FasTracks News

A 10-year milestone: FasTracks progress is transforming the region

Construction crews work on the Gold Line rail station in Olde Town Arvada. The line is scheduled to open in 2016.

It’s been 10 years since the Denver metro region showed its visionary nature by approving the Regional Transportation District’s (RTD) FasTracks transit expansion program. Nov. 2 marks the 10th anniversary of the historic vote by citizens of our eight-county region to fund FasTracks.

Four FasTracks projects have been completed so far, while six new lines are under construction with five of those scheduled to open in 2016 and another in 2018.

The four completed projects are:

• The W Line, a light rail service, which runs between Golden and Denver’s Union Station
• Union Station which has been transformed from a nearly forgotten historical landmark to the nation’s most progressive intermodal transit center
• The Free MetroRide, a modern bus service, which runs a circular pattern in downtown Denver during morning and evening rush hours
The five lines under construction and scheduled to open in 2016 are:

- The East Rail Line, a commuter rail service connecting Denver International Airport with Union Station
- The Gold Line, a commuter rail line connecting Arvada and Wheat Ridge with downtown Denver
- The I-225 Light Rail Line, which will travel through Aurora connecting riders with the Denver Tech Center, Fitzsimons medical campus, downtown and the airport
- The Northwest Rail Line first segment from Union Station to Westminster
- The U.S. 36 Bus Rapid Transit service that will introduce distinctive buses for more reliable commutes between Boulder and downtown Denver.

Meanwhile, construction is under way on the North Metro Rail Line to Thornton. It opens in 2018.

When completed, the FasTracks program will have built 122 miles of new commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, 21,000 new parking spaces, 31 new Park-n-Rides, 57 new transit stations, and will enhance bus and rail connections across the eight-county region.

Read more about FasTracks progress, lines under construction and projects completed [http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/main_1](http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/main_1)

**RELATED STORY…**

*Toronto Star* examines why FasTracks has generated an international “buzz”

Last month, the daily *Toronto Star*, Canada’s highest-circulation newspaper, examined our FasTracks program, how it was created and how the Denver region is a model for many other communities. The reporter and photographer traveled to Denver to capture this story and produce its accompanying video.

Read more [on.thestar.com/denver](http://on.thestar.com/denver)

**More public meetings planned for December**

*Simplifying fare structure is goal of fare study*

RTD has completed the first phase of a comprehensive fare structure study. Earlier this year during six public meetings, transit riders shared the challenges they experience with RTD’s current fare structure. RTD is taking that input into consideration as it moves forward with the study.

Under study are how the agency should calculate bus and train fares based on distance, zones, type of service, transfers, and issues related to cash, tickets, passes and other products.

There’s an opportunity for the public to offer more feedback on fare alternatives in December at public meetings in Aurora, Boulder, Denver, Lakewood, Littleton and Thornton. For dates and exact locations, refer to the Web link below. New fare policies will be introduced in January 2016.

Central Rail Extension Mobility Study holds final public meeting November 19

RTD launched the Central Rail Extension Mobility Study in August 2013 to determine the best direct rail transit trip between the 38th • Blake Station and downtown Denver without a transfer.

RTD invites you to the final public meeting for the study Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6-7:30 p.m. at the RTD administration offices, 1600 Blake, Room T & D in downtown Denver. The meeting will focus on project findings, recommendations and next steps.

Read more www.rtd-fastracks.com and click on the Central Rail Extension link.

U.S. 36 celebrates milestones of project

At left, RTD Board Chair Chuck Sisk speaks at U.S. 36 milestone event with the newly completed Sheridan Boulevard Bridge in the background. At right, RTD Director Larry Hoy inserts a piece into the U.S. 36 puzzle. Also participating in the event were CDOT Executive Director Don Hunt, Westminster Mayor Herb Atchison, Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator John Carter and Doubletree Hotel General Manager Colin Grice.

Every FasTracks project is a puzzle, but when all the pieces fit something spectacular happens. With that as its theme, RTD, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the U.S. 36 Bus Rapid Transit team celebrated the completion of the Sheridan Boulevard Bridge and the eastbound paving of the highway. The event was held Oct. 23 to commemorate the completion of two more pieces of the puzzle. At the event’s conclusion, each speaker inserted a piece into a U.S. 36 jigsaw puzzle.

The first phase of construction, from Federal Boulevard to 88th Street in Louisville/Superior, which commenced July 2012, will be completed spring 2015. Event speakers also thanked businesses along the U.S. 36 corridor for their patience and cooperation.
RTD GM Phil Washington will deliver keynote at 4th Annual Transit Event
On Nov. 14, Transit Alliance, a public advocacy group, hosts its 4th Annual Transit Event to recognize outstanding leaders in the region including nominees Lone Tree Mayor Jim Gunning; Tom Clark, CEO of Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation; McWhinney CEO Chad McWhinney; Denver Planning Board Member Joel Noble; Colorado Senator Rachel Zenzinger; Karen Hancock, lead staff for Aurora’s Citizens Planning Academy; the Southeast Light Rail Partnership, Urban Land Conservancy and Union Station Alliance. More than 300 transit leaders are expected to attend the breakfast event at the EXDO events center, 1399 35th St., in Denver’s River North Art District. Register here: (http://www.transitalliance.org/?page_id=573)

RTD’s art program on the W Line bolsters neighborhood connections

A series of seven colorful steel boats suspended on whimsical legs “tread” across the W Line’s Oak station plaza. Created by Colorado sculptor Joshua Wiener, the art is visible from the train, parking lot and the adjacent street.

