



Feb. 21, 2014

## Welcome

The North Metro Rail Line is a month closer to breaking ground on the project. On March 20, RTD is holding a groundbreaking at the 124th Station in Thornton. The team held its first meeting with elected officials on Feb. 13 and within the next few months the team will move into its project offices near 120th Avenue and Huron Street.

Stay abreast of the latest information by visiting the [North Metro Rail Line](#) website and subscribing to the [e-newsletter](#). We recently added a section to the [sign up page](#) where you can identify the topics that interest you most. This will allow us to send construction notices to people directly affected by construction rather than sending them to our general mailing list. So, even if you have signed up before, please resubmit your request with your interests checked. While on the [website](#), use the tools we've established to keep you updated on progress and impacts as we move full speed ahead.

## News from the line

### Neighbors along the line: Riverside Cemetery



Preserving Riverside Cemetery, one of Denver's oldest cemeteries, has not always been easy. The cemetery was founded in 1876—the same year Colorado became a state. At the turn of the 19th century the Riverside Cemetery Association transferred its assets to the Fairmount Cemetery Association. The 77-acre cemetery is located between Denver and Adams County property lines at 5201 Brighton Blvd., close to the North Metro Rail Line alignment.

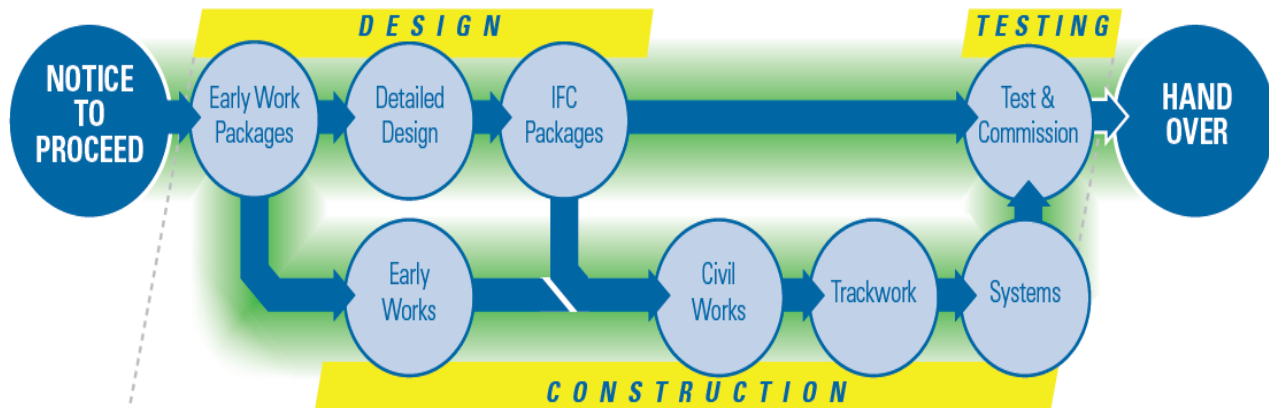
Once an irrigated site, the loss of water rights forced the Fairmount Cemetery Association to quit watering nearly 30 years ago. However, about 10 years ago the Fairmount Heritage Foundation established a plan to rejuvenate the cemetery's landscape. According to *The Denver Post*, "In the past five years, the high-energy (Patricia) Carmody (executive director of the Fairmount

Heritage Foundation) has spearheaded a rejuvenation program fueled by volunteers that includes planting a sustainable landscape of prairie grasses and native trees. In 2010, a survey by the Colorado State University Master Gardener program sought to identify and map every plant within the burial areas."

In the early 1990s, Adams County listed the site on the National Register of Historic Districts. So, what makes this place so interesting? Not only has the cemetery been around for almost 140 years, it's where many famous Colorado pioneers were laid to rest. To name a few: Augusta Tabor, Barney and Julia Ford, Silas Soule, three territorial governors – John Evans, Samuel Elbert, and John Routt – and numerous other prominent people.

## First phase of North Metro Rail project begins

In December, RTD signed the contract and gave Notice to Proceed, giving Regional Rail Partners (RRP) permission to start the first phase of the North Metro Rail Line project. As part of the design-build process, the first phase of building the line starts with early work, which includes the development of traffic management plans, the design of stormwater management plans the design of major wall and bridge construction, and the preparation of the right-of-way for project build-out. This early work phase allows for the development of a detailed project design. RRP anticipates it will have completed 60 percent of the line's design this summer and 90 percent by the end of the year. By early 2015, RRP expects final approval of the design and will issue its designs for construction. To stay up to date on the progress of North Metro, visit our [website](#).



## Question of the month

**Question:** Can the alignment of the North Metro Rail Line be relocated?



**Answer:** Through studies and analysis over several years, RTD determined the location of where the line is to be built. Between 2006 and 2011, there was an in-depth analysis, with extensive public input, and the final determination was made in April 2011 to run electric commuter rail along the rail corridor that travels through Commerce City, Northglenn and Thornton. If you would like to view the description of the [Preferred Alternative](#) (basically the place the train runs and how it was determined) please visit our website. If you would like more in-depth detail, you can review the [Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\)](#) - the study that analyzed the corridor. Following the approval of the EIS, RTD

FasTracks purchased the railroad right-of-way where the train will run. This early purchase enabled RTD to save money prior to moving forward with design and construction. Because of all these years of planning and

preparation, there cannot be major changes to the alignment or station locations, without incurring huge cost increases and schedule changes.

## **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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