

ColoRail Passenger

December 2012

Issue #70

Amtrak due back in February 2014

But notes from DUSPA board meeting show Art in Station gets axe.

ColoRail Vice-President **Edie Bryan** has been attending meetings of the Denver Union Station Project Authority and reports that at their most recent meeting, they were informed that Amtrak trains should be back in the historic station on their relocated tracks effective February 1, 2014. The return, which originally had not been funded, is being made possible by a FASTER program grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation.

{See box on page 3 for other completion targets.}

The Denver Union Station Project Authority killed the proposal for Public Art at their meeting Thursday, Oct 4. The project had gone through a long process conducted by RTD selecting the artist, **Kevin Curry**, and looking at several alternative pieces.

Three pieces were on the table for final approval: First was to be a brass outline supported by fabricated steel in the granite outlining the exact location where the historic Mizpah arch used to welcome travelers. Second was an Apache sun dial in the Wynkoop plaza with a standing figure. Third was an 8-sided structure utilizing the historic doors facing outward that were in the Union Station tunnel with the names of the various trains, such as *California Zephyr*. These doors would face outward and be welded open.

The artist was not at this meeting, but there had been a lot of discussion at the two previous DUSPA meet-

ings. **Kent Bagley**, RTD board representative made a motion to cut the Mizpah arch and Director **Steve Kaplan**, the Metropolitan district representative, amended it to eliminate all 3 projects, and it passed on a 6-1 vote. The total cost was to be \$387,858, now reduced to \$10,000. One director said the third structure looked like an outhouse. Not one liked them, the most positive comment being that "we've gone through all this process already." Some directors worried that they would be blamed for these pieces of art; others said no one would know they were responsible.



16th street opens to two way traffic northwest of Wewatta Street Oct. 8. Public parking is deferred indefinitely. The "Building A" site to the southwest of the commuter and intercity track area is to be sold soon, preferably by November, which facilitates the finances.

Total contingency is now at \$9,409,235, highest ever, despite some fire department mandated changes.

The overall project was at 70% completion as of September 30, 2012. At the Wynkoop plaza 6 of 8 steel trusses are in and you can see these "kick stands" and white beams being installed.

Moving Amtrak services back to Denver Union Station on the new tracks is a top priority. They want to get this

(Continued on page 3)

Just the tip of the iceberg of tourism potential

Rails to winter fun

The Rio Grande Scenic Railroad offers “a sure cure for cabin fever.” Instead of worrying about the Fiscal Cliff and its effect on transport by all modes, we are invited to enjoy seeing real cliffs, and some snow, on the *North Pole Express* between now and December 22nd.

<https://www.coloradotrain.com/>

Their enthusiasm carries over from the traditional summer season into the holiday month:

“Just like a storybook coming to life, our North Pole Express is for those who believe in the magic of the holidays. Climb aboard in your PJ’s, find

your seat in our heated cars and have the conductor punch your ticket . Jolly elves serve cocoa and cookies as your journey begins to the North Pole to meet Santa. On board, he will greet each child and deliver a silver sleigh bell. On the return ride, Christmas stories and a holiday sing-a-long will keep the mood festive. We invite you to come ride the North Pole Express and see why so many make this is an annual family tradition.’

The Durango & Silverton Narrow-Gauge Railroad continues its *Cascade Canyon* winter train through the holidays into May.

Scenery courtesy of Rio Grande Scenic Railroad.

<http://www.durangotrain.com/>

“Ride the steam train 26 miles each way on the abbreviated trip to the Cascade Canyon wye, through the San Juan National Forest and along the Animas River in the comfort of heated coaches. This wilderness destination is the perfect setting for a fire-side lunch, photo opportunities, or a walk along the Animas River.”



ColoRail Board nominations needed:

As described in the by-law inserted below, it is time for members to submit nominees for the Spring 2013 Board elections. Please check to see if the person will serve, then mail a note to ColoRail Nominations, P.O. Box 9613, Denver, CO 80209.

1. The membership will be notified by mail or newsletter no later than January 2 each year to submit nominees by mail for the open positions on the Board of Directors. The nominations are to be received by the Membership and Election Committee no later than February 15 of each year. With an eight member Board, four candidates will be elected in each year. If there are nine members, five will be elected in the odd year.

