



**GREATER
DENVER
TRANSIT**

www.greaterdenvertransit.com



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for our email list.**

Agenda

- 6:00pm Doors Open
- 6:30pm Meeting Start
- 6:32pm The News
- 6:40pm Events & Projects
- 6:45pm Bernard Celestin
- 6:55pm Matthew Larsen
- 7:05pm Julian Temianka
- 7:15pm Light Rail Crisis
- 8:00pm (P)Ride-a-long

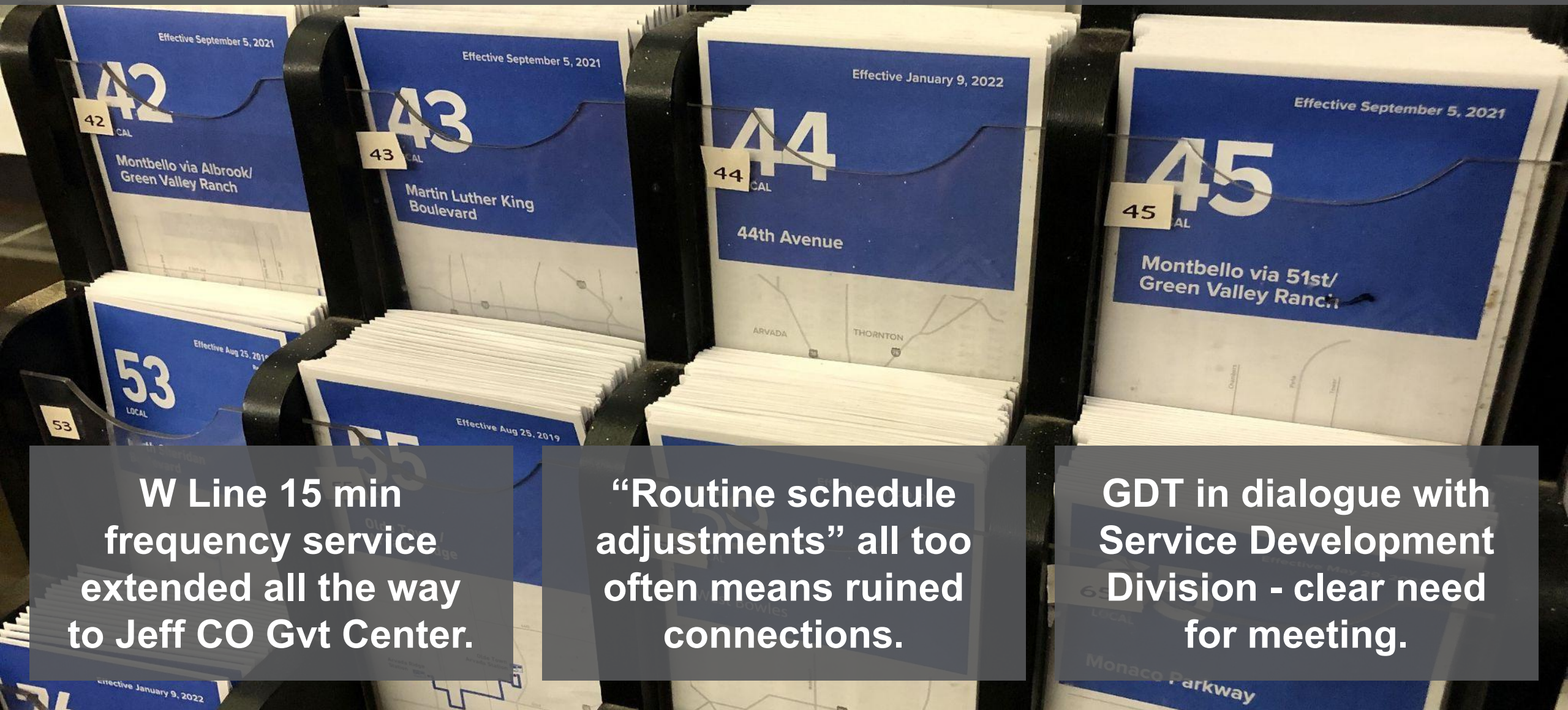
Monthly Meeting

June 20th, 2024



The News

RTD September 2024 Service Changes



W Line 15 min frequency service extended all the way to Jeff CO Gvt Center.

“Routine schedule adjustments” all too often means ruined connections.

GDT in dialogue with Service Development Division - clear need for meeting.

