

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

Week In Review



Monday, August 10, 2026

Overview:

This week, crews continued advancing construction in both the **Downtown Loop Midblocks** and **Colfax Avenue Alignment** areas. In the Downtown Loop, crews progressed **duct bank installation, drainage improvements, and base compaction**. Along Colfax Avenue, crews continued **embedded track concrete placement, trenching** for underground utilities, and improvements to **drainage structures**.



RTD continued major progress during the month of July. Check out the video above to learn more!



Safety Moment: *As students return to campuses and more people travel through downtown, expect increased pedestrian activity near intersections and transit stops. Slow down, stay alert, and watch for people crossing streets or sidewalks near active construction zones.*

19%



Total Progress

20%



Track Replacement
1,160/5,907 Track Feet

0%



Track Transitions
0/25 Transitions

8%



Concrete Poured
343/4,367 Cubic Yards

8%



Intersection Upgrades
1/12 Intersections

16%



Drainage Upgrades
11/70 Drainage Inlets

64%



Rail Welds
95/148 Welds

Week in Review



1 | Self-Compacting Material Pour
Downtown Loop Area | August 3, 9:03 AM



2 | Concrete Pour
Colfax Avenue Alignment | August 5, 11:00 AM

In the **Downtown Loop Midblocks** area, construction continued throughout the Stout Street corridor with crews **trenching** for storm sewers and placing **self-compacting base materials** over newly installed **duct bank conduits** between 14th and 15th streets. Between 16th and 17th streets, crews **fine graded** the corridor, installed **stabilization fabric**, and placed and **compacted base material**.

The team also **trimmed conduits** and progressed **duct bank installation** between 18th and 19th streets while crews used a **high-power vacuum** to **excavate** materials surrounding drainage structures. Using high-power vacuums for excavation can help crews safely identify **underground utilities** without the risk of impact that traditional methods like backhoes or manual shoveling can pose.

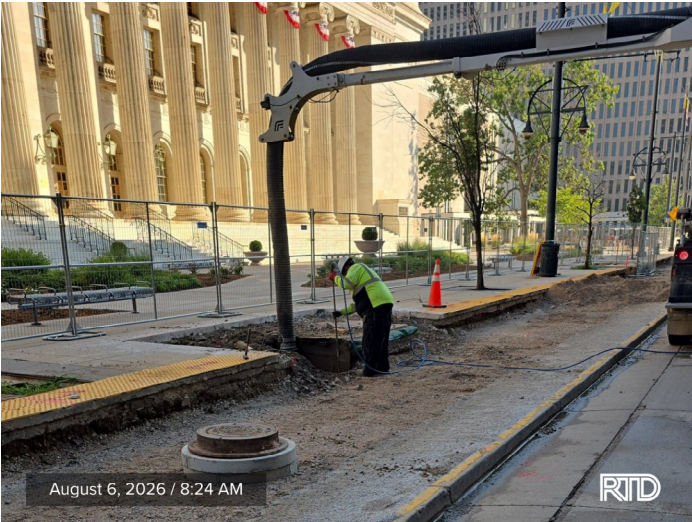
In the Colfax Avenue Alignment area, crews progressed **embedded track** construction between Seventh and Ninth streets by continuing installation of **reinforcing steel** and **supporting molds**, and **pouring concrete** for the embedded track. Near Ninth Street, crews began **hand trenching** for underground **duct bank installation**.



Safety Observations



Quality Observations



Vacuum Excavation

Downtown Loop Area | August 6, 8:24 AM



Grading Corridor

Downtown Loop Area | August 5, 8:44 AM

Before new rail infrastructure can be installed, crews must carefully **locate** and work around **existing underground utilities**, including **water, sewer, steam, electrical, and communication lines**. Taking the time to **safely expose** and **verify** these utilities prevents damage to **critical infrastructure**, **mitigates service disruptions**, and allows construction to progress safely while working around existing infrastructure.

Quality construction begins before the first rail is installed. Crews carefully **fine grade** the corridor and place **compacted aggregate base** to create a **stable foundation** for future rail construction. Completing this work to the **correct elevation** helps support **proper track alignment**, improve **long-term durability**, and provide a **consistent surface** for the next phase of construction.

Did You Know?

