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January 24, 2011

By Christina Dickinson and Brooke Thacker, KUSA 9NEWS

DENVER - Union Station in downtown Denver will see some closures in the coming months for construction on a new multimodal transportation center slated to be finished by 2014.

The Regional Transportation District says the transportation hub, which is planned to be finished in the spring of 2014 will integrate bus, light rail and passenger rail services all from the more than 100-year-old building.

"This is going to be a completely new place when people see it in the spring of 2014," Daria Serna from RTD told 9NEWS.

Over the next few months, RTD and Amtrak will relocate some of their lines from Union Station to other points in the city.

On Feb. 1, Amtrak trains that left from Union Station will be relocated to a temporary station at 1800 21st St. behind Coors Field near the intersection of 21st and Wewatta Streets. Amtrak will move back to the newly renovated Union Station in 2014.

Also on Feb. 1, the pedestrian tunnel that linked the light rail platform to Wynkoop Street will permanently close. RTD says pedestrians should use the 16th Street Mall Ride or the sidewalk on 16th Street to get to and from the platform.

RTD says bus lines that picked up and dropped off passengers at Gates B, C and D at Union Station will now have their first and last stops at the Market Street Station after Feb. 9.

For more information on the bus routes that will be affected, visit <http://www3.rtd-denver.com/elbert/news/index.cfm?id=1330>.

Amtrak relocating from Denver Union Station to temporary station on February 1

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January 26, 2011

KDVR-TV



Beginning Feb. 1, Amtrak will temporarily relocate from the historic Denver Union Station to 1800 21st St., at the intersection of 21st St. and Wewatta St., west of Coors Field in Denver's Prospect Neighborhood.

The temporary station is completely accessible to passengers with disabilities, offers Quik-Trak® self-serve ticketing kiosks, free WiFi and vending machines with snacks and beverages.

Free parking is available at the temporary station for Amtrak passengers with proper validation. Amtrak passengers are encouraged to plan to be picked up and dropped off at the temporary location. Approximately 15 short-term parking spaces are available at the lot on the east side of the station, and 30 long-term parking spots are available on the west side of the station under the 20th Street viaduct. The temporary station is served by a RTD bus stop just steps from the door.

The move is necessary to accommodate construction of the new commuter rail station at Denver Union Station that will serve Amtrak and the East, Gold, North Metro and Northwest Rail commuter rail lines. When improvements are complete, Denver Union Station will be the centerpiece of the Regional Transportation District's FasTracks transit expansion program and will serve as a multimodal hub for the region. Amtrak will return to Union Station in the spring of 2014.

In addition to the eight-track Amtrak and RTD commuter rail station, the \$484 million Denver Union Station redevelopment project includes a 22-bay regional bus facility, new light rail station for current and future light rail lines, extension of the 16th Street Mall Shuttle and several public plazas to integrate transit services with adjacent neighborhoods.

Amtrak operates two trains daily through Denver – the westbound California Zephyr departing at 8:05 a.m. and the eastbound California Zephyr departing at 7:10 p.m. The California Zephyr runs between Chicago and Emeryville, coursing through the plains of Nebraska to Denver, across the Rockies to Salt Lake City, and then through Reno and the Sierras to Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay.

Amtrak passengers also use Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches at Denver to connect with the Amtrak Southwest Chief at Raton, N.M. That service will also be transferred to the temporary station at 1800 21st St.

Last year, 128,410 Amtrak passengers used the Denver station. For more information, Amtrak customers locally can call 303-825-2583 or the toll-free Amtrak contact centers at 800-USA-RAIL.

“The opening of the temporary Amtrak station represents another significant milestone for the project,” said Elbra Wedgeworth, president of the Denver Union Station Project Authority.

Also on Feb. 1, the passenger tunnel in Union Station will be closed to allow for completion of a new underground regional bus facility. The tunnel has provided access for passengers to reach their trains since its opening in 1926. Passengers should use the 16th Street Mall Shuttle or the 16th Street sidewalk to get to and from the light rail platform.