“Last Night on the L” Event

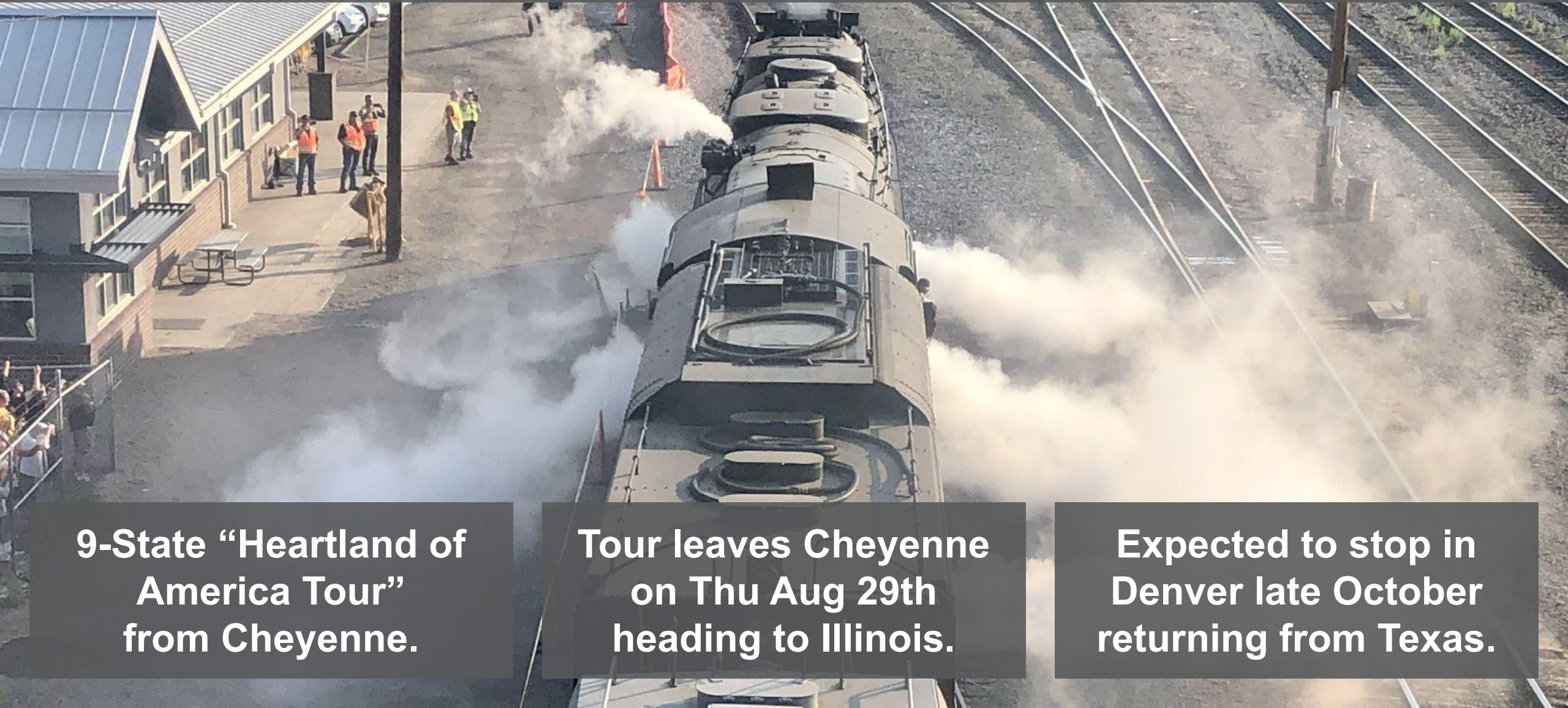


Visited Paradise, 715 Lounge, Spangalang & the British Bulldog

Rode last scheduled L Line service for the summer Downtown.

Operator gave us a bonus ride back Downtown!

4014 “Big Boy” Returning to Denver



9-State “Heartland of America Tour” from Cheyenne.

Tour leaves Cheyenne on Thu Aug 29th heading to Illinois.

Expected to stop in Denver late October returning from Texas.



Events

HELLO
My name is
Matt



Ride-Alongs!

