



January 22, 2015

## Welcome!

Happy New Year! As we enter 2015 we are getting ready to see some big changes for the North Metro Line and the region. Construction will start this spring on the first bridge on the project – 120th Avenue. As we head into the construction phase, we'll be sending updates as it happens. I know we're all ready for some action!

It is important we get you updates in a timely matter, especially as construction will be occurring throughout different parts of the line. You can find a variety of the latest information on the [North Metro Rail Line](#) website. You can also identify places along the line for area-specific updates. This will allow us to send construction notices to people directly affected by construction rather than sending them to our general mailing list. You can do this on our [sign up](#) page by checking the boxes for your geographical areas of interest.

## [News along the line](#)

### **The state's longest bridge will soon be on the North Metro Line**

One of North Metro Rail Line's own bridges is slated to be the longest in the state of Colorado, appropriately named the Skyway Bridge.

At 9,533 feet, it is quite the bragging right for the region! It does cover a lot of ground. The bridge will cross (from south to north) the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad tracks, Brighton Boulevard, a Union Pacific railroad spur track, the Farmers Reservoir & Irrigation Company (FRICO) ditch, the Suncor Energy site, Sand Creek and Highway 270. With so much property, the best approach was to go over instead of through said areas. By doing this, RTD is able to save money and preserve private property to the greatest extent possible.

Because this bridge is so much longer than any of the others on the North Metro Rail Line, the design process took longer. Design for the Skyway Bridge is currently at 90 percent completion, but in total, took more than a year.

Construction is scheduled to begin in May of this year and will be a multi-faceted process, involving building and

assembling the bridge in sections. The properties below the bridge affect how and in what order the section construction will occur.



To learn more about the bridges on the North Metro Line visit our [website](#).

## Story along the line

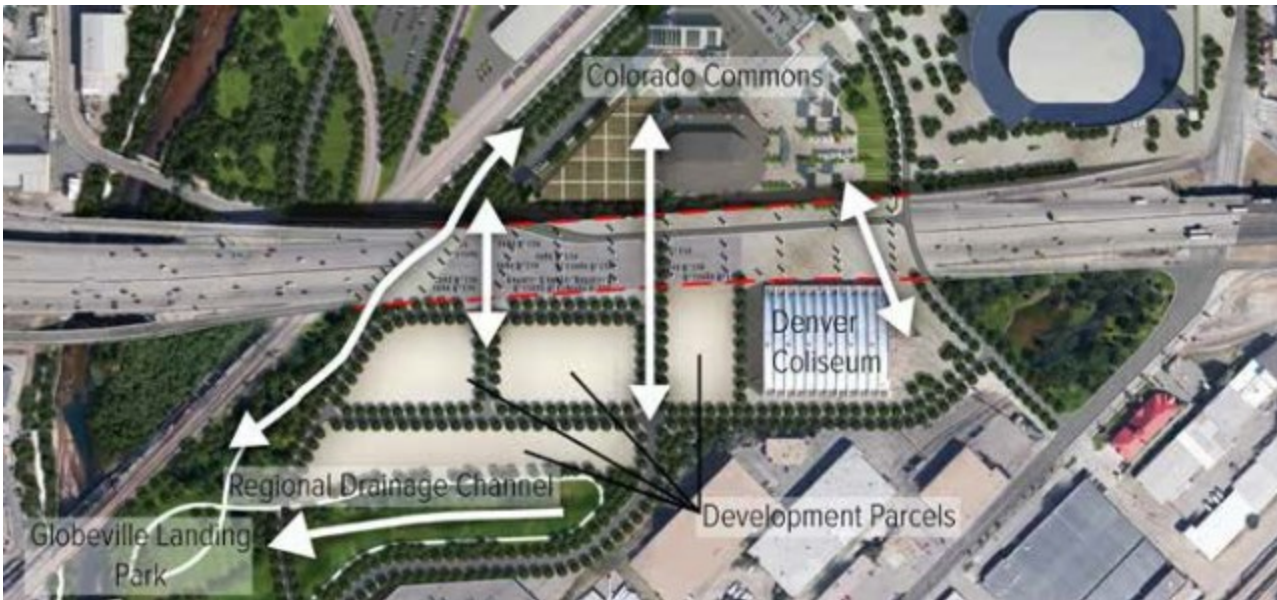
### National Western Center Master Plan

The North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative (NDCC) was founded in 2013 as a major planning and redevelopment initiative by Denver Mayor Hancock and includes three future RTD rail stations. The National Western Center (NWC), which includes the National Western Complex and the Denver Coliseum, lies in the middle of this plan that includes the Elyria, Globeville and Swansea neighborhoods, River North (RiNo), Brighton Boulevard, and I-70 east. The plan also includes the North Metro Line's Stock Show station, East Rail Line's 38th and Blake station and the Gold Line's 41st and Fox station. The master plan partners for the NWC also include Colorado State University, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and History Colorado.

