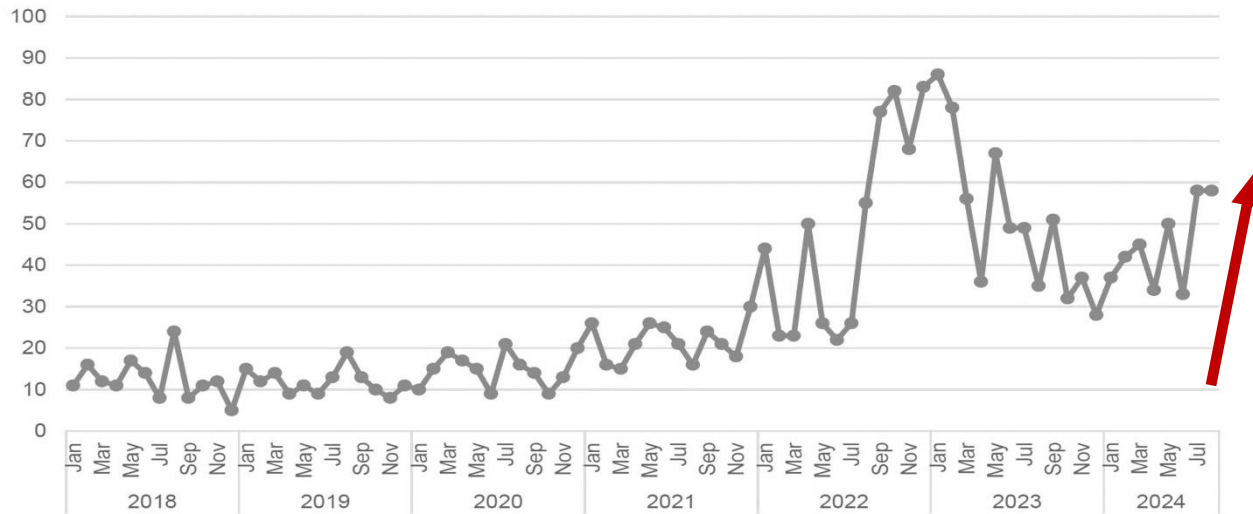


A Policy Proposal to Reduce Scrap Metal Thefts by Regulating Sales

**Sponsored by Denver City Council Members
Darrell B. Watson (D-9) and Flor Alvidrez (D-7)**

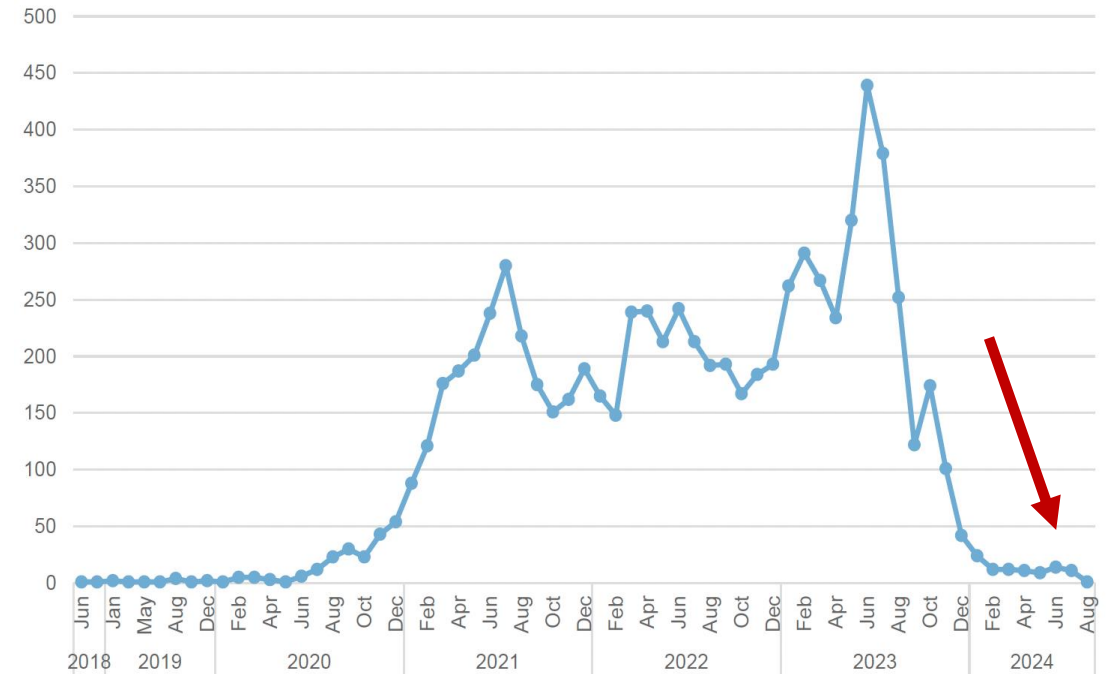
The Problem is Scrap Metal Theft

Metal Theft by Year and Month
(excluding catalytic converters)



