

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

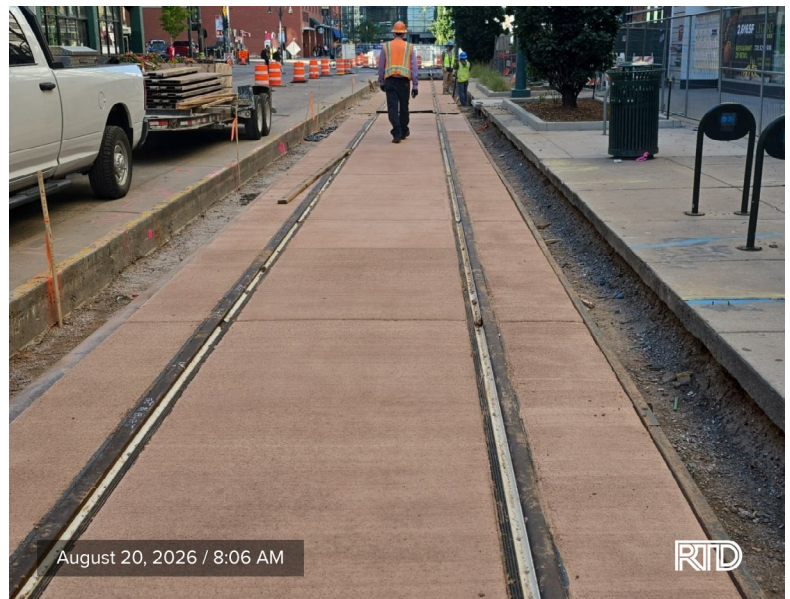
Week In Review



Monday, August 24, 2026

Overview:

This week, crews advanced construction in both the **Downtown Loop Midblocks** and **Colfax Avenue Alignment** areas. Along Stout Street, crews completed the **first embedded track concrete pour** in the Downtown Loop while continuing **drainage** and **curb inlet work**. Along Colfax Avenue, crews continued work between Seventh and Ninth streets and **began reconstruction** on the **Cherry Creek Bridge**, including removal of **existing rail** and **concrete plinths**.



Embedded Track

Downtown Loop Area | August 20, 8:06 AM



Safety Moment: Construction areas can have uneven surfaces, temporary walkways, open excavations, tools and materials that create trip and fall hazards. When walking near an active work area, slow down, stay alert and watch where you step, especially when moving between paved surfaces and areas under construction. Use designated walkways when available, maintain three points of contact when climbing, and avoid stepping over materials or barriers.



