

# Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

## Progress Update



Wednesday, October 07, 2026

### Overview:

Over the **past two weeks**, crews advanced work throughout the Downtown Loop Midblocks and Colfax Avenue Alignment areas. Along Stout Street, crews **poured embedded track slab**, continued **drainage improvements**, and advanced concrete and **rail work** along the corridor. Along Colfax Avenue, crews continued **concrete** and **drainage work** while preparing for upcoming rail installation and work at the **Cherry Creek Bridge**.



Quality checks behind the scenes support progress in the field! Check out RTD's September recap video to learn more.



**Safety Moment:** Construction activities and recent transit service changes can affect how you travel through downtown. Before heading out, check your route and allow extra time for lane closures, detours, and changes to RTD service. Visit [RTD's Service Changes](#) webpage for the most up-to-date information on routes, schedules, and service changes.



34%



## Total Progress

37%



**Track Replacement**  
2,170/5,907 Track Feet

4%



**Track Transitions**  
1/25 Transitions

25%



**Concrete Poured**  
1,082/4,367 Cubic Yards

33%



**Intersection Upgrades**  
4/12 Intersections

30%



**Drainage Upgrades**  
21/70 Drainage Inlets

78%



**Rail Welds**  
115/148 Welds

## Recent Work in Review



### 1 | Flangeway Filler Removal and Cleaning

Downtown Loop Area | September 28, 9:05 AM



### 2 | Bollard Concrete Pour

Colfax Avenue Alignment | September 28, 4:36 PM

In the Downtown Loop Midblocks area, crews continued work along Stout Street. Between 14th and 15th streets, crews completed an **embedded track slab concrete pour** and continued work on the **filler slab**. Between 15th and 16th streets, crews **advanced curb and gutter work**. Crews continued **drainage improvements** between 16th and 17th streets, including **backfilling** around a new **curb inlet**.

Between 17th and 18th streets, crews completed **infill** and **curb and gutter work** while continuing **rail welding**, **elastomeric grout work** and preparation for upcoming **concrete pours**. Farther north, crews continued elastomeric grout work at the 18th Street intersection. Crews also began **pre-construction utility work** on **California Street** to prepare for full rail reconstruction beginning as soon as **Oct. 12**.

In the Colfax Avenue Alignment area, crews continued work between Seventh and Kalamath streets. Between Seventh and Ninth streets, crews **installed** and **poured concrete bases** for **new bollards** and continued **concrete work** for **embedded track slabs**. Between Ninth and Kalamath streets, crews continued **drainage improvements** in preparation for upcoming **rail installation** and **welding**.



## Safety Observations



## Quality Observations



### Thermite Welding Screens

Downtown Loop Area | September 28, 3:31 PM



### Concrete Testing

Downtown Loop Area | September 28 7:48 AM

In order to **join sections** of rail together, crews use a specialized process called **thermite welding**. The process generates **intense heat, sparks, and flames** as the rail sections are joined. Crews place **protective screens** around the work area to help **shield nearby workers** and the **surrounding area** from the **heat and sparks**.

Before concrete is placed, crews **perform testing** to **verify** that the material meets **project standards**. During recent concrete pours on Stout Street, **quality control** and **quality assurance teams** tested the concrete for characteristics including **temperature, consistency, and air content**. These checks help confirm the concrete is ready to be placed and will **perform as designed**.

## Did You Know?

As construction progresses along Stout Street, the project team is preparing for full rail reconstruction on **California** and **19th streets** as soon as **Oct. 12**. This transition is being **carefully sequenced** in relation to the **work already underway** on Stout Street.

The project team will ensure sections of Stout Street are **complete** and **reopened** before moving into these new areas to **avoid opening additional work areas** while Stout is still fully impacted. This approach helps **limit the number of active work areas** customers, pedestrians, drivers, and businesses have to **navigate at one time**.

While some **overlap** between the areas is necessary to **stay on schedule**, this **careful sequencing** by the project team helps **minimize public impacts** while continuing to move work forward.



**Stout and California Streets**

Downtown Loop Area | October 6, 11:14 AM



## Project Lookahead

### Colfax Avenue Alignment

Crews will continue **concrete work** between Seventh and Ninth streets and **drainage work** between Ninth and Kalamath streets, followed by **rail installation** and **welding**. Work at the **Cherry Creek Bridge** is expected to resume as soon as **Oct. 12** with **drilling** and **installation** of new **dowels**, followed by construction of new concrete **plinths** and **rail installation**.

## Downtown Loop Midblocks

Crews will continue **concrete, rail, and drainage work** along Stout Street. Between 14th and 16th streets, crews will perform **concrete pours to close the gaps** between **intersections** and **midblocks** while continuing **filler slab** and **curb and gutter work**. **Drainage work**, including **trench drains**, will continue between 16th and 17th streets, while **concrete, elastomeric grout, and rail work** continue between 17th and 19th streets.

**Elastomeric grout work** is scheduled to begin as soon as **Oct. 12**, and will continue in California Street intersections between 18th and 16th streets for **approximately three weeks**. As soon as **Oct. 12, full rail reconstruction** will begin on **19th** and **California streets**. In preparation for this work, **fencing** and **barriers** will be installed along California Street to **establish a safe path** around the upcoming work area.

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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](mailto:RailProject@RTD-Denver.com) or **720.902.8817**. For additional project information and previous reports, visit [RTD-Denver.com/RailProject](https://RTD-Denver.com/RailProject).

### Angel Peña and the Infrastructure Delivery Team

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