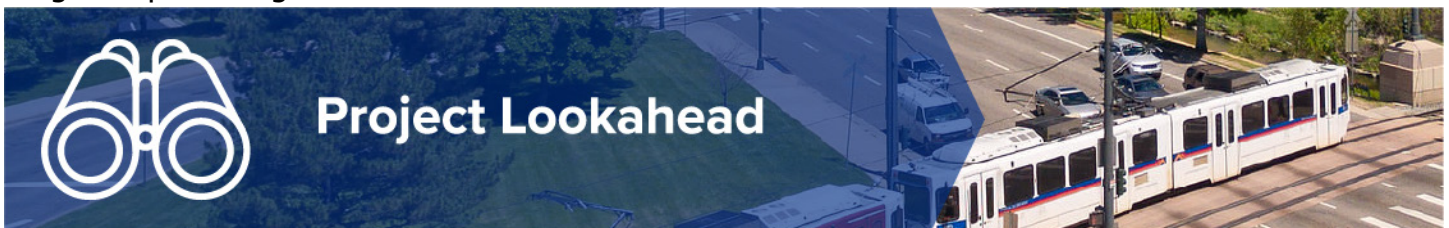
To demonstrate progress, each Week in Review update features **tracker** highlighting **key metrics** across the Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project. "**Track Replacement**" measures the total feet of new rail installed, while "**Track Transitions**" refers to the connections built between the embedded track downtown and other types of track in the broader system.

"**Concrete Placement**" reflects total cubic yards poured for track slabs, curbs, gutters, structural supports and more. "**Intersection Upgrades**" count completed rail and roadway crossings, ranging from concrete leveling to full reconstruction, while "**Drainage Upgrades**" track new underground inlet installations.

Finally, "**Rail Welds**" shows the permanent joints created for a smoother, stronger line. Together, these individually weighted metrics calculate this portion of the project's "Overall Progress" percentage.



July 2026 Metrics Update



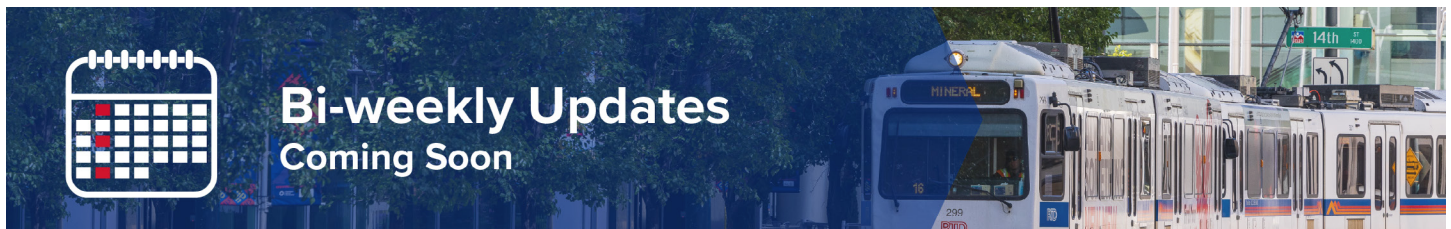
Colfax Avenue Alignment

Construction activities will continue with **embedded track** construction between Seventh and Ninth streets, including additional **concrete placement** and work within the Ninth Street crossing. Crews will also continue **drainage improvements** between Ninth Street and Kalamath Street. Work on the **Cherry Creek Bridge** is anticipated to begin as soon as **mid-August**, with **various lane closures** on Speer Boulevard. The sidewalk closure along **westbound Colfax Avenue** between Seventh and 10th streets will remain in place through **late September**.

Downtown Loop Midblocks

Construction activities will continue through the Stout Street corridor as crews place **concrete** for the **embedded track**, continue **curb and gutter** construction between 15th and 16th streets, and continue **drainage improvements** between 16th and 19th streets. Rail construction is expected to continue between 17th and 18th streets as crews prepare the corridor for **track installation**.

Stout Street will remain **reduced to one travel lane** between 14th and 19th streets. Temporary lane closures within intersections are anticipated to begin in **late August** for **concrete-leveling work**. Construction activities remain schedule- and weather-dependent.



Now that the project team is **several weeks** into construction in **both active work areas**, many of the **new milestones** and **types of work** have been either completed or started. Much of the **work to come** will be the same process repeated in new areas. To keep content **fresh** and **relevant**, RTD will be shifting these **Week in Review updates** to a **bi-weekly cadence** starting in **mid-August**.

Progress updates will still be **detailed** and highlight **important project milestones**, but a bi-weekly cadence will help RTD avoid repetitive updates. Thank you for staying invested in the **Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project!**

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