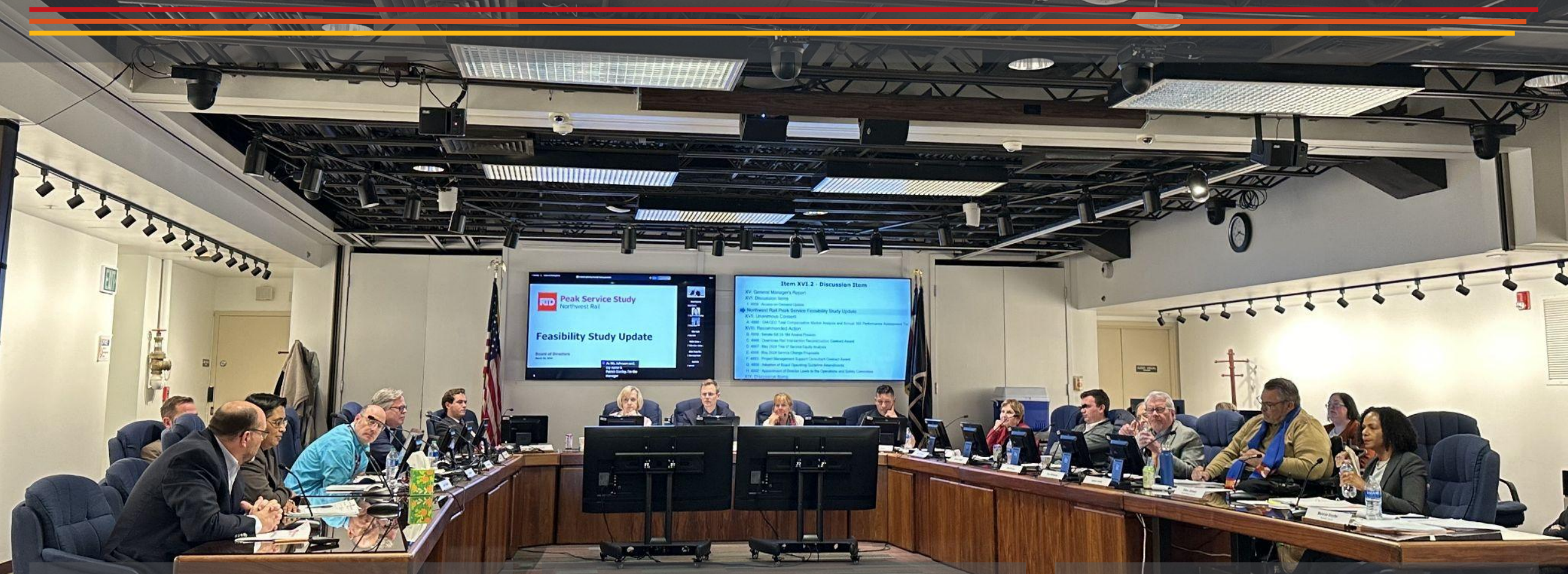


Tonight, we (P)ride
along the 0!

Celebrate Pride at
Denver Sweet! (21+)

Let us know your
ideas for future
ride-alongs!

RTD Board of Directors Meeting



Peak Service Study
Northwest Rail

Feasibility Study Update

Board of Directors
June 15, 2023

Item XVI.2 - Discussion Item

- XVI. General Manager's Report
- XVI.1. Discussion Item
- XVI.2. Action Item
- Northwest Rail Peak Service Feasibility Study Update
- XVI.2.1. Discussion Item
- XVI.2.2. Discussion Item
- XVI.2.3. Discussion Item
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- XVI.2.100. Discussion Item

Next board meeting:
Tues June 25th
1660 Blake at 5:15PM!

**Should the board do
more regarding the
light rail disruptions?**

**Please encourage
light rail riders to
comment!**

Salt Lake City Trip



Thu Jun 27th

Ride the California Zephyr from Denver to Salt Lake City

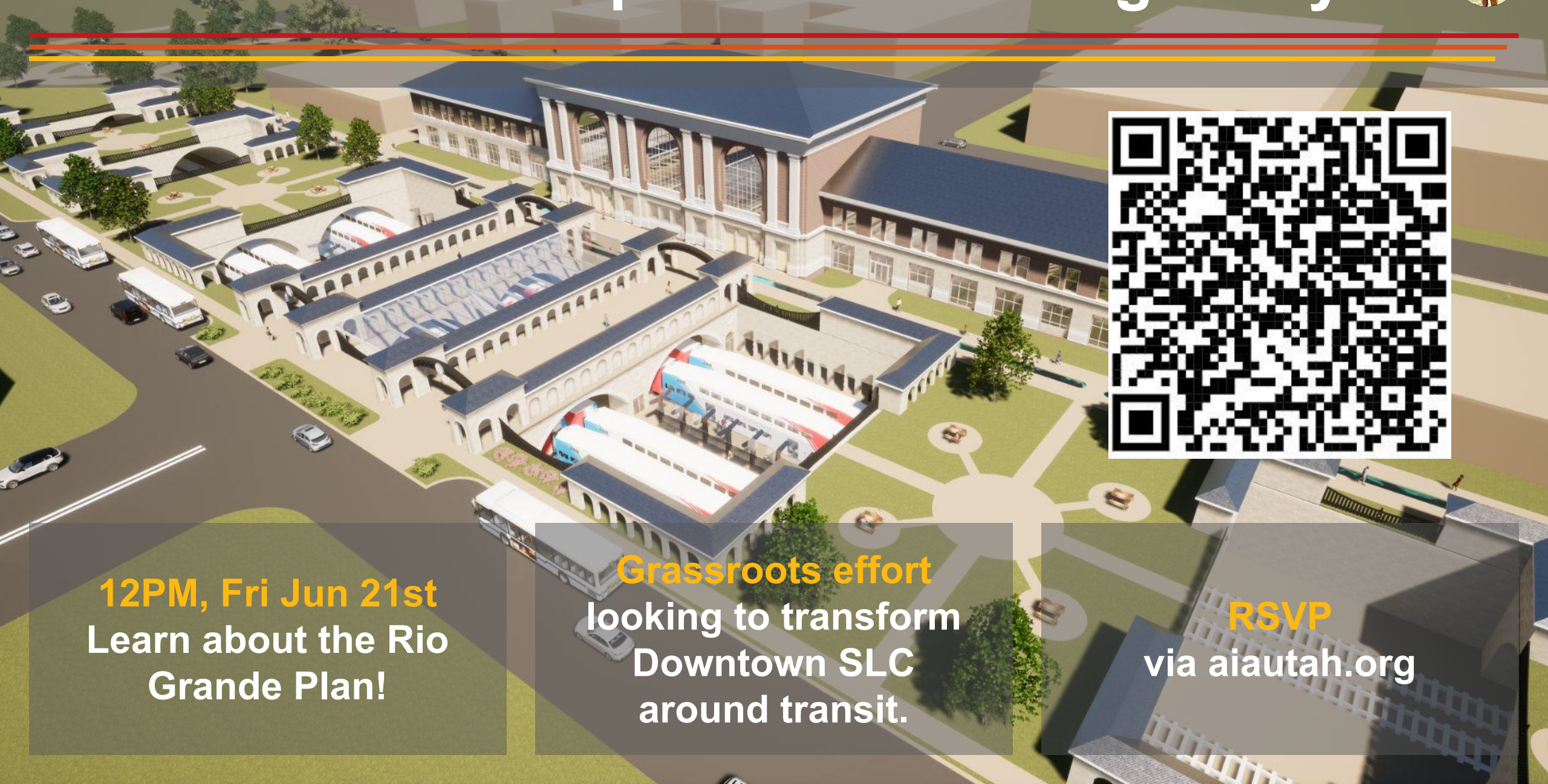
Fri Jun 28th

Stadler Factory tour and Rio Grande / Utah advocates meeting

Sat Jun 29th

UTA Frontrunner and TRAX tour. Explore SLC.

