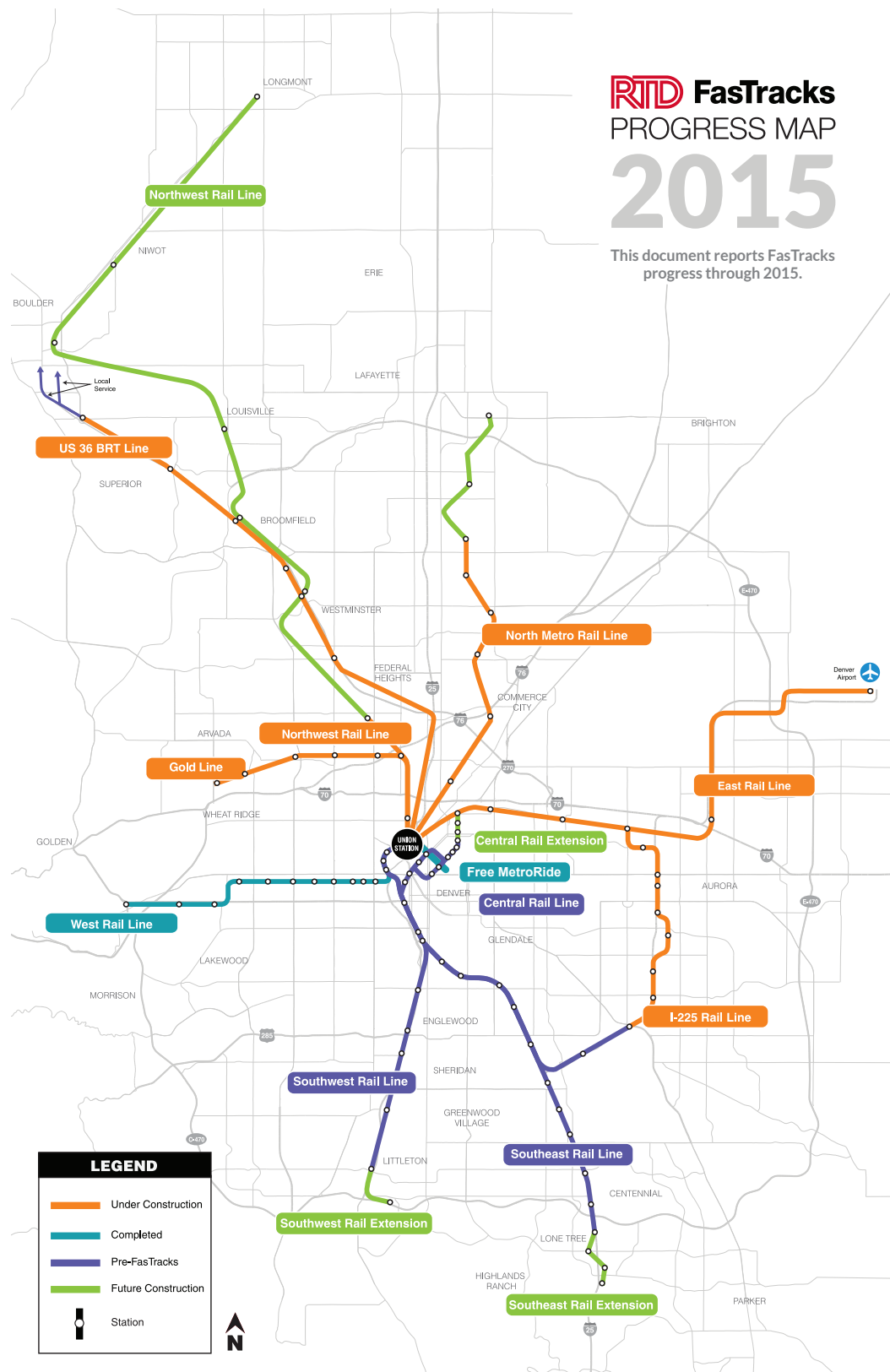


# 2015

## QUALITY OF LIFE REPORT





# INTRODUCTION



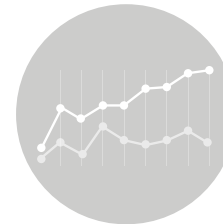
## RTD

The Regional Transportation District (RTD) was created in 1969 by the Colorado General Assembly to develop, operate, and maintain a mass transportation system for the benefit of 2.88 million people in RTD's service area which includes all or part of eight counties in the Metro Denver region. RTD is governed by a 15 member elected Board of Directors. In 2015, RTD provided over 103 million transit rides.



