

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 14-0423

Celebrating Denver Union Station

Sponsored by Councilwoman Judy Montero, Council District 9

WHEREAS, the first train arrived in Denver on June 21, 1870, signifying Denver's connection to the rest of the country and moving her toward becoming the Queen City of the Plains, and the railroad companies constructed the first Union Station, which opened on June 1, 1881, and the historic center section of the current structure was built in 1914; and

WHEREAS, at its peak, Union Station operated 80 trains a day, but by the 1960s, train travel had decreased significantly and the magnificent station at the end of 17th Street was quietly resonating history, just waiting to be reutilized; and

WHEREAS, in the late 1990s, many people, ideas and circumstances converged around a plan for the building to become the centerpiece of a regional rail network and once again be the transportation hub it was built to be, but the process took much work, many meetings and official actions, and many more years; and

WHEREAS, as Denver Union Station is located in Council District 9, Councilwoman Judy Montero took a lead role in the process that involved many elected officials, including Denver Mayor Webb, Mayor Hickenlooper, Mayor Vidal and Mayor Hancock; several City Council members; hundreds of residents volunteering their time; dozens of local, state, and federal agencies; creation of several new entities; and adoption of many City ordinances, only some of which are enumerated below:

- In 2001, City Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement among four Partner Agencies - the City & County of Denver, the Regional Transportation District (RTD), the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) - creating a funding mechanism for RTD's acquisition of Denver Union Station (DUS) and its 19.5-acre site.
- The Partner Agencies also financed development of a Master Plan and an Environmental Impact Statement.
- In 2004, voters approved sales tax financing for FasTracks, the regional rail transit system with DUS assuming its rightful role as the hub.
- Also in 2004, following extensive public processes, City Council approved a Master Plan for the multi-modal transportation hub, adopted Transit Mixed-Use zoning, and bestowed Landmark Designation on DUS.

- In 2006, Union Station Neighborhood Company was selected as Master Developer.
- In 2008, a visionary Master Plan Supplement, with more complete design concepts, was approved, followed by design for the public spaces, both involving extensive public input.
- Also in 2008, the Partner Agencies worked through issues and challenges to finalize a financing framework for the redevelopment.
- City Council authorized creation of the Denver Union Station Project Authority (DUSPA) a non-profit corporation to be the governance entity for the project, and former Denver City Council President Elbra Wedgeworth was appointed Chair of the Board.
- City Council created the Denver Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and five Metropolitan Districts as taxing and financing entities, all of which were approved by voters in November 2008.
- Council created a Special Revenue Fund into which tax increment revenue was deposited and pledged to the DUS project, per a Council-approved cooperation agreement between the City and the DDA.
- In 2010, Council approved the City's purchase of the RTD Market Street Station in order to help finance the new regional bus facility at DUS.

WHEREAS, the Denver City Council took nearly twenty official actions to advance and support the planning, financing and redevelopment of Denver Union Station and its surroundings;

WHEREAS, this project spanned the terms of four Denver mayors, many cabinet members, several City Councilmember and RTD directors and Board members.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That Council hereby celebrates the Centennial of Denver Union Station and its significant return to prominence, and sincerely thanks the regional voters; the Partner Agencies; all neighbors and businesses in Central Platte Valley, Lower Downtown, and Downtown; and everyone involved in the long, complex process of bringing about the renaissance of Denver's historic heart.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to the Regional Transportation District; the Colorado Department of Transportation; the Denver Regional Council of Governments; the leadership of the Denver Union Station Project Authority (DUSPA) Board; and to Denver officials Mayor Hancock and former Mayors Vidal, Hickenlooper and Webb, and Council President Susman and former Council Presidents Nevitt, Robb, Hancock, Rodriguez and Wedgeworth for their leadership and support on this massive and historic project.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL May 12, 2014

_____ PRESIDENT