ColoRail Board and Colorado NARP Council Members:

(with telephone numbers and <e-mail addresses>

Jim Souby, President, NARP Council Member (303-355-7985). <jsouby@comcast.net>

Bob Brewster, Board Member, Boulder, <railbob@q.com>

Edie Bryan, Vice-President, Lakewood, <twobryans@aol.com>

Helen Bushnell, Board Member, Lakewood, <sunhelen@fastmail.net>

Gary Carter, Board Member, Pueblo <pueblosilver@yahoo.com>

Elia Fisher, Secretary, Denver, <eliafisher@yahoo.com>

Jay Jones, Treasurer, Denver, <sunjones@earthtones.com>

Jay Jones, NARP Council Member, Denver. <sunjones.railguy@gmail.com>

Joan Shaffer, Board Member, Loveland, <joantshaffer@silverliningsstrategies.com>

Ira Schreiber, Board Member, Aurora, <ischreiber@aol.com>

Robert Rynerson, Newsletter Editor, Denver. (720-570-0647) <rw.rynerson@att.net>

ColoRail, the Colorado Rail Passenger Association, is in correspondence and coordinates with NARP, the National Association of Railroad Passengers. Membership in both organizations is encouraged.

Project keeps head above water

Projects taking shape

(Continued from page 1)

done ASAP so they can demolish its existing track.

Risk factors: The ground water removal is all done now, though they did find two pockets of asbestos and might encounter more. Contaminated soil is all removed. The settlement/vibration monitoring of the historic building is all finished, but they will leave the monitor in place, since additional buildings are being built adjacent.

The DUSPA board approved the Public Information contract with CRL Associates for 2013, for a reduced

amount of \$57,895. The (property) tax revenue is above projections, reaching the amount projected for the year 2019 by 2014.

The restoration work on the historic Denver Union Station has barely begun. That is a totally separate company, Union Station Associates.

Update: Subsequently, a lease was approved for the hotel redevelopment, including a 12,000 square foot common area, to be known as the "Great Hall" -- formerly known as the "Waiting Room."

"Coming Attractions:"

2013 = "Fiscal Cliff" maneuvering in DC to make all transport plans uncertain.

2013 = Apr. 26th, grand opening of West Line. Scheduled service starts Apr. 28th.

2014 = Feb. 1st, Amtrak returns to Union Station.

2014 = Apr. 25th, grand opening of Union Station bus concourse. Market Station closes.

2014 = mid-year, luxury hotel opens in Union Station.

2015-16 = "Bus Rapid Transit" on US36 into Union Station.

2016 = Three commuter rail lines open in Union Station.

Mine near Trinidad may re-open -The *Raton Range* reports that the Black Elk Mine west of Trinidad may reopen in 2013. The mine was shut down in July, but a team is working on getting it set to reopen. The owners have long term plans to expand the operation, which produces metallurgical coking coal, a potential export shipment for the Raton Pass BNSF line to ports.



ColoRail Membership

P. O. Box 9613
Denver, CO 80209

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone, with area code: _____

E-mail address, fax number or other contact information: _____

\$15 PER YEAR
pays for 2013 mailings,
printing, publicity

Station hosts smooth way over holidays

Volunteers make a difference

For many rail travelers, ColoRail's volunteer Station Hosts offer the first information they have received regarding questions raised by the temporary Amtrak station location. That is in addition to the normal questions from the increasing number of first-time rail travelers. And travelers learn the stories that go along with Colorado's dramatic scenery from National Park Service volunteers, too.

This past Labor Day weekend, the following volunteered. Numbers in parentheses indicate more than one shift.

- John Bishop
- Mike Cronin
- Bruce Eller
- Ron Kaminen (4)
- Tom Peyton
- Jim Souby (2)
- Ron Vander Kooi
- Don Zielesch

The National Park Service "Rails and Trails" volunteers received extra attention recently when the *Denver Post* featured volunteer **Eva Hoffman** in a *Denver Yourhub* article by **Don Morreale**.

The article told how Hoffman developed an interest in the project and made contacts through ColoRail. It also offered examples of how the guides on board the *California Zephyr* make a difference for passengers.



Test yourself: how many of these codes do you recognize?

Trains 25/26		35/36
OGD	THD	SLC
CJU	HOO	DTA
POC	CSL	MFD
SHO	PDX	CIE
BOI	VAN	LVS
NAM	KEL	BAR
ONT	CTL	SNB
BAK	EOL	FUL
LAE	TAC	LAX
PEN	SEA	
HIK		



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