

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

Week In Review



Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Overview:

Over the last few weeks, crews completed **rail and concrete removals** on the **Cherry Creek Bridge** while advancing **ground preparation** and **drainage inlet** construction between Seventh and Kalamath streets in the **Colfax Avenue Alignment** area. In the **Downtown Loop**, **concrete-leveling** work was completed, and **conduit connection** work began in intersections on Stout Street. Crews also began **setting rail** between 17th and 18th streets.



Impressive progress continued throughout August!
Check out RTD's recap video to learn more.



Safety Moment: *To stay safe during a flash flood, monitor weather alerts and move to higher ground immediately when warnings are issued. Never walk or drive through floodwaters, as six inches of moving water can knock a person down and two feet can sweep away vehicles. Stay away from storm drains, culverts, and swollen streams where currents rise rapidly. Remain clear of flooded areas even after waters recede until authorities confirm it is safe, as hidden hazards like contaminated water and downed power lines remain.*



26%



Total Progress

26%



Track Replacement
1,540/5,907 Track Feet

4%



Track Transitions
1/25 Transitions

15%



Concrete Poured
653/4,367 Cubic Yards

17%



Intersection Upgrades
2/12 Intersections

30%



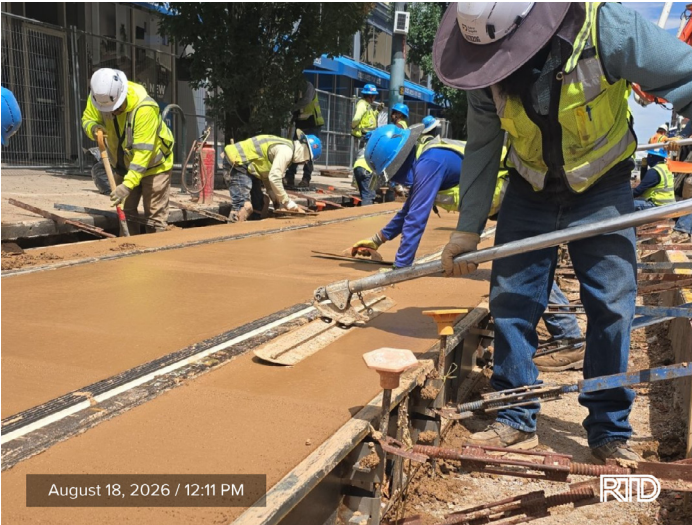
Drainage Upgrades
21/70 Drainage Inlets

64%



Rail Welds
95/148 Welds

Recent Work in Review



1 | Elastomeric grout pour for conduit system connection

Downtown Loop Area | September 1, 3:12 PM



2 | Backfilling and compacting base material

Colfax Avenue Alignment | August 26, 11:17 AM

In the **Downtown Loop Midblocks** area, crews continued placing **base material** and constructing the **track drainage system** in various blocks on Stout Street between 14th and 19th streets. The team also **graded and prepared the ground** before **setting and thermite-welding rail segments** between 17th and 18th streets. Throughout Stout Street, crews adjusted newly installed light **rail electrical system structures** known as pull boxes. In the intersections on Stout Street, **concrete-leveling work** was completed as crews began **conduit connection work** at 15th and Stout Street.

Conduit connection work will be performed in each of the **intersections on Stout and California streets** between 15th and 18th streets and is **necessary to connect** the **stray current protection** system on Stout Street. Crews begin by installing the **conduit pipes** in the gap between the **rail** and the concrete **intersection panels**. Then, **elastomeric grout** (rubber-like material) is poured over everything to fill in the gaps and create a **level surface** for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

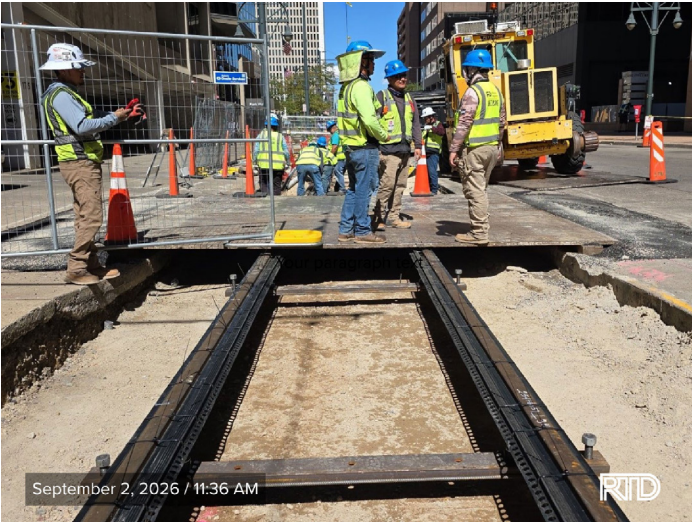
In the **Colfax Avenue Alignment** area, crews continued **setting rail**, pouring **embedded track slab**, and constructing **drainage inlets** between Seventh and Kalamath streets. The team also **backfilled** the area between tracks with **base material** and **installed rebar** in preparation for pouring the **concrete filler slab** that will sit **between** the two embedded track slabs. At the **Cherry Creek Bridge**, crews completed **removing** rail and **concrete plinths**.