## FasTracks

FasTracks is RTD's 2004 voter-approved rapid transit expansion transforming transportation throughout the Metro Denver region. Upon completion, FasTracks will add 122 miles of new light rail and commuter rail, 18 miles of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and 57 new transit stations to the RTD system.



## Quality of Life

The Quality of Life (QoL) Study is RTD's data-driven evaluation of progress toward meeting the FasTracks Program goals.

- Goal 1** Balance Transit Needs with Regional Growth
- Goal 2** Increase Transit Mode Share
- Goal 3** Improve Transportation Choices and Options

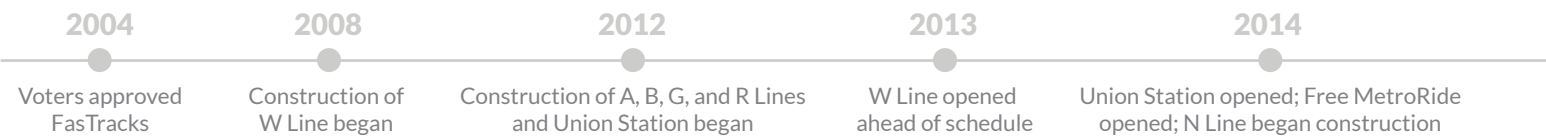


## QoL 2015 Report






This document reports FasTracks progress from 2010 to 2015. It highlights progress made toward completing projects, the impacts of those projects, and overall progress toward the goals.

Additional detail can be found on the project website  
[www.RTD-Denver.com/QualityofLife](http://www.RTD-Denver.com/QualityofLife)


# FASTRACKS PROGRESS

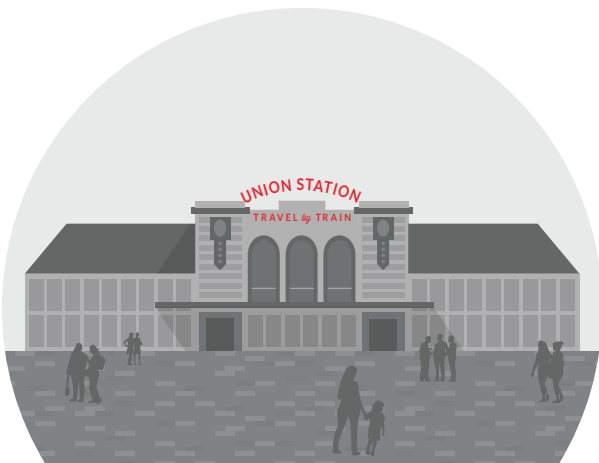


**In 2013, RTD opened the W Line in the West Corridor, adding 12.1 miles of rapid transit facilities to the existing 34.8-mile rapid transit system. Investment resulted in:**





-  7,600 new transit riders each weekday in the West Corridor (12,800 weekday transit trips on the W Line).
-  30,000 vehicle miles traveled (VMT) were removed from roadways each weekday (9 million VMT removed annually).
-  85 fewer gas tanks were filled every weekday (400,000 fewer gallons of fuel were consumed annually).
-  Based on regional crashes/VMT, 23 vehicular crashes could be prevented every year.
-  At this rate, a life could be saved every 12 years and a severe injury could be prevented every two years.

**In 2014, RTD opened the Free MetroRide, providing a frequent and reliable connection between Denver Union Station and Civic Center Station for downtown commuters.**

-  2014 average weekday boardings: 1,500  
2015 average weekday boardings: 2,330



**In 2014, RTD and their partners completed the construction and renovations at Denver Union Station, creating one of the most vibrant spaces in downtown Denver:**

-  Transportation is at the heart of Denver. Again. Union Station creates a space for locals, tourists, and business travelers to explore RTD's network.
-  Development has been booming near Union Station. Between 2010 and 2015, 2,770 multi-family units, 130 hotel rooms, 900,500 square feet of office, and 77,600 square feet of retail were constructed.
-  Property value per square foot in the neighborhood surrounding Union Station increased 56% from \$185 in 2010 to \$290 in 2015.
-  Between 2010-2015, 11 B-Cycle stations were added within a half-mile of Union Station.



# GOAL 1

BALANCE TRANSIT NEEDS WITH  
REGIONAL GROWTH

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The Metro Denver region grew between 2010 and 2015, increasing transportation demands.



