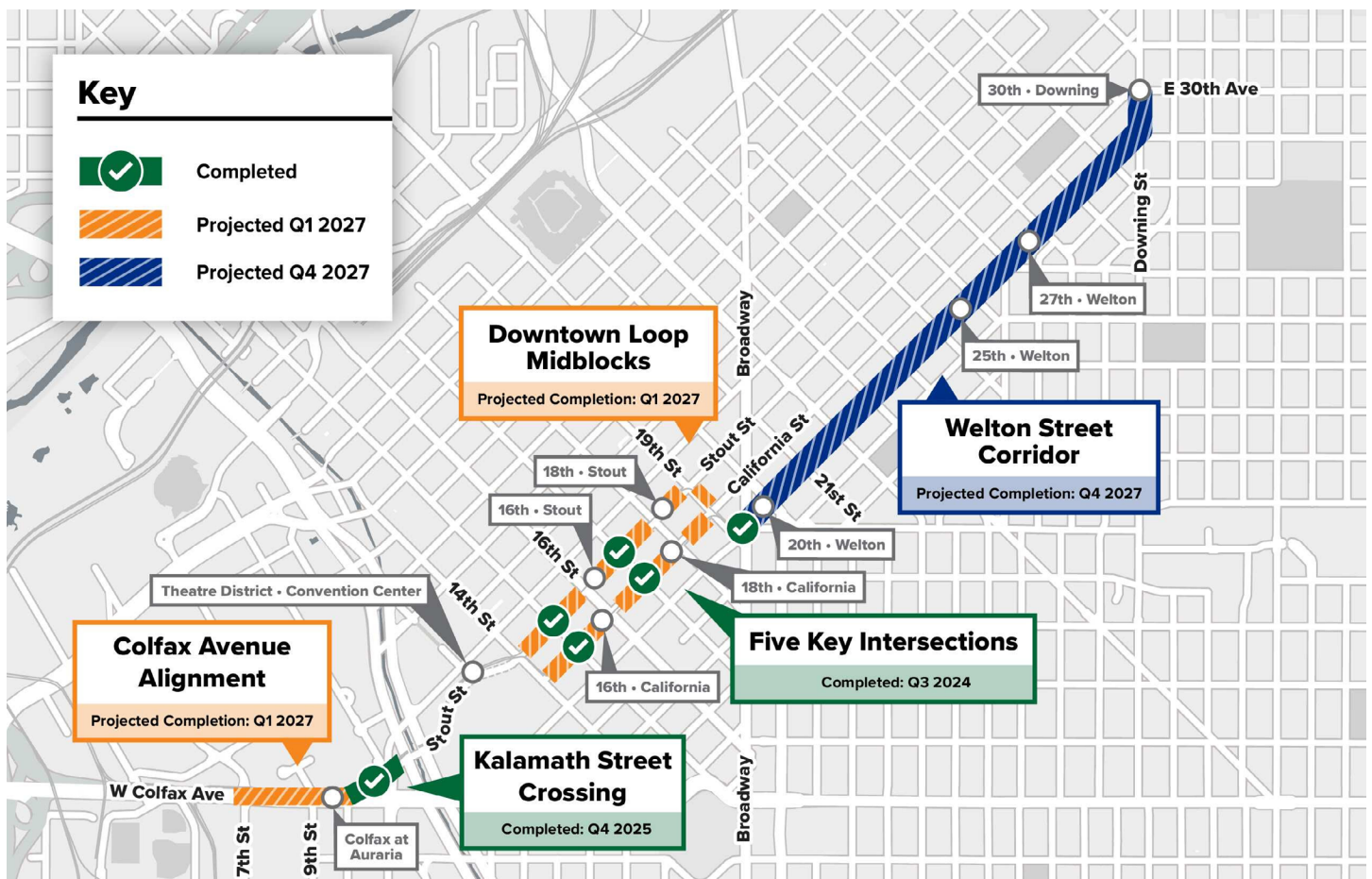


Safety Moment:

When construction meets a busy urban environment, RTD inspectors remain vigilant of their surroundings to prevent conflicts with active construction zones. During this work, the contractor will have flaggers in place while unloading or staging rail segments to direct vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians to safety.