**Thefts of Commodity “Scrap” Metals
are Increasing**

Catalytic Converter Theft by Year and Month



**Thefts of Catalytic Converters are
Decreasing**

Scrap Metal Thefts by District and Years



This data does not include catalytic converter thefts and is provided by the Denver Police Department.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
CD 1	10	9	11	13	50	46	25	11	175
CD 2	1	7	3	1	23	13	19	0	67
CD 3	25	10	11	21	78	79	60	3	287
CD 4	5	3	4	10	10	31	20	0	83
CD 5	7	5	7	13	27	42	27	3	131
CD 6	3	3	1	7	36	32	32	9	123
CD 7	8	10	9	23	42	64	49	7	212
CD 8	14	33	21	40	93	95	119	6	421
CD 9	25	24	45	61	88	84	73	16	416
CD 10	6	5	4	11	30	24	40	5	125
CD 11	4	6	10	11	23	15	13	1	83
Unknown	0	1	2	3	11	18	12	3	50
Total	108	116	128	214	511	543	489	64	2,173

Top Locations for Scrap Metal Theft

Location	Reported Thefts
Construction Site	439
Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk	297
Residence/Home	254
Commercial/Office Building	232
Parking Lot/Garage	98
Gov. Buildings & Schools	37
Convenience/Specialty Stores	37
Department/Discount Store	23
Church/Temple/Mosque	19
Restaurant	18

*Data provided by the Denver Police Department.

31°

FOX31

COLORADO'S CW2

WATCH NOW

Paula Vrakas

0:32 / 1:27

LOCAL NEWS

Thieves caught on camera stealing copper wire from Denver live music restaurant

by: [Kasia Kerridge](#)

Posted: Feb 19, 2025 / 06:59 PM MST

Updated: Feb 19, 2025 / 10:04 PM MST

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DENVER (KDVR) — A Denver live music restaurant became victim to copper wire theft, a crime electricians in the metro area said [is becoming more common](#).

The Solution:

Regulate Sales of Scrap Metal like Sales of Used Catalytic Converters

Buyer Requirements for Catalytic Converters

- ✓ Verify Seller's Government ID
- ✓ Prohibit Walk-Up Transactions
- ✓ No Cash Transactions
- ✓ Collect Seller and Vehicle Information
- ✓ Require a Seller Affidavit Attesting the Inventory was Lawfully Acquired
- ✓ Maintain Sales and Inventory Records for 180+ Days

Proposed Requirements for Scrap Metal

- ✓ Verify Seller's Government ID
- ✓ Prohibit Walk-Up Transactions
- ✓ No Cash Transactions
- ✓ Collect Seller and Vehicle Information
- ✓ Require a Seller Affidavit Attesting the Inventory was Lawfully Acquired
- ✓ Maintain Sales Inventory Records for 180+ Days

What Metal Qualifies as Scrap Metal?

Scrap Metal means any metal...

- Obtained by demolishing, disassembling, or cutting from its intended use, or intended for reuse or recycling; and
- Includes Copper, Copper Alloys, Bronze, Brass, and Aluminum.

Scrap Metal is NOT

- Coins or precious metals like gold, silver, and platinum.
- Recyclable food and beverage containers.

Copper



Bronze



Brass



Aluminum



Proposed Policies for Enforcement

Denver news

Thieves do up to \$50k of damage to city's EV chargers — and get \$120 of copper

Three EV chargers at Scheitler Recreation Center will be offline for up to two months.



Ishan Thakore

Feb. 26, 2025, 5:15 pm

3 min. read



An EV charger at Berkeley Lake Park is defunct after someone cut its copper cables. Feb. 26, 2025.

Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite

Responsible Departments

- **Denver Department of Excise and Licensing:** Oversees compliance and licensing of junk dealers.
- **Denver Police Department:** May conduct inspections and enforcement.

Enforcement Process

- **Transaction Monitoring:** Detailed records of purchases, like sales and affidavits, must held for 180 days.
- **Inspection Protocols:** The City can inspect transaction records and inventory during business hours.

