

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

Week In Review



Monday, July 20, 2026

Overview:

This week, crews continued advancing rail reconstruction in the **Downtown Loop Midblocks** and **Colfax Avenue Alignment areas**. In the Downtown Loop, work progressed across multiple blocks as crews prepared for **concrete placement**, continued **drainage improvements**, and advanced **demolition**. Along Colfax Avenue, crews continued **drainage**, **rail welding**, and **rail system utility** work.



Rail Delivery

Colfax Avenue Alignment | July 13, 10:05 AM



Safety Moment: You can keep yourself and those around you healthy by taking small yet effective steps to prevent the spreading of germs. Frequently wash your hands with soap and water, and scrub for at least 20 seconds. Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing. If you are sick, stay at home to prevent spreading germs, unless you require medical attention.

16%



Total Progress

4%



Track Replacement
260/5,907 Track Feet

0%



Track Transitions
0/25 Transitions

5%



Concrete Poured
223/4,367 Cubic Yards

8%



Intersection Upgrades
1/12 Intersections

13%



Drainage Upgrades
9/70 Drainage Inlets

64%



Rail Welds
95/148 Welds

Week in Review



1 | Rail Setting

Downtown Loop Area | July 14, 12:21 PM



2 | Drainage Inlet Excavation

Colfax Avenue Alignment | July 11, 9:22 AM

In the **Downtown Loop Midblocks area**, construction advanced throughout the Stout Street corridor. Between 14th and 15th streets, crews continued **subgrade preparation** and **compaction**. Crews between 15th and 16th streets prepared to pour the **concrete track slab** by placing and tying rebar and **installing concrete molds** for **embedded track**. The team also placed specialized materials to protect against **stray electrical currents** from active rail.

While **drainage improvements** continued between 16th and 17th streets, crews placed **base materials** and **compacted the subgrade** between 17th and 18th streets. **Demolition** began between 18th and 19th streets, where crews removed existing **concrete, rail, and ballast**.

In the **Colfax Avenue Alignment area**, **rail materials** were delivered as crews continued **rail system utility installation**. Between Ninth Street and Kalamath, crews progressed drainage improvements by **compacting material** around the inlets to reinforce the structure. Between Seventh and Ninth streets, crews continued drainage work by using a **concrete placing method** called “**cast-in-place**” to build the drainage inlets. This means concrete is poured directly into temporary molds onsite to cure in its final position and shape, rather than using **pre-made concrete components**. The team also continued **welding rail segments** ahead of track installation.



Safety Observations

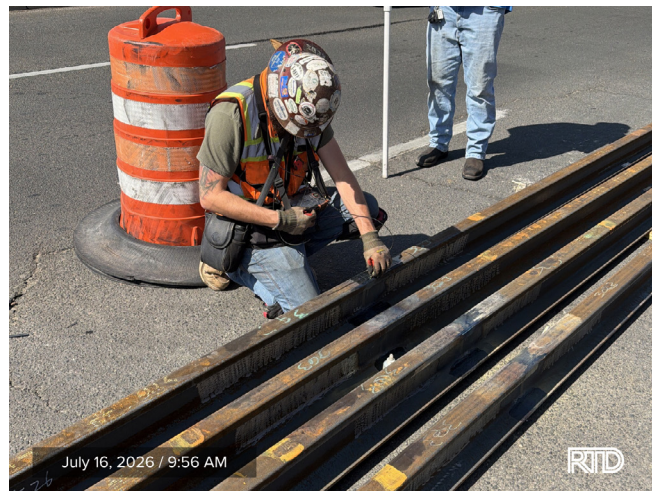


Subgrade Watering

Downtown Loop Area | July 13, 7:37 AM



Quality Observations



Rail Weld Testing for Inspections

Colfax Avenue Alignment | July 16, 9:56 AM

Before concrete is poured and covers the loose dirt, crews **moisten the prepared subgrade** to prevent dust from being picked up by high winds. Along with **reducing dust pickup**, adding moisture to subgrade can **improve compaction** and **stabilize the surface**. These steps help create a **stronger foundation** while **minimizing airborne dust** that can disrupt pedestrians and drivers in the area.

Before new rail can become operational, **each weld** is carefully inspected using **ultrasonic technology** to verify it has been **properly joined**. These inspections create a smooth, continuous track that can **safely withstand** the repeated **weight** and **vibration** of light rail vehicles over time.

Customer Experience

As the **Downtown Rail reconstruction Project** progresses, RTD continues expanding project communications to keep the community informed. **Project banners** were installed along construction fencing in the Downtown Loop and Colfax Alignment areas. The banners include a **scannable QR code** that directs to project resources. The banners **boost project visibility** and **promote resources** to those who may have questions about the project.

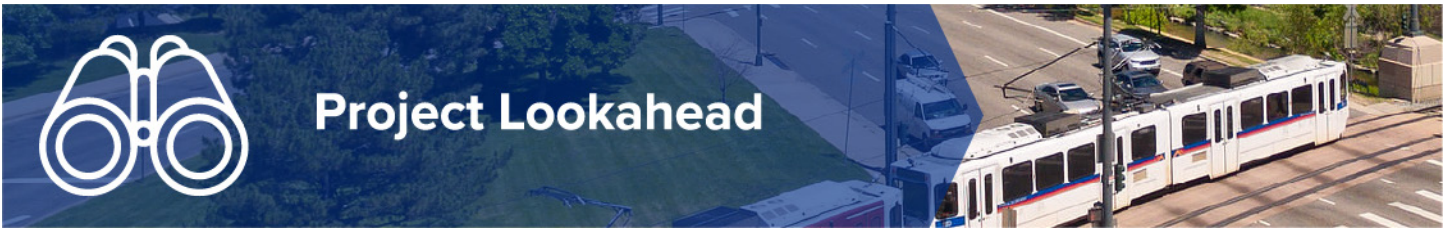


Scannable QR Project Banners

Downtown Loop Area | July 14, 10:55 AM



Project Lookahead



Colfax Avenue Alignment

Construction activities in the **Colfax Avenue Alignment** area will continue with **drainage inlet construction** and **rail system utility improvements** between Seventh Street and Kalamath. Crews will also **finalize rebar** and **reinforcing steel installation** and prepare for **track slab concrete placement**.

The **north sidewalk closure** between Seventh and 10th streets will remain in place through **late September** to support ongoing drainage and rail system utility work. Pedestrian access to the **Auraria campus** will continue via the **Seventh, Ninth, and 10th Street crosswalks**.

Downtown Loop Midblocks

Construction activities in the **Downtown Loop Midblocks** will continue through the corridor. **Concrete placement** is expected between 15th and 16th streets, while **drainage improvements** continue between 16th and 17th streets. Crews will also continue **placing base materials** between 17th and 18th streets and **advance pre-construction activities** between 18th and 19th streets.

All work is schedule- and weather-dependent and subject to change.

If you have any questions about the content of this update, or upcoming activities, reach out to the project team at RailProject@RTD-Denver.com or **720.902.8817**. For additional project information and previous reports, visit RTD-Denver.com/RailProject.

Angel Peña and the Infrastructure Delivery Team

Deputy Chief Executive Officer