Rio Grande Concept Plan Screening Analysis



12PM, Fri Jun 21st
Learn about the Rio Grande Plan!

Grassroots effort
looking to transform
Downtown SLC
around transit.

RSVP
via aiautah.org

Monthly Meetings

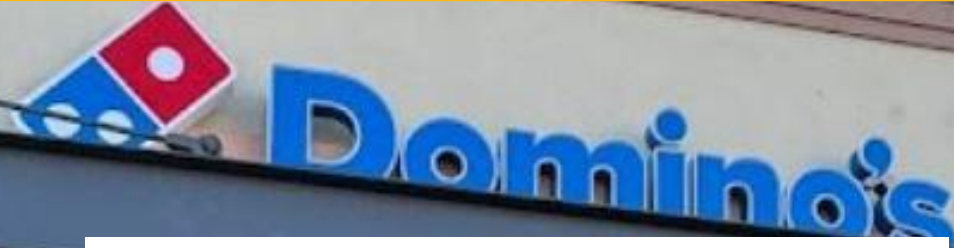


6pm on 3rd Thursday
of the month

**Transit-oriented
Drinks (ToD)**
follow after!

Next meeting:
Thurs Jul 18th

Pizza Fund



venmo

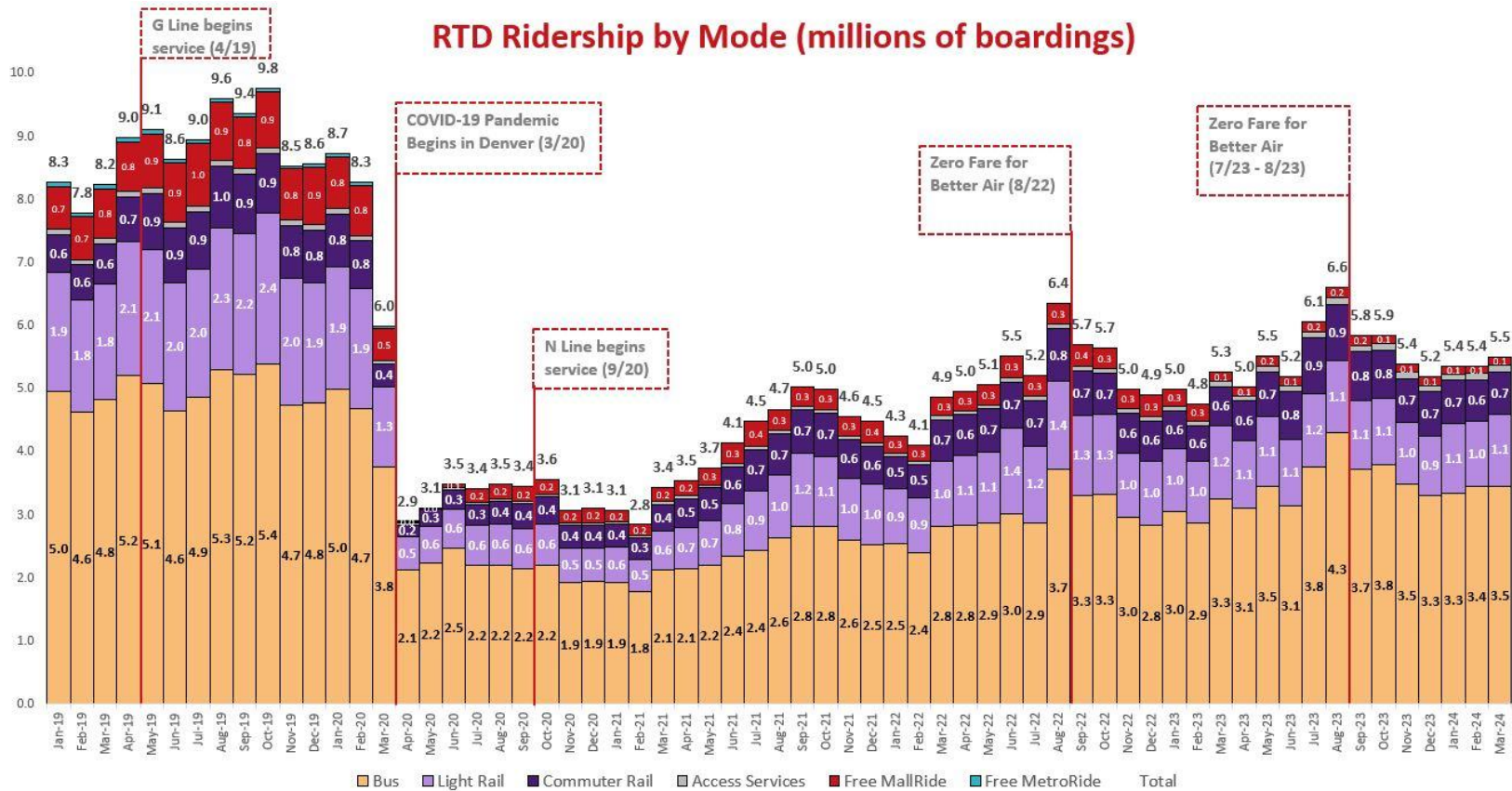
\$3 for each piece of pizza.