**10% population growth**  
(280,000 more people)



**153 people**  
added to the  
region daily



**17% job growth**  
(219,000 more jobs)



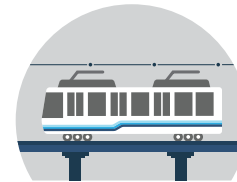
**230% increase**  
in housing starts  
(13,000 new houses)

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

RTD provided more transportation services in 2015 than in 2010.



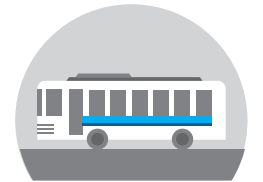
**24% increase**  
in areas served by frequent  
(15-minute) transit service  
throughout the day



**22% more**  
rapid transit  
infrastructure  
(12.1-mile W Line)



**6% increase**  
in Access-a-Ride  
service (33,300 more  
annual hours)



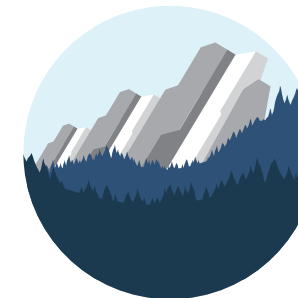
**3% increase**  
in transit service  
(122,200 more  
annual hours)

RTD Catalyzed Transit Oriented Communities.



### ALAMEDA STATION

RTD kicked off initial redevelopment around Alameda Station by partnering on a 275-unit apartment complex. Residents now live within steps of the station platform.



### BOULDER JUNCTION

RTD and the City of Boulder leveraged public-private partnerships to create a mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented neighborhood with unique public spaces and regional transit connections.



### OLDE TOWN ARVADA STATION

RTD and the City of Arvada planned for consolidated parking and transit in a hub to provide commuter and business parking, an RTD bus facility, and TOD property.

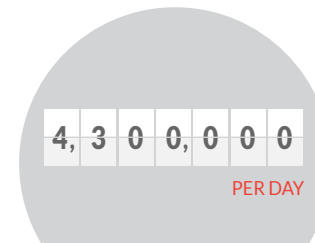


# GOAL 2

INCREASE TRANSIT  
MODE SHARE

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

More people drove in the Metro Denver region in 2015 than in 2010.



**12% increase**  
in daily vehicles miles  
traveled in the region



**84 more miles**  
driven each year  
per person



**2% increase**  
in personal vehicle  
ownership

Transit use is better for the environment, safer for people, and less expensive.



**13 days exceeded**  
air quality standard  
(18% increase,  
2 additional days)



**15% increase**  
in vehicle emissions  
(3,500 tons NOx,  
VOC, PM2.5)



**3x more likely**  
to die traveling  
in a car than on  
a bus



**27% more expensive**  
for regional commuters to  
drive vs. using transit to  
reach downtown

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

Transit ridership increased between 2010 and 2015; per capita boardings decreased.



**5% increase**  
in annual boardings  
(4.8 million more boardings)



**4% decrease**  
in annual boardings per capita  
(1.6 fewer boardings per person)

- Light rail ridership has **increased 30%**, bus ridership has been steady.
- Regional transit mode share was **consistent at 4%**.
- Ridership on the E/F/H Lines has **increased 18%**.

Customer satisfaction.