Beginning in 2006 with the North Metro environmental and planning process, RTD and the City and County of Denver (CCD) worked together to determine the best station location near the Stock Show. From there, CCD completed a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Strategic Plan for the area around the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) Station.

RTD is responsible for designing and track alignment, station platforms, parking lots, and direct station access. Local jurisdictions and city staff along with community members work to determine the best use of the areas around new rail stations. While RTD is involved in the process, they do not offer input outside of the station area.

Through this planning effort CCD determined goals and potential concepts that include the half-mile area that surrounds the future sight of the NWSS Station. These concepts include future neighborhood and station access through different modes of transportation such as bike and pedestrian, neighborhood connectivity and TOD opportunities.



In late 2014 the NDCC released the NWC draft master plan for review and public comment. For more information on the NDCC or the NWC master plan please visit [City and County of Denver's website](#), where you can find the [comprehensive plan](#).

## Activities along the line

### North Metro Update

- Design on the 124th-Eastlake station, portions of the Skyway bridge, design on the 120th Avenue bridge, drainage and civil work disciplines are nearing the 90 percent mark. Geotechnical drilling to determine existing site conditions continues along the rail corridor on an as needed basis
- Crews continue potholing for existing utilities along the boundaries of the project
- Utility relocations to accommodate construction of the North Metro Line will begin in earnest in the next 30 days. These relocations will be completed by the individual utility companies. Centurylink has already begun moving existing utilities to their new locations. Comcast and Xcel Energy will begin in early February
- Early drainage work near 86th and Welby Road could begin in early February. This work will include drainage upgrades as well as removal of existing track.

### Suncor Update

- Pipeline construction along the North Metro Rail Line property is 95 percent complete.



Please visit the North Metro Rail Line website for more information - [Activities along the line](#).

## Question of the month

**Question: How many bridges are going to be on the North Metro Rail Line?**



**Answer:** There are a total of nine new rail bridges planned along the North Metro Line. They are listed from south to north below.

1. South Platte 1 -parallel to Denargo Street and over the Union Pacific railroad tracks and the South Platte River.
2. South Platte 2- over the South Platte River and Washington Street
3. 46th Avenue - over 46th Avenue near Brighton Boulevard
4. Marion Street- over Marion Street near the National Western Complex
5. Race Street – over Race Street north of the National Western Complex
6. Skyway bridge – see story above
7. 88th Avenue - over 88th Avenue near Welby Road
8. 104th Avenue – “twin” bridges over 104th Avenue near Colorado Boulevard
9. 120th Avenue - over 120th Avenue near Claude Court

There will also be one new street bridge at 70th Avenue where the roadway will cross over the Burlington Canal, and North Metro crews will also re-furbish the current South Platte 3 bridge and transform it into a commuter rail bridge.

To look at more of our frequently asked questions about the line, visit our [website](#).

## Alphabet Soup

What does NWC stand for?

- a) Northwestern Corridor
- b) National Winking Contest
- c) National Western Center
- d) Naturalist Wood Carving

*The correct answer is C.* More information on the development of the [National Western Center](#) project.

## Stay up to date and get involved

Stay up to date on all of the North Metro Rail Line news by [subscribing](#) to our monthly e-newsletter and periodic emails and encourage your friends, neighbors and professional colleagues to do the same. The e-newsletters provide project information, upcoming community meetings and events and general FasTracks information. As the project moves into final design and construction, we'll keep you informed about construction progress and where work zones might affect you and your community. We encourage you to attend upcoming meetings and events. Check our [calendar](#) for more information. Get social with us. Like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#). The North Metro Rail Line public information team is committed to staying in touch with you—so [contact us](#) with your questions, comments and concerns.

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