Below is a high-level overview of the work occurring in each area. Specific local traffic impacts, closures and timelines will be communicated via the [rail project website](#), weekly newsletters, and direct stakeholder notices as work progresses in each area.



Downtown Loop Midblocks

Work in the Downtown Loop Midblocks area will **begin June 7** and include **full reconstruction** of the existing **light rail tracks, electrical work at stations,** and limited **utility work** at select intersections. Full-depth rail reconstruction will occur in the following locations:

- Stout and California streets between 14th and 19th, excluding intersections
- 19th Street between Stout and California streets

Rail Reconstruction will progress **north along Stout**, turn **east along 19th Street**, and return **south along California**. This sequence allows crews to work continuously while reducing the overall duration of traffic impacts.

Primary traffic impacts will include **single- or double-lane closures** along Stout and California streets with **one lane maintained** at all times. **Business access** will always be maintained, but some **parking garages** may experience brief impacts. All access changes will be communicated to property management teams in advance.

Throughout the duration of this work, **intermittent lane closures** and momentary intersection closures may be required to stage and transport materials. **Flaggers and traffic control** will be in place to assist traffic around these brief closures.



Colfax Avenue Alignment

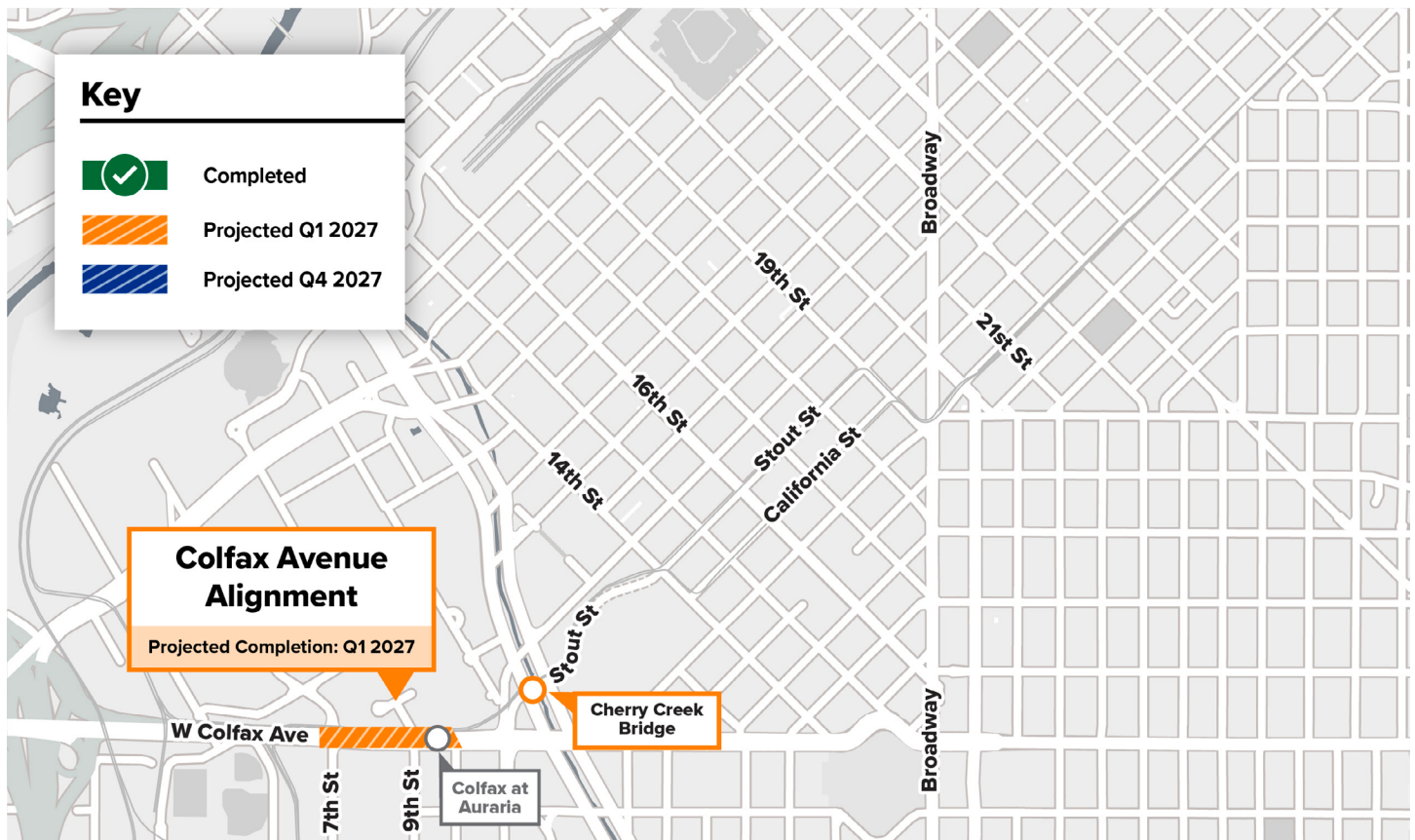
Work in the Colfax Avenue Alignment area will begin June 7 include reconstruction of the **light rail tracks** adjacent to Colfax Avenue, work on the **Cherry Creek Bridge** crossing and upgrades at the **Colfax at Auraria station**. Some **staging** and **preconstruction work** will occur in the week before June 7. Full-depth rail reconstruction will occur in the following location:

