

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

Progress Update



Monday, September 21, 2026

Overview:

Over the past two weeks, crews continued rail, concrete, and drainage work throughout the **Downtown Loop Midblocks** and **Colfax Avenue Alignment** areas. Along Stout Street, crews installed and **welded rail** between 14th and 15th streets, **completed** concrete and **sidewalk repair** work between 15th and 16th streets, and poured **embedded track slab** between 17th and 18th streets. Along Colfax Avenue, **rail** and **drainage work** continued between Seventh and Kalamath streets.



Embedded Track Concrete Pour

Downtown Loop Area | September 16, 12:04 PM



Safety Moment: Preparation can make the difference between a small incident and a major disaster when it comes to fire safety. When working in large buildings, familiarize yourself with the location of emergency exits, fire escapes, or fire extinguishers. At home, check on smoke detector batteries each season and replace fire extinguishers before their expiration date. Make a plan with family members or roommates for emergency evacuations, and check on office emergency evacuation protocols with your employer.



29%



Total Progress

33%



Track Replacement
1,940/5,907 Track Feet

4%



Track Transitions
1/25 Transitions

18%



Concrete Poured
803/4,367 Cubic Yards

17%



Intersection Upgrades
2/12 Intersections

30%



Drainage Upgrades
21/70 Drainage Inlets

71%



Rail Welds
105/148 Welds

Recent Work in Review



1 | Track Rebar Final Placements

Downtown Loop Area | September 16, 7:36 AM



2 | Self Compacting Material Pour

Colfax Avenue Alignment | September 10, 1:36 PM

In the Downtown Loop Midblocks area, crews continued work along Stout Street. Between 14th and 15th streets, crews **installed rail, conducted thermite welding**, and began setting the new track to **final elevation**. Between 15th and 16th streets, crews completed **curb and gutter work, repaired sidewalk panels**, and performed **elastomeric grout work** within the intersection of 16th and Stout streets.

Between 16th and 17th streets, crews continued **drainage improvements**, including **excavation** and construction of **new curb inlets**. Crews **installed rebar** and **molds** between 17th and 18th streets and began pouring the **embedded track concrete slab**. Between 18th and 19th streets, crews continued constructing **drainage structures**.

In the Colfax Avenue Alignment area, crews continued **rail** and **concrete work** between Seventh and Ninth streets while **drainage** and **underground utility work** progressed between Ninth and Kalamath streets. Crews poured **placed self-compacting base materials** around completed **drainage inlet** structures.



Safety Observations



Quality Observations



Equipment Spotters

Downtown Loop Area | September 11, 9:23 AM



Elastomeric Grout Utility Work

Downtown Loop Area | September 9, 10:12 AM

When crews are working around **active excavation equipment**, maintaining clear communication and staying alert of your surroundings is crucial. Crews use **spotters** to help equipment operators **navigate active work areas** by communicating movements of surrounding **workers, equipment and obstacles**. Maintaining a **visible position** and staying clear of **equipment swing areas** helps reduce the risk of struck-by incidents.

Crews performed **elastomeric grout utility work** using a highly specialized, **rubber-like sealant** at intersections of 16th and Stout streets, and 15th and Stout streets. This sealant is used to encapsulate conduits within the stray current protection system and protects components from materials that can cause damage over time. This work will protect the **RTD Systems utilities** for years to come.

Did You Know?

Downtown streets are home to a **complex network of underground utilities**, including electrical, telecommunications, water, and sewer infrastructure. As crews reconstruct the rail system, they must coordinate this existing infrastructure with **new rail-system conduits** and drainage improvements. Careful planning and coordination help crews **avoid conflicts** and **safely fit new components** into the limited space beneath the surface.



Excavation for Underground Duct Banks
Downtown Loop Area | September 11, 1:05 PM



Project Lookahead

Colfax Avenue Alignment

Crews will continue work between Seventh and Kalamath streets, including **drainage improvements, concrete work**, and preparation for additional **rail installation**. Crews are also preparing for future **station work** at the Colfax at Auraria Station. Work at the **Cherry Creek Bridge** is expected to **resume** as soon as **September 28**, with **drilling** and **installation** of new **dowels, forming new concrete plinths**, and **setting rail**.

Downtown Loop Midblocks

Crews will continue rail and concrete work along Stout Street, including **closure welds** and **concrete pours** between 14th and 16th streets and additional concrete work between 17th and 18th streets. **Drainage** and **rail system utility work** will continue between 16th and 19th streets as construction progresses north through the corridor.

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 (Deputy CEO)