23%



Total Progress

20%



Track Replacement
1,540/5,907 Track Feet

4%



Track Transitions
1/25 Transitions

12%



Concrete Poured
518/4,367 Cubic Yards

17%



Intersection Upgrades
2/12 Intersections

16%



Drainage Upgrades
11/70 Drainage Inlets

64%

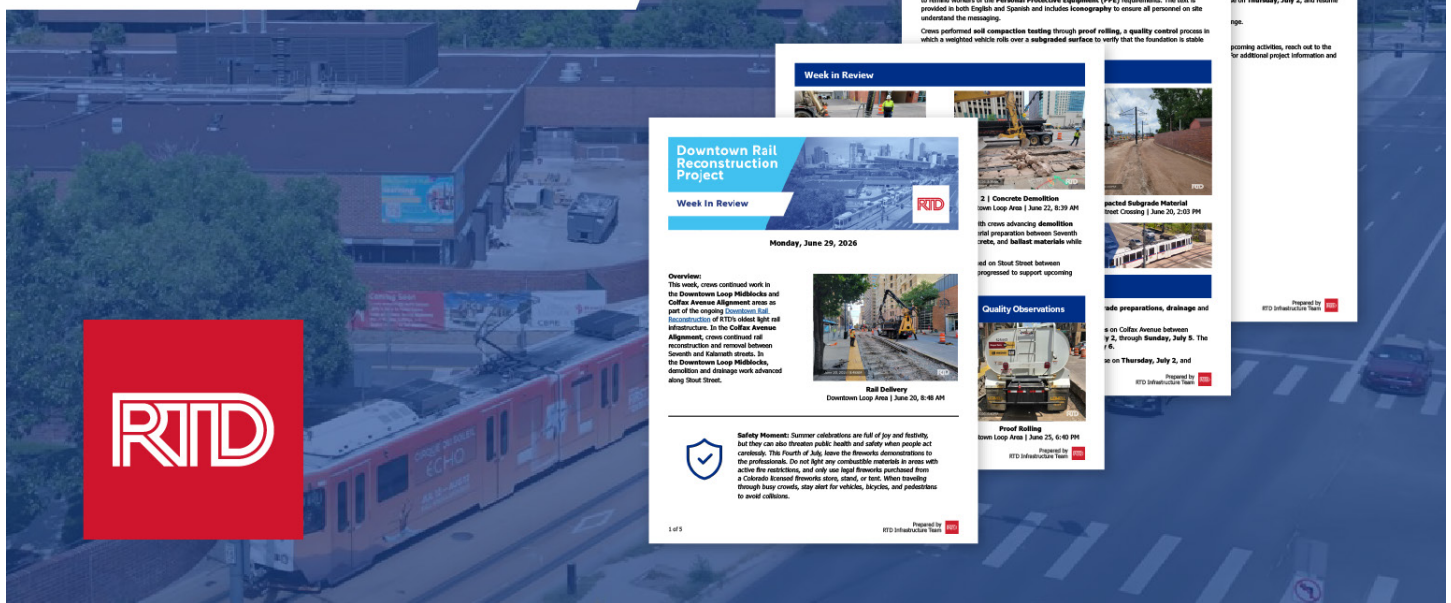


Rail Welds
95/148 Welds

Week in Review Updates: Upcoming Cadence Shift

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

Shifting to bi-weekly updates!



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**, this will be the last weekly report before shifting to a bi-weekly cadence.

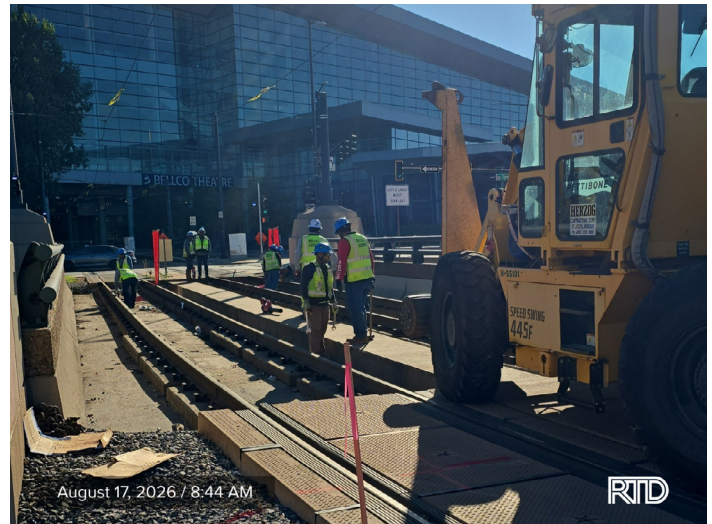
Progress updates will still be **detailed** and highlight **important project milestones**, but a bi-weekly cadence will help RTD avoid repetitive updates. Thank you for staying invested in the **Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project** - we'll be back with another update in the **first week of September!**

Week in Review



1 | Embedded Track Concrete Placement

Downtown Loop Area | August 18, 12:11 PM



2 | Cherry Creek Bridge Work

Colfax Avenue Alignment | August 17, 8:44 AM

In the **Downtown Loop Midblocks** area, crews continued construction along the Stout Street corridor. Between 15th and 16th streets, crews completed the **first embedded track slab concrete pour** in the Downtown Loop, finishing off the first midblock rail reconstruction. Following the pour, crews **removed forms** from the completed track slab while **adjusting rail elevations** and **molds**. The next concrete pour is anticipated between 14th and 15th streets, followed closely by the 17th to 18th street block.

