



Jan. 6, 2014

Welcome to Inside RTD FasTracks—a monthly e-update to keep you informed about the progress of the Regional Transportation District's FasTracks program.

FasTracks News

RTD gets North Metro Rail Line off and running

It's official. The Regional Transportation District's (RTD) North Metro Rail Line project is off and running. RTD signed a contract and issued a Notice to Proceed Dec. 13, giving Regional Rail Partners (RRP) the go-ahead to start the first phase of construction on a commuter rail line that will serve Denver's northern suburbs when it opens in 2018. The RTD Board of Directors gave final approval to RRP's \$343 million proposal to design and build the 13-mile first phase of the project with the option to complete the line to 162nd Avenue as funds become available. When completed, North Metro will travel 18.5 miles between Denver Union Station to Colorado Highway 7 in Adams County, passing through Commerce City, Thornton and Northglenn. North Metro is one of four electrified commuter rail lines RTD is building across the Denver region under its FasTracks program. [Read more...](#)



Photo: RTD General Manager and CEO Phil Washington, third from right above, oversaw a Dec. 13 signing ceremony to seal the contract with RRP to design and build the North Metro Rail Line.

RTD's 2013 milestones provide regional benefits

RTD marked multiple milestones in 2013, including the first light rail line to open under its FasTracks transit expansion program. The West Rail Line, or the W Line, opened April 26 eight months ahead of schedule and on budget. Other points of pride for RTD and FasTracks last year included the naming of RTD General Manager and CEO Phil Washington as North America's top transportation manager. The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) award honors those who make outstanding contributions to the industry. [Read more...](#)

Photo: The grand opening of the West Rail Line capped a year of success for FasTracks. At left, a W Line light rail train broke through an inaugural banner on April 26, 2013.

Plenty of progress on tap for 2014



2014 will usher in major changes to Denver's rapid transit system. Passengers can look forward to the debut of the city's new bus

concourse at Denver Union Station, which is undergoing a renovation to turn the historic train station into the hub of RTD's transit system. The new underground bus concourse will open May 11 and RTD will close Market Street Station for good after 30 years of service. Also on tap this year is the introduction of a new bus shuttle service between Union Station and Civic Center—the Free MetroRide—which will operate along 18th and 19th streets in downtown Denver. In March, FasTracks will break ground on the North Metro Rail Line (see story above), a commuter rail line that will serve Denver, Commerce City, Northglenn, Thornton and Adams County. Watch for more news on these and ongoing projects over the coming months. [Read more...](#)

Photo: Above is an artist's rendering of the North Metro Rail Line crossing 120th Avenue in Thornton.

Northwest Area Mobility Study to hold public meetings

RTD will continue to work with stakeholders this

year on the Northwest Area Mobility Study to define transit improvements for the Denver metro region's northwest area. RTD will hold public meetings this month to seek input and provide an update on the study's progress. Meetings will take place Wednesday, Jan. 15, in Westminster; Thursday, Jan. 16, in Boulder; and Monday, Jan. 27, in Longmont. The public is encouraged to attend the closest meeting for more information. Conducted by a consultant team led by HNTB, the mobility study began in spring 2013 with a goal of helping RTD and its stakeholders agree on a specific set of transit alternatives for northwest communities. Another priority is to implement these transit solutions sooner than current projections for when RTD can complete the Northwest Rail Line to Longmont. Check the study [website](#) for more information about the meetings, parking and bus service.



Photo: FasTracks staff members and stakeholders are pictured discussing transit solutions for the Denver metro region's northwest area.

RTD values regional partnerships advancing FasTracks projects



Southwest Extension stakeholders last year, in one of many meetings illustrating regional collaboration.

Partnerships focused on ways to make progress on FasTracks projects that still need to be completed will continue to be a priority for RTD in the year ahead. RTD is working with stakeholders of the Southeast Rail Extension, Southwest Rail Extension, Central Rail Extension and northwest area on how to move forward with those projects in the best ways possible. Recently, RTD General Manager and CEO Phil Washington, RTD board members and staff met with community representatives along the Southeast, Southwest and Central light rail corridors to collaborate on ways to identify funding to complete the extension projects. [Read more...](#)

Photo: RTD FasTracks staff, above, met with

FasTracks Feature

Stories along the Line: Commuter rail comes to Denver

The Denver metro area is getting three new rail lines in 2016 and RTD is building a state-of-the-art maintenance facility to store and maintain the commuter rail trains that will run on those lines. The new commuter rail maintenance facility in north Denver will open later this year or early next year. The new facility will serve trains that will—starting in 2016—travel between the newly renovated Union Station and Denver International Airport (East Rail Line), Arvada and Wheat Ridge (Gold Line) and Westminster (first segment of the Northwest Rail Line) as well as those that run on the North Metro Rail Line, which is scheduled to open in 2018. Commuter railcars are larger and heavier than light rail cars and are designed to travel longer distances at higher speeds. Read more about the new facility in one of a series of stories we call [Stories along the Line](#), which detail the history, places and people along our rail lines.



Photo: Above is an example of railcars that will operate on RTD's future commuter rail lines opening in 2016 and beyond.

Project Updates

Read the latest news and updates about the [RTD FasTracks](#) rail and bus rapid transit projects:

[Central Rail Extension](#)
[Denver Union Station](#)
[Free MetroRide](#)
[Eagle P3 Project](#)
[East Rail Line](#)
[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 ...](#)

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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