Projects



RTD Ridership Analysis - Mar 2024



YoY % Growth*:

Bus: +11% YoY

Light Rail: +3% YoY

Heavy Rail: +11% YoY

Total: +9% YoY

* Growth rates adjusted for equalized work week days on a year-over-year basis

Mar 2019
8.2m riders

Mar 2021
3.4m riders

Mar 2024
5.5m riders

RTD Operator Shortage - Mar 2024



YoY Net Increase in Hiring*:

Bus: **+76 People**

Light Rail: **-5 People**

Total: **+71 People**

*YoY Increase (decrease) includes Full Time + Part Time operators presented net of attrition (voluntary & involuntary)

Bus: **112 Vacancies**
840 vs. 952 Budget

Light Rail: **42 Vacancies**
160 vs. 202 Budget

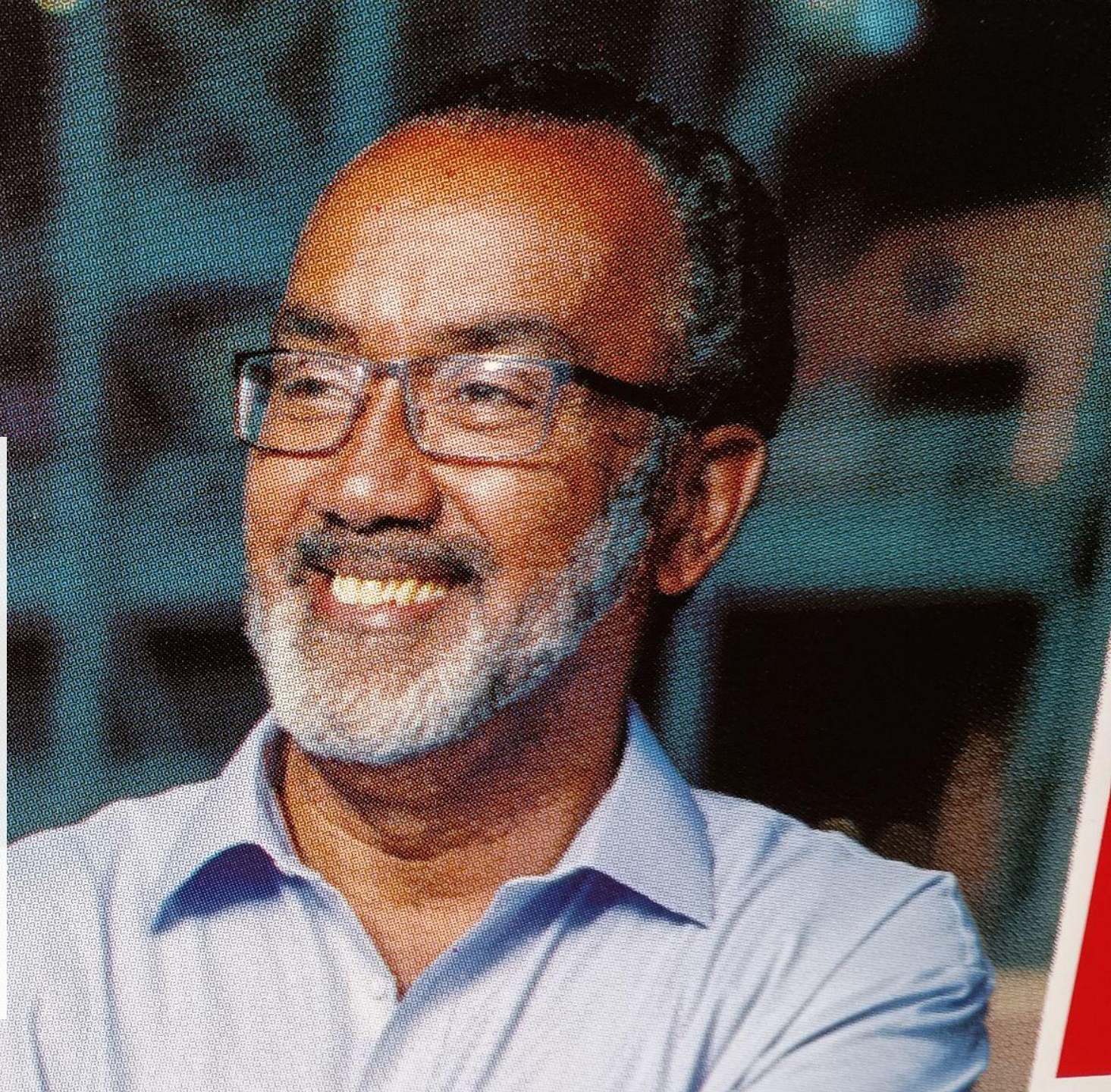
Bus+LRT: **154 Vacancies**
1,000 vs. 1,154



RTD

Bernard Celestin

**RTD District F
Board Candidate**





RTD

Matthew Larsen

**RTD District E
Board Candidate**





Julian Temianka
**Local community
organizer**

How to Make Effective Public Comment



RTD's Light Rail Crisis

Nov 22 - 19th & Stout Condemned Rail



19th & Stout – Risk Assessment is High, Catastrophic and Probable without mitigation. Rail is in an Unacceptable Condition, Corrective Action Required. Recommend a 3MPH Slow Zone in this area until rail is replaced.



