

Sample News Release



<Your organization name> joins RTD to provide information about Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

The multi-phased project will focus on oldest segments of rail system

YOUR CITY (Date, 2024) — The [Regional Transportation District \(RTD\)](#) will undertake a multi-phased [project](#) to reconstruct miles of light rail track in downtown Denver. The first phase of the approximately \$152 million, full-depth reconstruction project will commence in May and focus on five segments of at-grade rail and street intersections in the Downtown Loop.

(Your organization name and website) is partnering with RTD to encourage community members to visit the RTD [website](#) for information and sign up for [Service Alerts](#). Customers are also encouraged to use the [Next Ride web app](#) to plan trips and see bus and train locations in real time. For additional route and schedule information, RTD Customer Care agents are available 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays by calling 303.299.6000. (Insert any resources your organization might offer)

Beginning May 26, all D and H line trains will be rerouted to Denver Union Station, and L Line service, which connects 30th•Downing Station to the Downtown Loop, will be suspended. No light rail service will operate in RTD's central corridor through September 2024. Following completion of the project's first phase in September, crews will pause reconstruction work until 2025, and all light rail services will resume normal operations.

The Downtown Loop in Denver's Central Business District is part of RTD's inaugural light rail line and opened in October 1994. After nearly 30 years of continual service, several segments of track along the 5.3-mile corridor, which extends between I-25•Broadway and 30th•Downing stations, require a full-depth reconstruction. The full-depth reconstruction process involves removing all current rail infrastructure, concrete, ties and ballasts. Crews will also address drains below the 30-year-old rail system before fully rebuilding each segment.

The at-grade rail and street intersections that will be reconstructed in the project's first phase are 15th and Stout streets, 17th and Stout streets, 15th and California streets, 17th and California streets, and Broadway and Welton Street.

The five impacted intersections will not be reconstructed at the same time. RTD has been working closely with the City and County of Denver to discuss potential street closures and develop traffic detour plans. During the project, vehicle traffic in the area may be merged to one lane or rerouted around the intersections for limited periods of time.

RTD bus routes that operate along 15th and 17th streets may also be temporarily impacted during the reconstruction project, and the agency is working to limit detours in the downtown area. Also, with D and H light rail trains rerouting to Denver Union Station, RTD is planning to temporarily reintroduce its Free MetroRide service, which operates along 18th and 19th streets. Both the Free MallRide and MetroRide routes provide multiple stops between Denver Union Station and Civic Center Station.



The subsequent phases of the project will begin in 2025, and work on each phase may occur simultaneously. The agency's project team, comprising staff and consultants, is in the process of developing comprehensive reconstruction plans for the latter phases, which include:

- Phase Two: Midblock reconstruction in the Downtown Loop
- Phase Three: Colfax Avenue alignment reconstruction
- Phase Four: Welton Street Corridor

RTD created a webpage featuring photos, illustrations, maps, detour information and project timelines for the public. The webpage is available at rtd-denver.com/railproject and the agency will continually update the project page during all phases of work.