August 2016

Welcome to Inside FasTracks -- your monthly update about FasTracks news, progress and people

FasTracks News

G Line to open this fall
First commuter test train arrives at Olde Town Arvada Station

The first commuter rail test train arrives at Olde Town Arvada Station.

With lights flashing and horn blaring, the first commuter rail test train arrived at the new Olde Town Arvada Station Aug. 4.

The 11-mile G Line service will carry passengers between Union Station and Wheat Ridge as it passes through northwest Denver, Adams County and Arvada.


Hop aboard for this test run on a light rail train in Aurora

A light rail test train on the R Line in Aurora pulls into the Florida Station along I-225.

RTD is testing light rail trains on the new R Line, which is scheduled to open by the end of 2016. The 10.5-mile line extends light rail from the current Nine Mile station at I-225 and Parker Road north to the new Peoria Station at I-70, and travels through major activity centers in Aurora.

With construction on the line winding down, testing of the rail system is underway. The process, called integration testing, evaluates key technical and performance requirements on the line by measuring track clearances, testing of train signals, and the electrical and communication systems.
This video, shot Aug. 1, gives you a front-seat view along with the operator as the train travels along the line. Enjoy the ride: http://www3.rtd-denver.com/elbert/news/archive/index.cfm?id=8667

Four women engineers are playing a key role on the North Metro Rail Line

Women are often underrepresented in the fields of construction and engineering, but four female engineers are on the cutting edge with an explicit mission for the Regional Transportation District’s (RTD) North Metro Rail Line.

Deputy Project Manager Jane Donovan said, “It’s exciting to be part of such a monumental project for the region. Having women lead on diverse disciplines means we are breaking barriers and changing traditions.”

These dedicated and experienced female engineers are playing a critical role in the rail line’s infrastructure while enhancing passenger safety and environmental concerns.

Read more about these lead engineers: http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/nm_298

Behind the scenes construction work protects trains and objects on the North Metro Rail Line
Arc flash shields are installed under the University of Colorado A Line Bridge at Colorado Boulevard in Denver.

Construction crews on the North Metro Rail Line are installing arc flash shields on bridge undersides, which will protect the concrete structures from electric arcs generated between the train’s pantograph and the contact wire as the train passes underneath the bridge. The pantograph is the framework that’s mounted to the train car’s roof and collects power from the overhead catenary system (OCS) which powers the rail cars.

Because of occasional variances in track and rail height, the rail car will, at times, lose contact with the overhead wire, resulting in a flash of electricity—in the shape of an arc—from the overhead wire. The arc flash shields are made of aluminum and are installed directly to the underside of the bridge and over the OCS wires. See photo above.

The North Metro Rail line is scheduled to open for service in 2018. The first 13 miles of the proposed 18.5 mile commuter rail line will carry passengers from Union Station through Denver, Commerce City, Thornton, Northglenn, and eventually to north Adams County.


**RTD installs largest public art in Denver's transit system**
The largest artwork in the Regional Transportation District’s (RTD) system is underway.

Created by internationally renowned artist Karl Addison, the installation at the Clear Creek•Federal Station (60th Avenue and Federal Boulevard) on the G Line spans more than 370 feet and is 22 feet high. The mural, named “Doradus,” features a series of 22 hand-painted silhouettes and giants representing people (and one dog) from Denver and Adams counties.

“I’m thrilled to have Doradus in RTD’s art collection. By the end of 2016, we will have nearly doubled our art installations at rail stations and Doradus is the largest art piece, based on square footage, in our system,” said Lindsey Smith, RTD’s Art-n-Transit program manager.

Addison has major art installations in Europe, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Russia and the United States. His ongoing theme of mural work pertains to humanity, culture and community engagement.

When the G Line opens this fall, the Art-n-Transit program will add eight new pieces to the collection, including artistic windscreens along the line. Artwork was commissioned at every station, beginning at 41st•Fox out to Wheat Ridge•Ward. Passengers will be able to enjoy the atheistically pleasing, colorful pieces as they travel the line.

New Transit Lines Opening in 2016

Flatiron Flyer, Jan. 3
University of Colorado A Line, April 22
B Line, July 25
G Line, Fall
R Line, Winter

Stay tuned for more information on the exciting opening of these transit lines. http://www.rtd-denver.com/Fastracks.shtml

Progress Updates

Central Rail Extension
Denver Union Station
Eagle P3 Project
East Rail Line
Free MetroRide
Gold Line
I-225 Rail Line
Maintenance Facilities
North Metro Rail Line
Northwest Rail Line
Southeast Rail Extension
Southwest Rail Extension
U.S. 36 Bus Rapid Transit
West Rail Line

RTD Board Meetings
The RTD Board holds regular meetings most Tuesdays. Learn more...
Calendar of Events
For a complete listing of upcoming events and activities, click here.

Now Presenting
To schedule a FasTracks presentation for your group or organization, contact the FasTracks Public Information Team today at 303-299-6990.

FasTracks is RTD’s voter-approved transit expansion program to build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver’s historic Union Station and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county district. For more information about FasTracks, visit www.rtd-fastracks.com.

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