
NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 5, 2011

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RTD Receives Final FasTracks Light Rail Car

FLEET COMPLETE TO ACCOMMODATE FUTURE LIGHT RAIL SERVICE

Denver, Oct. 5, 2011 – The Regional Transportation District (RTD) has received its final light rail vehicle to complete the fleet needed to accommodate the additional service that will be provided through the FasTracks transit expansion program.

The light rail car arrived today on a Union Pacific Railroad car and was unloaded onto the tracks at RTD's Mariposa Light Rail Maintenance Facility. The car is the final of 55 vehicles ordered for RTD's expanded light rail service through the future opening of the West Rail Line, I-225 Rail Line and the extensions of the Southwest and Southeast Rail Lines.

The light rail cars are manufactured by Siemens Rail Systems Division in Sacramento, California, and transported by freight rail. After arriving, Siemens crews remove the plastic wrap that protects the cars during transport and put the finishing touches on the cars by attaching mirrors, lights, and other elements. The new light rail cars are the latest in light rail technology and operate more efficiently by using less electricity.

"This is really a milestone for us given that we now have all the light rail cars we need for our expanding system," said Austin Jenkins, RTD's Assistant General Manager of Rail Operations. "It also signifies a long-standing relationship with Siemens, which has produced all of our light rail cars with the utmost in quality and high-performance."

This final light rail car brings RTD's total fleet up to 172 vehicles. Each light rail car must undergo a "burn in" testing process, logging 1,500 miles of successful operation before being integrated into RTD's existing service. The cars will be moved in and out of service until the West Rail Line opens in the spring of 2013.

Arrival of Final Light Rail Car

“Siemens is proud of the partnership we have formed with RTD over the past 17 years as the sole provider of light rail vehicles for Denver,” said Michael Cahill, president, Rail Systems Division, Infrastructure and Cities, North America. “This is the 172nd light rail we have delivered to the city since 1991 and we look forward to future opportunities to continue our partnership with RTD and the city of Denver.”

Light Rail Fun Facts

- Length 81.4 feet
- Height 12.4 feet
- Width 8.7 feet
- Weight 89,560 lbs (empty)
- Capacity 64 seated, 185 total seated/standing
- Maximum Speed 55 mph during operations
- Life Span Two million miles or 30 years

FasTracks is RTD’s voter-approved transit program to expand rail and bus service throughout the Denver metro area. FasTracks will build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces, redevelop Denver Union Station and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county District. The FasTracks investment initiative is projected to create thousands of construction-related jobs during the height of construction, and will pump billions of dollars into the regional economy over the next 20 years.

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