



RTD, DTP receive federal approval for next phase of G Line testing

Testing of multiple trains for longer periods is underway; an opening date is not yet known

DENVER (July 20, 2018) – The [Regional Transportation District \(RTD\)](#) has received approval from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to begin the next phase of testing on the G Line. Starting today, testing is ramping up and will soon simulate the full daily service schedule of nearly 21 consecutive hours each day. This authorization given to RTD and its contractor, Denver Transit Partners (DTP), represents another significant step forward in the process to open the commuter rail line for passenger service.

Limited testing along the forthcoming 11.2-mile line between Union Station and Wheat Ridge began last fall and has been underway between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays since the start of this year. That process has examined the communication signaling along the line, as well as the effectiveness of the communication technology in place at each of the G Line's 16 at-grade railroad crossings. The gate-crossing technology is the same as that used along two additional lines originating in downtown Denver: the University of Colorado A Line, to Denver International Airport, and the B Line, to Westminster.

“We are pleased to have arrived at this phase in the testing schedule, and we continue to appreciate the patience of the public, businesses and leaders in the communities along the G Line as we work through all of the necessary details,” said RTD CEO and General Manager Dave Genova. An opening date for the G Line has not yet been announced.

Safety remains a guiding agency priority at all times. During G Line testing, the public is asked to abide by all safety signage at railroad crossings, respect potential closures of railroad or at-grade crossings along the alignment, and not attempt to view testing by accessing construction areas at stations and various locations along the tracks.

As many as three trains will be running on the alignment every day, for an initial period intended to help train operators become familiar with the line. During this time frame, trains will operate every half hour starting as early as 3:30 a.m. and extending through 1 a.m. the following day. With more trains running for longer periods of time throughout the day, people should exercise caution as they move and drive through the area.

The official start to the next phase of G Line testing – simulating full passenger service – will follow this initial period. A date for the start of that phase has not been determined.

When the G Line officially opens – which also has yet to be determined – trains will run from 4 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., with 15-minute frequency between 6 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and every 30 minutes during off-peak hours.

During testing, train operators will continue to sound their horns when passing through intersections. Until quiet zones have been approved by the FRA, the use of train horns and



other safety measures are important to make drivers and pedestrians aware of train movements. RTD will announce the start of quiet zones for the G Line once such approvals from the FRA are in place.

Also during testing, crossing gates may stay down for extended periods of time. Attendants will continue to be stationed at all G Line grade crossings until RTD receives the necessary state and federal approvals to remove them. In case of an emergency, the public can call 720-460-5955, the grade-crossing hotline, or 303-299-3911 after hours.

The G Line is a segment of RTD's FasTracks program, a voter-approved transit expansion initiative to build new commuter rail and light rail, bus rapid transit service and new parking spaces; redevelop Denver Union Station; and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county district.

ABOUT RTD

The Regional Transportation District develops, operates and maintains a public transportation system that meets the transit needs of close to 3 million people within an eight-county service area in the Denver Metro region. The agency's buses, rail lines, shuttles and additional services provide approximately 100 million annual passenger trips. For more information, visit rtd-denver.com, call 303-299-6000 and follow along on social media: www.facebook.com/RideRTD, [@RideRTD](https://twitter.com/RideRTD) on Twitter, [@ridertd](https://www.instagram.com/ridertd) on Instagram and [rideRTDco](https://www.youtube.com/rideRTDco) on YouTube.

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