Consequences of Non-Compliance

- **Civil Penalties:** Fines of up to \$5k per violation per day.
- **License Revocation:** Non-compliance can result in license suspension or revocation.

Updated Policy Proposal

- **Sec. 45-66:** Defines key terms like junk dealer and scrap metal.
- **Sec. 45-67:** Clarifies scrap metal does not need to be held separately for 10 days.
- **Sec. 45-69:** Requires junk dealers to work with police and report known stolen goods.
- **Sec. 45-71:** Allows junk dealer licenses to be transferred.
- **Sec. 45-125(a):** Inventory must arrive by motor vehicle, not via a cart or walkup.
- ~~**Sec. 45-127(b):** Scrap metal inventory must be held separately for at least 10 days.~~
- **Sec. 45-125(b):** Cash payments are prohibited
- **Sec. 45-127(c):** Junk dealers must keep detailed scrap metal sales and inventory records for 180 days.
- **Sec. 45-127(d):** Violations are civil fines not exceeding \$5,000 per violation per day.
- **Sec. 45-127(e):** Exempts scrap metal from licensed dealers, utilities, government, charities, and beverage containers.
- **Sec. 45-136:** Requires a “junk dealer” license from the Department of Excise & Licenses to run a scrap yard.
- **Sec. 32-88:** Sets \$300 for license and application fees.

Timeline and Outreach

Stakeholder Meeting (6/13/24): Nonprofits, Businesses, Police, & Neighbors

Community Meeting (7/11/24): Neighbors, City Officials, Businesses, & Nonprofits

Stakeholder Meeting (8/9/24): City Officials, Nonprofits, Neighbors, & Businesses

Community Meeting (9/6/24): Neighbors, Businesses, Nonprofits, & City Officials

Stakeholder Meeting (12/13/24): Businesses, City Officials, Nonprofits, & Neighbors

Community Meeting (3/18/25): Nonprofits, Businesses, Neighbors, & City Officials

Industry Roundtable (3/21/25): Scrap Metal Recyclers & City Officials

Scrap Yard Tour (4/4/25): Scrap Metal Recyclers & City Officials

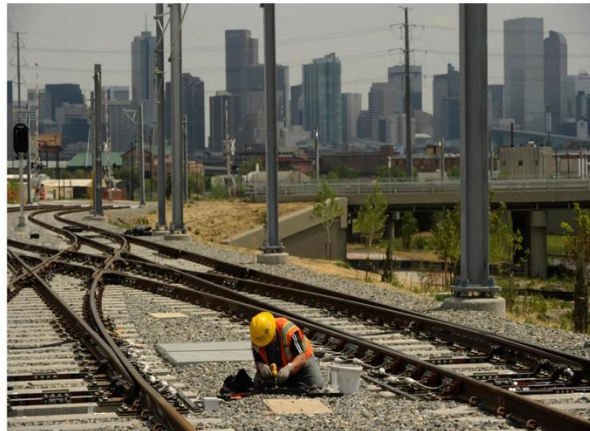

Budget & Policy Presentation (4/7/25): Council Members & City Officials

Community Meeting (4/22/25): Businesses, Neighbors, & City Officials

Business Committee Presentation (April 30, 2025): Council Members

Mayor-Council Committee (April / May 2025)

1st and 2nd Readings at City Council (May 2025)



Night thefts of copper wire worth \$110,000 disrupted RTD trains 21 times since April
One person arrested, and RTD officials say many thieves involved

RTD FasTracks contract electrician Wayne Trujillo worked on wiring inside a heater box along tracks near the rail station at Federal Boulevard and Decatur Street on May 17, 2012.

By **BRUCE FINLEY** | bfinley@denverpost.com | The Denver Post
UPDATED: October 16, 2024 at 3:24 PM MDT

Copper wire thefts along Regional Transportation District rails at night have disrupted train service 21 times since April and thieves escaped with wires worth about \$110,000, transit agency officials announced on Wednesday.

Questions and Discussion

Stolen MLK statue art recovered from scrap yard: Police



Two suspects are being sought in the theft, authorities said.

By [Bill Hutchinson](#)

February 28, 2024, 6:14 PM



DR. VERN L. HOWARD

President of Martin Luther King Jr. Colorado Holiday Commission

MLK monument vandalized in Denver park during Black History Month A monument honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. created by the nation's first Black astronaut-turned-sculptor was vandalized in a Denver park.

Three bronze artworks thieves pried off a [Denver monument](#) of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have been recovered by police, who are searching for two suspects who allegedly sold the pieces as scrap metal, authorities said.