**RTD team finds rail
“below industry
acceptable
conditions”**

**Colorado law required
RTD to report rail
situation to the PUC.**

**Condemned rail
replaced over 10 days
in December 2022.**

Mar 23 - Corrective Action Plans (CAPs)



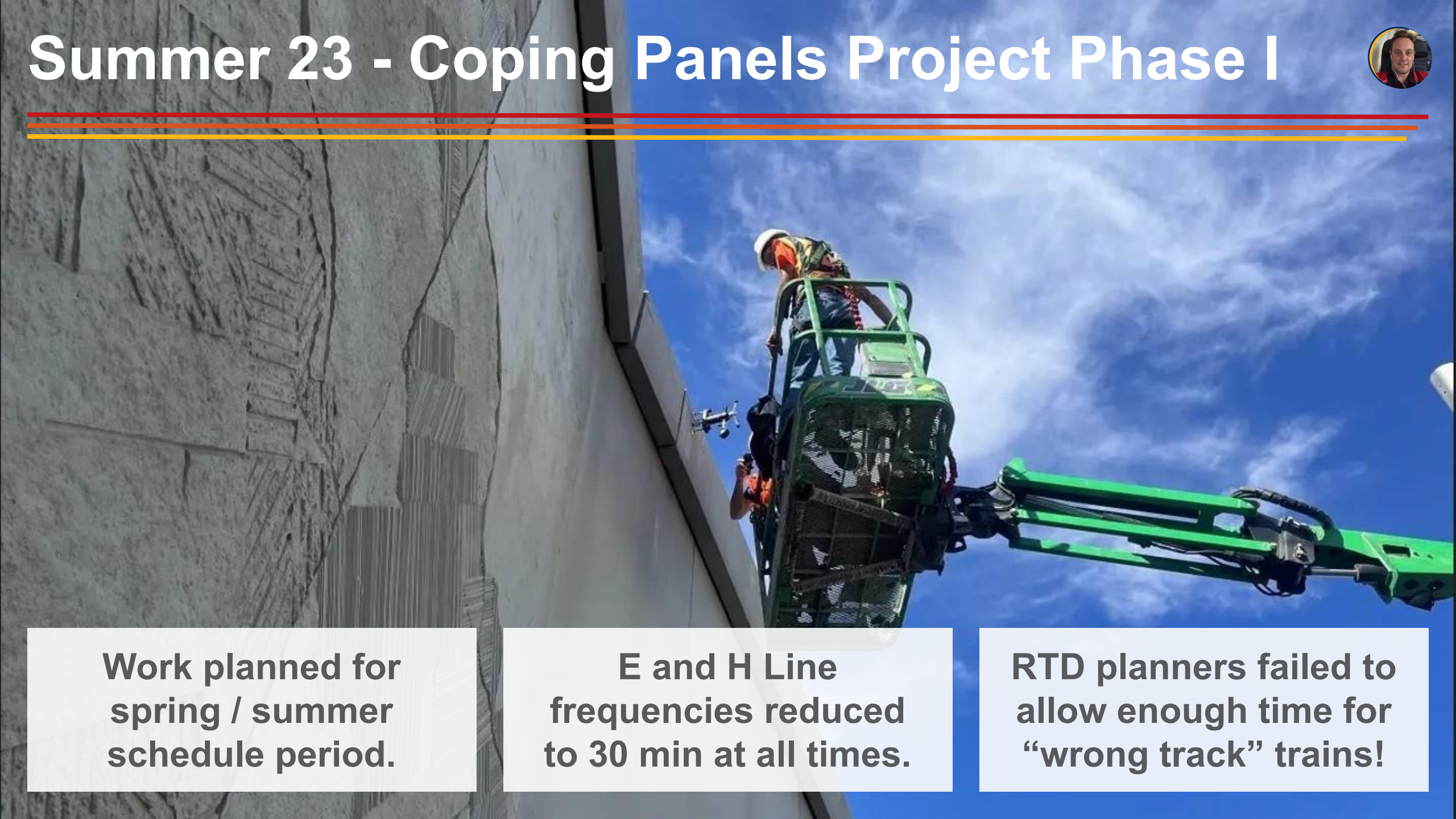
“Evaluate industry track standards, including FRA standards, to determine whether a more robust classification method exists to document wear.”

1st CAP covers emergency rail work (CAP01-11222022).

2nd CAP covers hazard assessment (CAP02-11222022).

All submitted CAPs approved by the PUC by Mar 30th, 2023.

Summer 23 - Coping Panels Project Phase I



Work planned for spring / summer schedule period.

E and H Line frequencies reduced to 30 min at all times.

RTD planners failed to allow enough time for “wrong track” trains!

Summer 23 - Piecemeal Projects



May 25th, 2023
17th & Stout
2 day closure

Jul 10th, 2023
30th & Welton
21 day L Line closure

Sep 26th, 2023
14th & California
9 day closure

Oct 23 - RTD Declares CAPs Complete



“The current RTD MOW Track Safety Standards 2021 is a direct adaptation of the APTA-RT-FS-S-002-02 Rail Transit Track Inspection and Maintenance Standard, Revision 1, published in 2017.”

