



FACT SHEET

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project

UPDATED: May 13, 2026

Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project: Colfax Avenue Alignment and Downtown Loop Midblocks



In June 2026, RTD will begin its next phase of its Downtown Rail Reconstruction Project, replacing light rail in downtown Denver that has been in service for more than 30 years. The full-depth reconstruction will improve safety, reliability, and long-term performance along the central corridor.

The work will build upon previous phases in 2024 and 2025, this time addressing reconstruction from just west of 7th Street to 10th Street along Colfax Avenue. Meanwhile, work in the Downtown Loop midblock areas will start near 14th and Stout streets and continue north on Stout to 19th Street, east on 19th Street to California, and south on California to 15th Street.



Why this work is needed

- Downtown rail infrastructure has reached the end of its useful life after decades of heavy use.
- Embedded track beneath concrete is difficult to maintain and requires full replacement.
- Exposure to traffic and deicing materials has accelerated wear.
- The project supports long-term system reliability and builds on prior targeted repairs completed between 2012-2023.

Service impacts

RTD will maintain downtown access with alternative service options:

- **D Line:** Suspended. C Line restored (15-minute service to Denver Union Station).
- **H Line:** Suspended. R Line extended to RidgeGate Parkway; new T Line will operate between Lincoln Station and I-25•Broadway Station.
- **L Line:** Suspended. Route 43 replaces service, running every 7.5 minutes at peak.
- **E Line:** Maintains 15-minute frequency to support transfers at I-25•Broadway.
- **R and T Lines:** Operates every 15 minutes from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., then every 30 minutes until midnight (2 a.m. Fridays.)
- **Additional connections:** Route 16, Route ART, FreeRide (as frequent as every 3 minutes), and Free MetroRide.

Work hours

- Monday–Friday: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
- Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Learn more

Work is expected to be completed in Q1 of 2027. For detailed project information and updates, or to submit a question, visit the project webpage at rtd-denver.com/railproject. Please note that all construction activities are schedule- and weather-dependent and subject to change.