Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

Progress Update



Monday, November 16, 2026

Overview:

Over the past two weeks, crews advanced construction along **California Street** and continued rail and concrete work along **Stout Street** and **Colfax Avenue**. Work reached a **major milestone** along Stout Street, with **track work completed** between 16th and 17th streets and **all lanes reopened** between **14th** and **18th streets.**



Lanes Open on Stout Street
Downtown Loop Area | November 13, 10:09 AM

Safety Moment: *As temperatures drop, space heaters can be used to keep indoor work areas comfortable. However, improper use can create fire and electrical hazards. Keep heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, including paper, furniture, curtains, and other materials. Always place heaters on a flat, stable surface, plug them directly into a wall outlet rather than an extension cord or power strip, and never leave them running unattended. Always turn heaters off when leaving the room.*

42%		**Total Progress**
54%		**Track Replacement** 3,204/5,907 Track Feet
4%		**Track Transitions** 1/25 Transitions
47%		**Concrete Poured** 2,042/4,367 Cubic Yards
33%		**Intersection Upgrades** 4/12 Intersections
30%		**Drainage Upgrades** 21/70 Drainage Inlets
83%		**Rail Welds** 123/148 Welds

Recent Work in Review



1 | Existing Track Concrete Demolition
Downtown Loop Area | November 9, 2:27 PM



2 | Embedded Track Rail Placement
Colfax Avenue Alignment | November 9, 10:43 AM

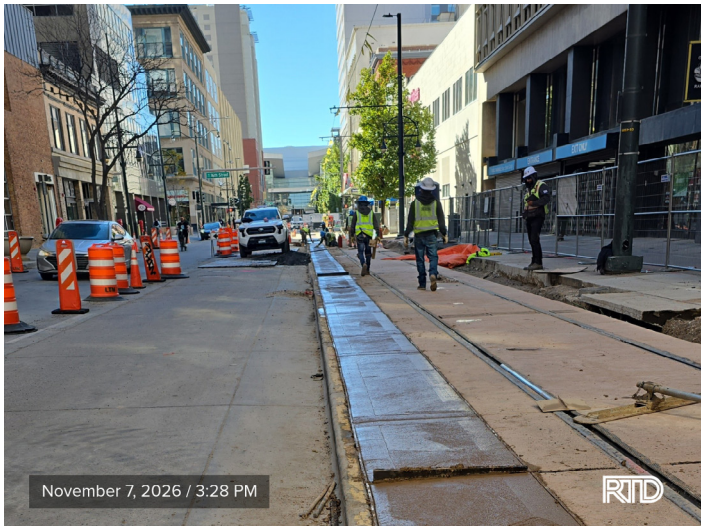
In the Downtown Loop Midblocks area, crews continued advancing work along California Street. Between 19th and 18th streets, crews **installed rail** and **placed rebar** in preparation for upcoming **embedded track concrete pours.** Crews also advanced **electrical** and **drainage work** beneath the track area, including **installation of conduits, electrical boxes,** and **track drainage structures.**

Between 17th and 16th streets, crews completed **underground conduit installation** and placed **Controlled Low-Strength Material (CLSM)** around the newly installed rail utilities. Crews began **grading** and **preparing** the base material for **rail** and **rebar installation** and upcoming concrete pours. Between 16th and 15th streets, crews **installed pedestrian barriers** and began **removing existing track concrete** and **rails** to prepare the area for drainage work and utility improvements. At the 15th Street intersection, crews also began **conduit connection work.**

Along Stout Street, crews completed **embedded track slab** and **concrete work** between 16th and 17th streets, allowing **lane closures to be fully removed** between 14th and 18th streets. Work continues between 18th and 19th streets, where crews are **welding** and **placing rail** to prepare for **rebar installation** and upcoming concrete pours.

In the Colfax Avenue Alignment area, crews continued **rail** and **concrete work** between Ninth and Kalamath streets, including **rail welding**, **installation of track filler materials**, and **concrete pours** for track and sidewalks. Work between **Seventh** and **Ninth streets** has been **completed**, with remaining activities focused on **final cleanup** and preparations for **upcoming station work**.

Safety Observations



Site Housekeeping
Downtown Loop Area | November 7, 3:28 PM

Maintaining **good housekeeping** throughout a construction site helps **prevent accidents** and keeps work areas **safe** and **organized**. Crews regularly **handle materials**, **tools**, **equipment**, and **debris** that can create **tripping hazards** or **obstruct access** if left unattended. **Keeping walkways clear**, **properly storing materials**, and **removing debris** as work progresses reduces hazards and allows workers to move safely throughout the site.

Quality Observations



Subgrade Protection in Weather
Downtown Loop Area | November 4, 8:52 AM

A densely compacted subgrade is essential to the **long-term performance** of sidewalks, tracks, and other **concrete structures**. Before concrete is placed, the soil and base materials beneath it must be properly prepared to **support the weight** of the **finished structure** and **prevent future settling** or **movement**. Weather conditions, including heavy rain, can **change the moisture content** of soil and **affect** how well it can be **compacted**. Following rainfall, crews and inspectors **check the base material** to **verify** that it meets project standards for **moisture** and **compaction**. If the soil contains too much moisture, **additional drying time** may be needed before it can be **properly compacted** and construction can continue. These checks help ensure the **foundation is stable** and ready for the next phase of work.

Did You Know?

Concrete **naturally expands** and contracts as **temperatures changes**. Without room for this movement, pressure can build between **connected concrete sections** or where it meets other **fixed structures**, increasing the risk of **cracking** or other damage over time.

To account for this movement, crews intentionally leave **small gaps** between **concrete sections** or alongside **existing structures**. These spaces, called **expansion joints**, are filled with a flexible material that **compresses** and **expands** as the surrounding concrete moves. Throughout the project, crews install **expansion joints** in areas such as **sidewalks**, **curbs**, and **track slabs** to help **relieve pressure**, **reduce stress** on the concrete, and **protect surrounding structures** from damage.



Concrete Expansion Joint
Downtown Loop Area | November 6, 10:51 AM



Colfax Avenue Alignment

Along Colfax Avenue, crews will continue **rail installation** and **concrete work** between Ninth and Kalamath streets, including **remaining track** and **sidewalk improvements**. Between Seventh and Ninth streets, crews will focus on **final cleanup** and remaining closeout activities. Work at the **Cherry Creek Bridge** is currently anticipated to resume in **late November** as soon as design conflicts are resolved.

Downtown Loop Midblocks

On California Street, crews will continue **advancing rail**, **drainage**, and **underground rail utility work** throughout the corridor. Between 19th and 18th streets, crews will progress **concrete pours** for the **embedded track**. Between 17th and 16th streets, crews will continue **rebar installation** ahead of upcoming **embedded track slab pours**. Between 16th and 15th streets, crews will continue **removing existing concrete** and rails while beginning **drainage improvements**.

Along Stout Street, crews will continue **rail** and **concrete work** between 18th and 19th streets, including **rebar installation** and **preparation** for **embedded track** and **filler pours**.

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.

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