**Jyotsna Vishwakarma
RTD Chief Engineer**

Track standards, asset bypass training, risk matrix submitted.

Details of rail replacement program beginning 2024.

“Five [Downtown] locations with heavy cross-traffic.”



Nov 23 - Budget



This is the first time the RTD Board of Directors found out about the condemned rail at 19th & Stout, the involvement of the PUC, the Corrective Action Plans or the plans to close the Downtown Light Rail Loop for major reconstruction.

1st edition of budget had just 21 pages.
2nd edition had 46.

\$150m line item in 2nd edition for “Light Rail Track Replacements”.

Approx. \$500m of budgeted projects not carried out.

Apr 24 - Service Changes Re-written



Light rail midweek service cuts walked back by staff.

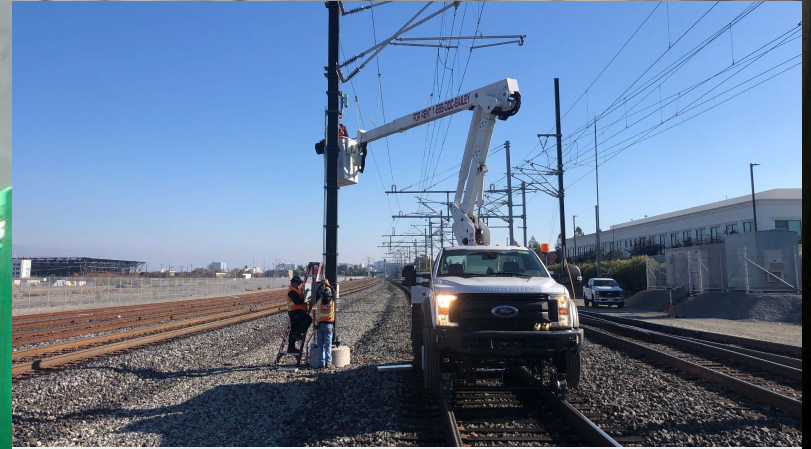
But... early morning light rail service cuts remain.

Incident demonstrated major issues with service planning.

Summer 23 - Coping Panels Project Phase II



Should we use this?



Or is this better?

We now know that RTD chose a cheaper, but technically inferior bid.

Work planned for summer schedule period.

E and H Line frequencies reduced to 60 min at all times.

Contractor hours upped to 7am - 7pm and 6 days a week.

Jun 24 - 10 mph “Slow Zones” on Light Rail



“Trains that run 10 mph are not considered transportation in my opinion,” said board member Jaime Lewis. “My wheelchair operates at 7 mph.”
Jaime Lewis, RTD Director

10mph “Slow Zones” imposed on SE Light Rail Corridor.

Journeys extended by up to 45 mins. Schedule unworkable.

Frustrations grow from operators and riders alike.

Jun 24 - “It’s Rail Burn”



RTD beefs up webpage relating to maintenance projects.

In May 2024, RTD staff began using an “enhanced inspection methodology”.

“RTD follows APTA’s standards to assess and verify that its tracks are operating safely and as designed.”

Jun 24 - Those APTA Standards Again...



TABLE 11c
Rail Defect Remedial Action

Other Rail Defects	Depth	Size	Priority	Minimum Remedial Action ¹
Flattened rail	Greater than or equal to 3/8 in.	Greater than or equal to 8 in.	2	H
Ordinary break	n/a	Any	1	A or E
Damaged rail	n/a	Any	2	D
Base-corroded rail	Medium (moderate)		2	A2; see section 10.1.7
	Severe (significant)		1	Replace rail; see section 10.1.7
Short wave rail corrugation	Over 1/8 inch deep		2	Grind rail
Wheel burn, "squat" or shell	Less than 1/8 inch	Less than 3 inches		A2
	Equal to or larger than 1/8 inch	Equal to or larger than 3 inches	1	Replace rail

1. Minimum remedial actions are coded as follows:

- A A qualified person shall supervise each operation over defective rail at a speed not to exceed 15 mph.
- A2** A qualified person shall make visual inspection. The qualified person may determine that operation may continue without continuous visual supervision at a maximum of 10 mph for up to 24 hours. If the rail is not replaced within that 24-hour period, then inspections by a qualified person shall continue, not more than 24 hours apart, until the rail is replaced or a determination is made requiring a more restrictive action.
- B Apply joint bars within 20 days after it is determined to keep the track in use and limit operating speed over defective rail to a maximum of 30 mph until joint bars are applied; thereafter, limit speed to 60 mph. When a search for internal rail defects is conducted and defects are discovered in tracks with operating speed over 60 mph, then the operating speed shall be limited to 60 mph for a period not to exceed four days. If the defective rail has not been removed from the track or a permanent repair made within four days of the discovery, then the maximum operating speed shall be limited to 30 mph until joint bars are applied; thereafter, limit speed to 60 mph.

Jun 14 - PUC Sends RTD a Letter (1)



“Customers and the general public must be confident that the RTD transit system is a safe system. Recent events have shaken that confidence along the SE Corridor.”

“The poor condition of the downtown rail lines and the deterioration of the SE line indicate that the PTASP has not been adequate to identify these conditions ahead of time so that repairs can be made in a measured way that minimizes impacts to the traveling public.”