Safety Observations



Quality Observations



Steel driveway plate over excavation

Downtown Loop Area | September 2, 11:36 AM



Concrete-leveling in intersection

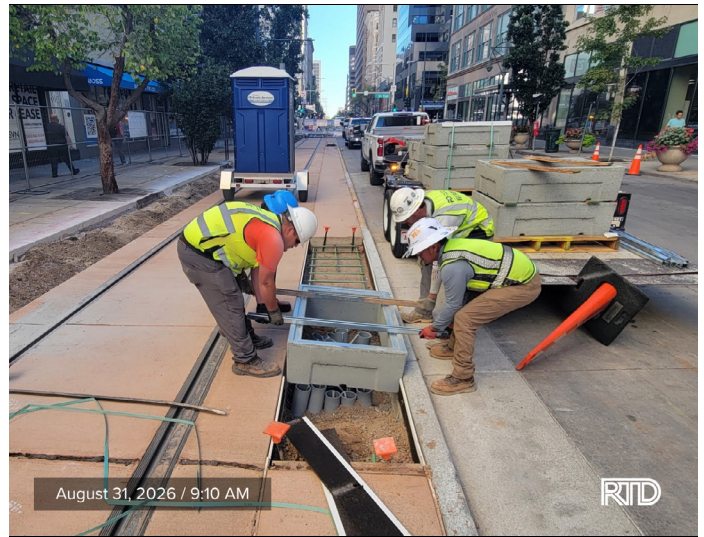
Downtown Loop Area | August 27 11:41 AM

Completing **rail reconstruction** in **downtown Denver** requires many **public safety measures** to ensure that pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers can **successfully navigate** around **active work zones**. This includes installing **steel plates** over the **excavated areas** within the work zone so cars can continue to **safely access driveways** and **parking lots** on a daily basis. These heavy metal plates are **moved and adjusted** so **safe vehicular access** is maintained while work progresses throughout the area.

Concrete-leveling work was **completed at each intersection** on **Stout Street** between **15th and 18th streets** and will be performed at **California Street intersections** as well. This work is completed using a construction technique called **grout jacking**. Crews **drill holes** in the **concrete panels** and inject an **expanding foam material** underneath them as needed to ensure the **panels are level** and will hold up to **repeated vehicular traffic**.

Did You Know?

In light rail infrastructure, a “**pull box**” is an enclosure where **electrical conduits terminate**, providing a **crucial access point** for pulling, accessing, and splicing power or **signaling wires** over long distances or direction changes. Placed at **key intersection points** where conduits feed into **different system areas**, pull boxes allow technicians to **easily modify** or **upgrade wiring** for future **power** and **signaling needs** without having to dig up and redo buried lines.



Pull box installation

Downtown Loop Area | August 31, 9:10 AM



Project Lookahead

Colfax Avenue Alignment

Rail reconstruction will continue between **Seventh and Kalamath streets**, including **embedded track slab** pours, **drainage inlet** construction, **rail setting**. At the **Cherry Creek Bridge**, crews will progress reconstruction by drilling and epoxying new dowels, creating concrete molds, setting rail and pouring new concrete plinths.

Lane closures on **northbound Speer Boulevard** are anticipated as soon as **today (Sept. 8)** 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**. **Rail setting** will advance between 14th and 15th streets and 18th and 19th streets, and **embedded track slab pours** are scheduled for **mid- to late September** in the blocks from **14th to 15th streets** and **17th to 18th streets**. **Conduit connection work** will continue in the **intersections on Stout** between 16th and 18th streets, and **concrete-leveling work** will begin at **intersections on California Street** before moving into the area for full rail reconstruction.

Stout Street will remain reduced to **one travel lane** between **14th and 19th streets** until **late October** with limited areas pushing into **November**. **Temporary lane closures** at **Stout Street intersections** between **15th and 18th streets** will last **throughout September** for conduit connection work. Conduit connection work in each intersection expected to last **approximately one week** and is not expected to take place in two intersections at once. **Intermittent lane closures** will begin as soon as **mid-September** at **intersections on California 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

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