- Along Colfax Avenue (south of Auraria Campus) from just west of Seventh Street to the eastern ADA-accessible light rail platform (high block) near 10th Street at Colfax at Auraria Station.

Work will start at **Seventh and Ninth streets**, then continue east along **Colfax Avenue** toward **Kalamath Street**. Work on the **Cherry Creek Bridge** crossing is expected to begin in late summer, and improvements at the **Colfax at Auraria station** are expected to begin in late 2026.

Traffic impacts in this area will include **full intersection closures** on Colfax Avenue at Seventh and Ninth streets, lasting approximately seven to 10 days each. **Only one full closure will take place at a time**. **Various lane and sidewalk closures** will be required in the area as work progresses. The project team is working closely with Auraria Higher Education Campus to coordinate **alternate routes** and advanced **notice of access changes**.

The contractor is working with the **Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE)** to acquire a **noise variance permit** for this work, which will allow crews work around the clock, **expediting progress** and **minimize traffic impacts** at the Seventh Street and Ninth Street intersections.



Previously Completed Work



RTD completed work on five key intersections in 2024, helping RTD avoid additional full intersection closures for the work on the Downtown Loop Midblocks.



RTD completed work on the Kalamath Street Crossing last fall, allowing crews to complete reconstruction west of Kalamath Street and the Cherry Creek bridge with minimal impacts to southbound Kalamath Street.

Customer Experience

Beginning **Sunday, June 7**, [RTD's latest service changes](#) will take effect to account for this next part of the Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project. These service changes aim to improve reliability and on-time performance of bus and rail services. Alternative service options are offered to support customers during reconstruction. These service changes, which typically go into effect in May, were intentionally postponed until June 7 to provide critical connections for late-May [high-volume events](#) at the Auraria Campus and the Colorado Convention Center.

- The D, H, and L lines will be suspended during construction with adjustments to other rail and bus lines to supplement access.
- While Colfax at Auraria Station will not have rail service, Auraria West Station will be open. Bus Route 16 and Route ART will remain open to maintain reliable service to the Colfax at Auraria Station.
- The 16th Street FreeRide will increase frequency to approximately every three minutes, seven days a week, and the Free MetroRide will continue operating every 10 minutes during weekday peak periods.

Visit the [Service Changes webpage](#) for a complete look at the updates and use the [Next Ride app](#) to plan for any travel adjustments from bus routes and rail lines affected by the service changes.

If you have any questions about the content of this update, or upcoming activities, reach out to the project team at InfrastructureTeam@RTD-Denver.com. For additional project information and previous reports, visit www.rtd-denver.com/railproject.

Angel Peña and Maintenance of Way Team

Deputy Chief Executive Officer