



North Metro Rail Line is one step closer to reality

Spike-pulling kicks off construction on commuter rail line for northern communities

THORNTON, Colo., March 20, 2014 – The Regional Transportation District (RTD) today broke ground on the North Metro Rail Line, a new commuter rail service that will improve transit options for Denver's northern communities when it opens in 2018.

Dignitaries participated in a ceremonial spike-pulling event to commemorate the beginning of construction. RTD contractor Regional Rail Partners (RRP) will design and build the first 12.5-mile phase of the electrified commuter rail line to 124th Avenue.

The final 6 miles to 162nd Avenue/Colorado Highway 7 will be built as funds become available. Once completed, the line will run from Denver Union Station through north Denver, Commerce City, Thornton and Northglenn to northern Adams County.

During today's groundbreaking, RTD General Manager and CEO Phil Washington noted that 2014 marks the 20-year anniversary of rail transit opening in Denver and the 10-year anniversary of voters' approval of the FasTracks expansion program to build 122 miles of new passenger rail and bus rapid transit across RTD's eight-county district.

"It's remarkable to see how far we've come," Washington said. "More than a year ago, this line was not set to be completed for many years. Now, because of innovative financing, working with our stakeholders and reaching out to the private sector, we are here today breaking ground on the first phase of the North Metro Rail Line."

Today's ceremony took place at 12650 Claude Court in Thornton, the future site of the 124th Avenue • Eastlake Station.

Among the notable speakers to celebrate the milestone was Gov. John Hickenlooper, who said, "This is not only a great day for the Denver metro area, but for the state of Colorado as well. This is a true collaborative effort of all our state and local jurisdictions."

For his part, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock noted that North Metro Rail's National Western Stock Show Station is among three FasTracks rail stations forming part of the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative, a coordinated effort to ensure integrated planning and establish deliberate connections in the area.



“In north Denver, we’re jumpstarting positive revitalization thanks to the opportunity provided by the North Metro Rail Line, and we can’t wait to see it through to completion,” Hancock said. “Not only will this project generate jobs and economic impact for an area that needs it, it will energize a cornerstone of Denver’s Corridor of Opportunity and create a vibrant gateway to downtown.”

Rep. Ed Perlmutter, D-Colo., said Washington, D.C., views Denver as “a region that collaborates and comes together to get things done.”

“FasTracks is proof of that and so is the North Metro Rail Line,” Perlmutter said.

RTD Board Director Larry Hoy emceed the event and said, “I’m proud to be here today to mark this great milestone for not only the northern communities, but the entire region.”

Also speaking at the groundbreaking were RTD Board Director Paul Solano; Commerce City Mayor Sean Ford; Northglenn Mayor Joyce Downing; Thornton Mayor Heidi Williams; Adams County Commissioner Chaz Tedesco; North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) Chairman Erik Hansen; and RRP Joint Venture Board members Joe Reed and Greg Ritke.

The RRP team comprises Graham Contracting, Balfour Beatty Rail, Stantec Consulting, Parsons Brinkerhoff, Zann and Associates, Communications Connections Consulting, Pinyon Environmental and Iron Horse Architects.

Other RTD FasTracks rail lines under construction are the East Rail Line to Denver International Airport; the Gold Line to Arvada and Wheat Ridge; the I-225 Rail Line in Aurora; and the first segment of the Northwest Rail Line to Westminster. Also under construction are the express lanes along U.S. 36 between Denver and Boulder that will be part of RTD’s U.S. 36 Bus Rapid Transit. All are scheduled to debut in 2016.

About RTD FasTracks

FasTracks is RTD’s 2004 voter-approved transit expansion program to build 122 miles of commuter and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and redirect bus service to improve connections across the eight-county district. For more information, visit the RTD FasTracks [website](#).

Pauletta Tonilas | 303.299.2469 office | 303.250.4846 mobile | pauletta.tonilas@rtd-denver.com

Regional Transportation District | rtd-denver.com | 303.299.6000