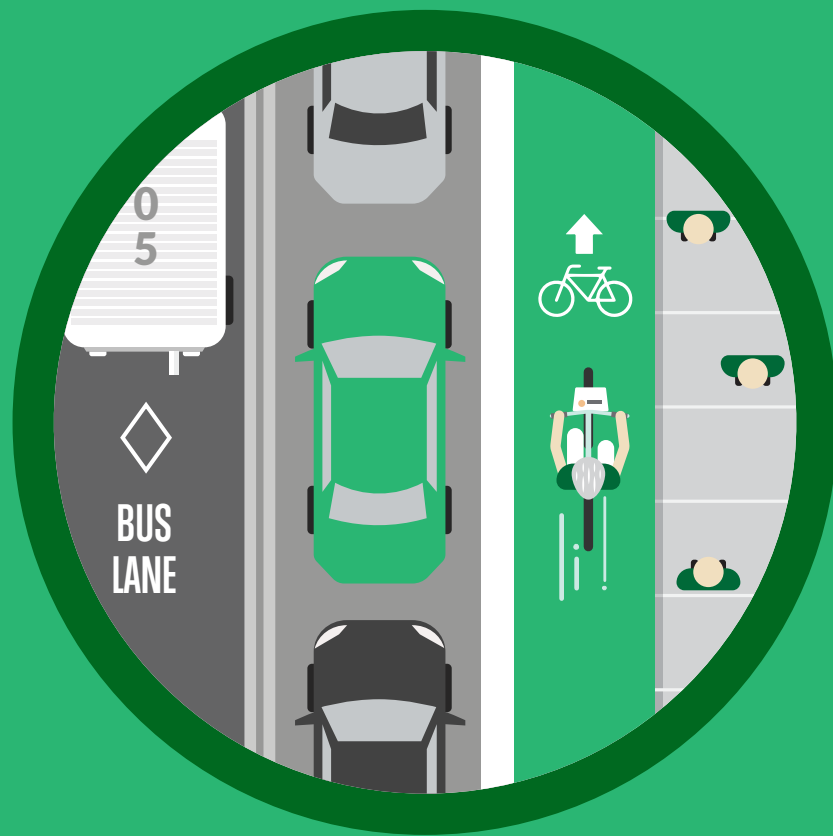


**4.2 out of 5**  
RTD passenger ratings from  
both 2011 and 2014

RTD continues to invest in security resources.



- 46% increase in security staff (55 people).
- Overall, RTD customers feel safe on transit vehicles and at stations. However, safety perception at light rail stations has decreased slightly since 2011.

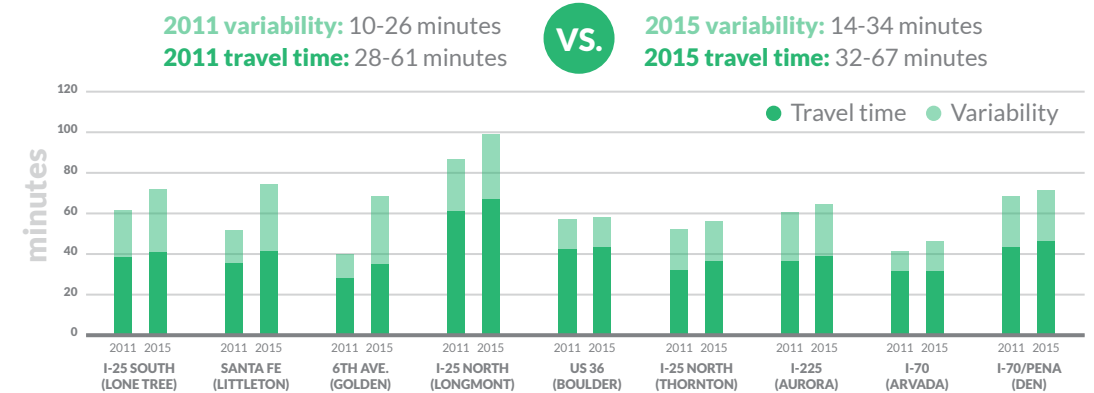


# GOAL 3

IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION  
OPTIONS AND CHOICES

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Auto commute travel times to downtown got longer and less predictable.



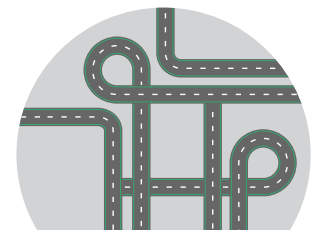
Congestion increased between 2010 and 2015.



8 minutes per day  
average additional  
time people sat in their  
cars due to congestion



14% increase  
in time spent in congestion  
each day (one more minute,  
7 minutes in 2010)



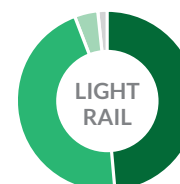
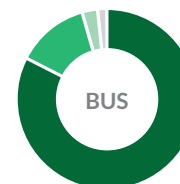
24% of roadways  
experienced congestion  
for longer than 3 hours  
each weekday

## HOW ARE WE DOING?



Investment in high-capacity transit  
increases person trip capacity.

- 14% of morning commute trips in the Southwest Corridor were made on transit.
- 11% of morning commute trips in the Southeast Corridor were made on transit.
- 6% of morning commute trips in the West Corridor were made on transit.



More people have access to frequent transit and most  
people reach that transit by walking.

- 42% more people lived near 15-minute service (119,400 more people).
- 25% growth in employment served by 15-minute service (102,300 more jobs).
- RTD added nearly 3,400 parking spaces.
- 35 B-Cycle stations were added within a half-mile of 18 rapid transit stations.

How riders accessed  
transit in 2014:

Walk Drive Bike Other



**RTD FastTracks**

Regional Transportation District  
1600 Blake Street | Denver, CO 80202

[WWW.RTD-DENVER.COM/QUALITYOFLIFE](http://WWW.RTD-DENVER.COM/QUALITYOFLIFE)