January 27, 2011

International Business Times



Denver Union Station

Passenger rail operator Amtrak said, beginning Feb.1, it would temporarily relocate from Denver Union Station to another location to accommodate construction of the new commuter rail station at the Union Station.

Amtrak will relocate to 1800 21st St., which lies at the intersection of 21st St. and Wewatta St., behind Coors Field.

Amtrak said the temporary station is completely accessible to passengers with disabilities, offers Quik-Trak self-serve ticketing kiosks, free WiFi and vending machines with snacks and beverages.

Free parking is available at the temporary station for Amtrak passengers with proper validation. About 15 short-term parking spaces are available at the lot on the east side of the station, and 25 long-term parking spots are available on the west side of the station under the 20th Street viaduct.

The temporary station is also served by a Regional Transportation District (RTD) bus stop, Amtrak said in a statement.

The relocation will facilitate construction of the new commuter rail station at Denver Union Station that will serve Amtrak and the East, Gold, North Metro and Northwest Rail commuter rail lines.

Amtrak, which expects to return to Union Station in the spring of 2014, said when improvements are complete, Denver Union Station will be the centerpiece of the RTD's FasTracks transit expansion program and will serve as a multimodal hub for the region.

FasTracks is a multi-billion dollar comprehensive transit expansion plan to build 122 miles of new commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit, 21,000 new parking spaces at light rail and bus stations, and enhance bus service for easy, convenient bus/rail connections across the eight-county district.

The \$484 million Denver Union Station redevelopment project includes an eight-track Amtrak and RTD commuter rail station, 22-bay regional bus facility, new light rail station for current and future light rail lines, extension of the 16th Street Mall Shuttle and several public plazas to integrate transit services with adjacent neighborhoods.

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Last year, 128,410 Amtrak passengers used the Denver station, which was first opened in 1881.

Meanwhile, the Union Station passenger tunnel, the underground walkway from the light rail platform to Wynkoop Street, will also be closed on Feb. 1 to allow for completion of a new underground regional bus facility. The tunnel has provided access for passengers to reach their trains since its opening in 1926. Passengers should use the 16th Street Mall Shuttle or the 16th Street sidewalk to get to and from the light rail platform.

Amtrak passengers can also use Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches at Denver to connect with the Amtrak Southwest Chief at Raton, New Mexico, which will also be transferred to the temporary station at 1800 21st St.

Washington-based Amtrak is a government-owned corporation to provide intercity passenger train service in the United States. The Amtrak Auto Train holds the distinction as the longest passenger train in the world, with two locomotives and 40-plus passenger rail cars and vehicle carriers operating daily to Lorton in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

Last fiscal year (FY 2010), the railroad carried 28.7 million passengers, making it the best year in the company's history. With 21,000 route miles in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces, Amtrak operates more than 300 trains each day.

For more information, Amtrak customers locally can call 303-825-2583 or the toll-free Amtrak contact centers at 800-USA-RAIL.

January 28, 2011

Progressive Railroading

Beginning Feb. 1, Amtrak will relocate from Denver Union Station to a site west of Coors Field in the downtown area to accommodate construction of a new commuter-rail station that will serve Amtrak and the East, Gold, North Metro and Northwest Rail commuter lines.

When the project is completed, Denver Union Station will be the "centerpiece" of the Regional Transportation District's (RTD) FasTracks program and will serve as a multi-modal hub for the region, Amtrak and RTD officials said in a prepared statement. Plans call for Amtrak to return to Union Station in 2014.

In addition to the eight-track Amtrak and RTD commuter-rail station, the \$484 million Denver Union Station redevelopment project includes a new light-rail station for current and future lines.

Amtrak operates two trains daily through Denver: the westbound and eastbound California Zephyr. In 2010, 128,410 Amtrak passengers used the Denver station.

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