

THE TRAIN TO THE PLANE



ARRIVING 4.22.16

Fun Facts

COMMUTER RAIL MAINTENANCE FACILITY FACTS

- The Commuter Rail Maintenance Facility (CRMF) is LEED Gold Certified: it is one of only three transit related building in Colorado to be certified: the other two are Union Station and the Durango Transit Center.
- The CRMF facility has a separate building that acts like an automated car wash. The railcars will roll through a high-pressure cleaner. Afterwards, the water is recycled and reused.
- To keep the commuter railcar wheels perfectly shaped, RTD uses a large underfloor wheel lathe, which measures and grinds the railcars' steel wheels to re-shape and keep them perfectly round. By keeping the commuter railcar wheels flawlessly shaped, RTD meets standards established by the American Disabilities Act which require that railcar doors match up with platform heights and do not obstruct passengers entering or exiting the vehicles.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO A LINE FACTS

- Positive train control, or PTC, is an important technology that utilizes a system like GPS and communications technology with the purpose of ensuring a safe system. PTC technology is a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requirement for all passenger rail systems in the country. RTD is the first rail line in the United States to have PTC built into a commuter rail system "from the ground up," complying with the new federal requirements.
- A commuter rail train can go up to 79 MPH, which is faster than a cheetah, which can go up to 71 MPH.
- 224,394 square yards of Concrete Pavement were laid on the University of Colorado A Line, which is the equivalent of 42 football fields.
- Workers on the A Line worked over 7 million hours on the project, with an average of 800 employees per day.
- Ever wonder why the letter designations for the rail lines started with C? The "A" designation was saved for a future "Airport" line almost twenty years ago.

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AIRPORT FACTS

- Denver International Airport is the largest airport in the country in terms of land space—over 53 square miles.
- Denver has one of the farthest airports from its downtown area in the United States, coming in at about 25 miles from Denver International Airport to downtown Denver. It will take only 37 minutes on the train.

EAGLE P3 FACTS

- The Eagle P3 project is a part of the Federal Transit Administration Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program. Three projects were selected to participate in the program. The Eagle P3 project is the only one to be completed.
- The Eagle P3 project is also the First P3 for commuter rail in the U.S. to include design-build, financing, and long-term operations.

HISTORICAL FACTS

- One of the stops along the University of Colorado A Line will be at 40th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard, a mere few blocks from 38th Avenue and Dahlia Street, the site of the original Lowry Field, named after Denver native US Army Lt. Francis B. Lowry, who served as an aerial photographer and was killed during aerial combat over France in WWI.
- In 1927, thousands of men in suits and hats and women dressed in finery, joined policemen on foot and horseback to greet Charles Lindbergh when his "Spirit of St. Louis" touched down on the wide-open and barren Lowry Field. It was one of 82 stops in the 48 states after his record-breaking flight from New York to Paris in May of that same year.
- Another stop along the University of Colorado A Line will be at Central Park Station in the Stapleton community (near I-70 and Central Park Boulevard).
- On this site, Denver Municipal Airport opened in October 1929—a week before the infamous stock market crash. The airport was called the "Union Station of the Air" and heralded as the most modern facility in the country.
- In 1944, the field was renamed after Denver Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton, who led the fight for the new airport. Stapleton served two terms as mayor from 1923-1931 and from 1935-1947. The Denver Post dubbed it "Stapleton's Folly" because it was considered to be too far from civilization and impractical. The airport was just three miles east of downtown.