The W Line, which runs between Golden and downtown Denver, has added 13 new pieces of art on permanent exhibit for a total of 50 eclectic pieces. The art was commissioned by RTD to complement each station’s design by adding color, culture and visual interest.

RTD’s Art-n-Transit program began in 1994 to enhance the design and aesthetic quality of transit projects. The program’s origins developed as a result of requests from northeast Denver neighborhoods for art along the Central Rail Line.

The art has been embraced by communities as it fosters a stronger connection between neighborhoods and RTD, adds value and cultural diversity, discourages vandalism and graffiti, but more importantly, enhances the beauty of the entire transit system.

Today, an extensive array of public art can be seen at more than 45 light rail stations and bus terminals throughout the metro area. The art ranges from murals, mosaics, sculptures and an imaginative display.
W Line institutes parking fees at five Park-n-Rides

RTD has implemented its parking management program at five Park-n-Rides along the W Line: Decatur•Federal, Sheridan, Lakewood•Wadsworth, Oak and Federal Center. Vehicles registered within the eight-county RTD district can park for free for the first 24 hours; a $2 per day fee applies for each additional 24-hour period afterward. Vehicles registered outside the district must pay a $4 fee for every day a vehicle is parked.

Parking fees help pay for the cost of providing parking, ensure that out-of-district residents aren’t given an unfair advantage when utilizing RTD facilities, and optimize the overall parking system across the district.

To determine if parking fees apply for you, to find a Park-n-Ride map, how to pay for parking and much more, please see this link: http://www.rtd-denver.com/HowToPark.shtml

Workforce Initiative Now supports veterans training for transportation careers

As Veterans Day approaches, RTD is playing a major role in supporting veterans and others who are seeking careers in transportation. RTD’s award-winning and nationally recognized Workforce Initiative Now (WIN) program trains skilled workers for the construction and transportation industries. Among the Denver-area workers benefitting from this program are military veterans transitioning back into civilian life.

The brainchild of RTD GM and CEO Phil Washington (Command Sgt. Major, U.S. Army, Ret.), WIN is a collaborative partnership among RTD, the Community College of Denver, Denver Transit Partners and the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver.

Read more how one Navy veteran is benefitting from WIN: http://www3.rtd-denver.com/elbert/news/archive/index.cfm?id=6301

Awards

Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) honors RTD GM Phil Washington

RTD General Manager and CEO Phil Washington was recently honored with an Owners Public Service Award from CMAA, a construction and program management organization. Washington was credited for his support of Eagle P3, a public-private construction partnership formed to build out RTD’s East Rail Line, Gold Line, the commuter rail facility and Northwest Rail Line Westminster segment; for completing major components of the FasTracks program; and for his development of the Workforce Initiative Now (WIN) program, which creates careers for unemployed and underemployed residents of communities impacted by infrastructure projects.
RTD takes top honors at American Public Transportation Association’s annual meeting

In mid-October, RTD brought home three prestigious awards and eight first place awards from the American Public Transportation Association’s (APTA) annual meeting in Houston. RTD was honored for its groundbreaking Strategic Leadership Development Program, which develops senior management employees; for its Small/Disadvantaged Business (DBE/SEB) program, which helps economically disadvantaged businesses compete with other same-size firms for prime and sub-contracting opportunities; and a grand prize for special events for its Union Station grand opening.

RTD also won eight marketing AdWheel first place awards in the following categories:

- Promotional Special Event: Union Station Grand Opening (Grand Prize Winner)
- Advertisement, Advocacy/Awareness: I am FasTracks
- Billboards/Outdoor Advertising: CERT—Attack of the Superbrains
- Brochure: Union Station Brochure
- Schedule Notice/Timetable: Free MetroRide Schedule
- Transit Card: CERT, Prepare for the Unexpected Card
- Public Relations/Awareness Special Event: Goodbye Market, Hello Union
- Facebook: RTD Facebook Page

Engineering News-Record magazine recognizes Denver Union Station

Denver Union Station has been recognized by Engineering News-Record (ENR) magazine Mountain States edition for 2014 Best Project Award in the “Airports/Transit” category; and for “Safety.” ENR Mountain States reports news about development, design and construction projects throughout Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.

Denver Union Station named Project of the Year by Design Build Institute of America

The Denver Union Station team has also won the prestigious Project of the Year award from the Design Build Institute of America (DBIA) for the project’s exemplary collaboration and integration in design-build project delivery. DBIA promotes best practices in design-build construction.

People in the News

RTD GM Washington elected to chair APTA Board and RTD Board Member Rivera-Malpiede is elected as a member-at-large for the APTA Board

Two officials from RTD have been selected for key leadership roles on the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) board of directors. The announcement was made at APTA’s annual meeting in Houston in October.

RTD General Manager and CEO Phi Washington was elected as the APTA chair and RTD Board Director Angie Rivera-Malpiede (District C) was elected as a member-at-large for the APTA Board of Directors.

Washington said, “I hope to rally the transit industry around a unified advocacy effort focused on increased transportation funding and putting people to work.” Washington has been involved with APTA since 2000 and previously served as the APTA vice-chair.
“It is an honor to join the APTA Board of Directors,” said Director Rivera-Malpiede. “I believe strongly in the role of public transportation in the community and I look forward to the opportunity to help this cause on a national level.”

APTA is a nonprofit international association of 1,500 public and private sector organizations that advocates for the advancement of transportation initiatives and programs.

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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