Jun 14 - PUC Sends RTD a Letter (2)



“These gaps suggest that the PTASP has failed in its objective to “Provide a comprehensive risk management program to effectively identify and resolve issues.”

“...effective safety and asset management strategies would have prevented the need for these emergency actions and the significant disruption to the many Coloradans who depend on RTD light rail service.

Jun 24 - RTD Press Conference



‘The tracks are safe’
Dave Jensen
RTD Rail Ops AGM

Cannot give date
when repairs are
complete.

Apart from Bustang
fare acceptance, no
further plans.

Mar 23 - W Line Crash



“RTD determined that the train operator likely fell asleep before impact and that excessive speed and inattention of the train operator are the causal factors of the accident,”

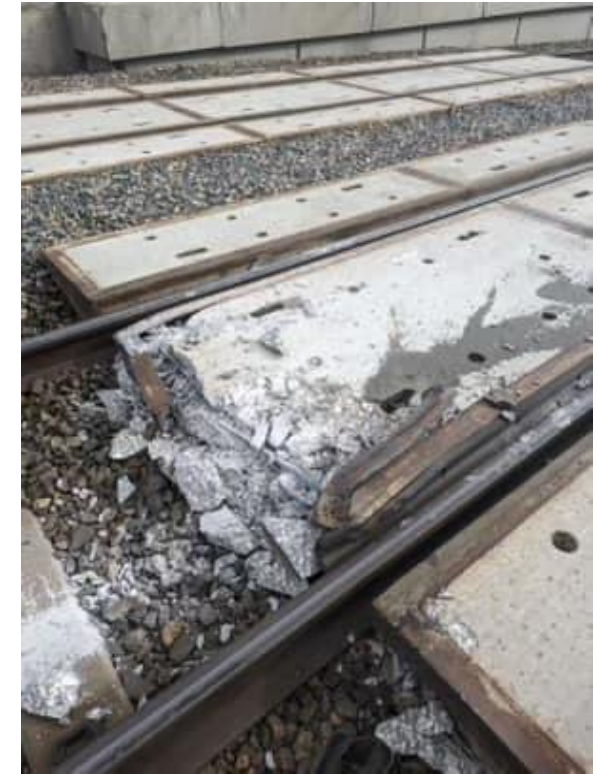
Light rail train crashes into bump stop at Jeff Co Gvt Center station.

Behind closed door investigation blames operator for sleeping.

Key questions such as why train speed up not answered.



Jan 24 - Light Rail Train Derails at Southmoor



Light rail train derails at Southmoor on January 24th.

Train shed wheel / tire components from Louisiana / Pearl.

Info trickling out way too slowly. Could events be linked?

GDT Letter and Press Release



“As a rail transit professional, I cannot emphasize enough how serious this letter is. The Colorado PUC have been absolutely scathing in their assessment of RTD’s asset management, safety plans and maintenance planning procedures. Riders on the E, H & R lines have born the brunt of these failures.”

Richard Bamber, Greater Denver Transit Co-founder

GDT writes letter to RTD on Jun 19th requesting action.

Press release issued to multiple news outlets.

Denver7, Fox 31 and CBS Colorado ran the story!



\$167k

\$280k

\$233k

\$246k

\$280k

\$12k

\$12k

\$395k

\$12k

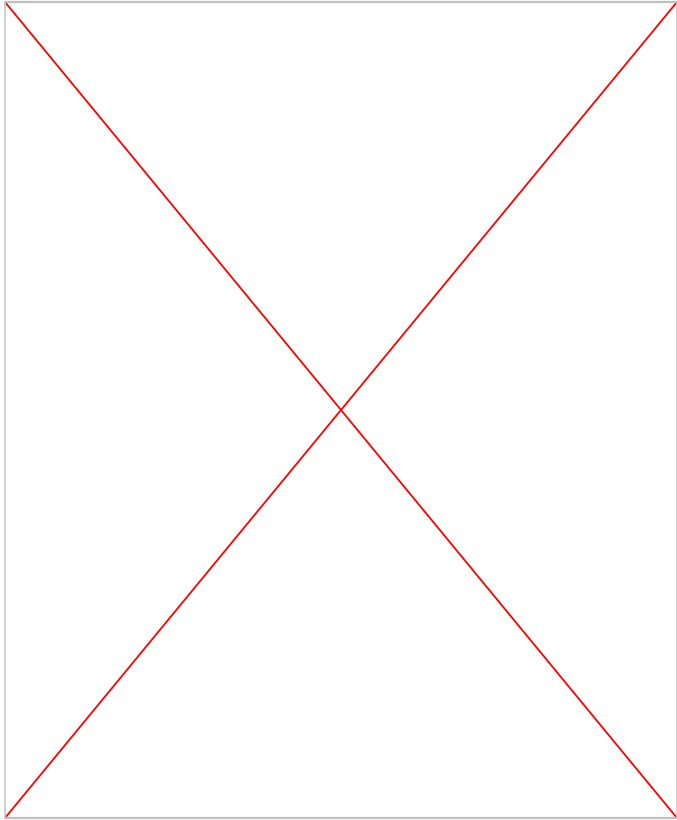
\$12k

So what next?

15th Street
↑ Colo. Convention Cntr.
↑ Light Rail
← Civic Center Park
← Stadium Park

ONE WAY





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for our email list.**



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Thank You!
Transit adventure starts now!