When work began on Stout Street, the team **moved progressively** along the corridor from **south to north**, planning to complete blocks in this **linear manner**. As the team dug into the area, varying needs of **drainage improvements** were discovered from block to block. While the work on Stout Street is **still on schedule overall**, the different levels of **drainage improvements** has led to faster progress in some blocks, and **minor extensions** in others.

In the **Colfax Avenue Alignment** area, crews continued **embedded track** construction between Seventh and Ninth streets, including **rail adjustments** and **concrete placement**. At the Cherry Creek Bridge, crews began **removing existing rail** and **concrete plinths** as part of the bridge reconstruction work that began on August 17. Crews used **concrete sawing equipment** to make cuts through the **existing plinths** before removing the concrete sections.



Safety Observations



Quality Observations



Rail Sawing

Downtown Loop Area | August 17, 8:18 AM



Pre-Pour Inspection

Downtown Loop Area | August 18 7:23 AM

When crews use **concrete saws** to cut **rail** and **concrete plinths**, the work can create **flying debris, dust** and **other hazards** for people working nearby. **Temporary barriers** and **screens** are placed around the work area to help **contain debris** and separate the **cutting operation** from nearby workers and the surrounding area. Establishing a **protected work zone** allows crews to **safely complete cutting activities** while reducing the potential for others to be exposed to the hazards created by the equipment.

Before concrete is placed for an **embedded track slab**, crews complete a **pre-pour inspection** to verify that the track is positioned and prepared correctly. During the inspection, the team **checks rail elevation, gauge** and **cross-level**. They perform required **electrical testing** and make adjustments to the **rail, reinforcing steel** and **molds** as needed. Completing these checks before the concrete is placed allows the team to **identify** and **correct issues** while the track components are still accessible, helping ensure the finished track meets the **required design** and **alignment specifications**.

Did You Know?

Rather than embedded track, the rail on the **Cherry Creek Bridge** uses **direct fixation track** — a different construction method where rail is attached to **concrete plinths**. Plinths are **reinforced concrete supports** that hold the rail in place and help maintain the **track's precise position**. Along the Cherry Creek Bridge, crews are **removing the existing rail** and **concrete plinths** before installing new ones as part of the track reconstruction. Once installed, the plinths provide a **stable foundation** for the rail and help maintain **proper track alignment** as trains travel across the bridge.



Direct Fixation Plinths

Colfax Avenue Alignment | August 17, 9:23 AM



Project Lookahead

Colfax Avenue Alignment

Construction will continue between Seventh and 10th streets, including **embedded track** construction and **concrete placement** between Seventh and Ninth streets, along with **drainage improvements** between Ninth Street and Kalamath Street. At the Cherry Creek Bridge, crews will continue **removing existing rail** and **concrete plinths** and **begin drilling** and **installing new supports** for the **replacement plinths** and rail.

Lane closures on **Speer Boulevard** are anticipated beginning as soon as **Friday, August 28** for **concrete-leveling work**, with at least two travel lanes remaining open in each direction. The **westbound Colfax Avenue** sidewalk between Seventh and 10th streets will remain closed through **late September**, with pedestrian access to the **Auraria campus** maintained through designated crosswalks.

Downtown Loop Midblocks

Crews will continue advancing **rail** and **drainage work** along Stout Street. In the 15th and 16th Street **intersections**, crews will **perform leveling** work on **concrete panels**. Between 16th and 19th streets, crews will continue **drainage improvements** while advancing rail construction between 17th and 18th streets.

Stout Street will remain reduced to **one travel lane** between 14th and 19th streets. **Temporary lane closures** on 15th and 16th streets between Welton and Champa streets are anticipated as soon as **August 24** for **concrete-leveling work**, with work in each intersection expected to last approximately two days. The **16th Street FreeRide** will continue to operate during work on 16th Street.

Construction activities remain **schedule-** and **weather-**dependent.

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