

CITY MANAGER MEMORANDUM
#32-2026

DATE: Nov. 2, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Jason Loveland, Acting City Manager *AL*

SUBJECT: Adams County N Line Collaboration

PURPOSE

To receive a presentation from Adams County representatives about the proposed N Line Coalition and discuss Northglenn's participation.

BACKGROUND

The N Line currently operates between Denver Union Station and Eastlake & 124th Avenue. The remaining planned extension would add approximately 5.5 miles and two stations: York & 144th Avenue and North Thornton at Highway 7. Adams County is inviting Northglenn and other corridor communities to join the N Line Coalition to support completion of the line.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

The presentation states that Coalition members will not be asked to fund the Coalition. RTD has authorized up to \$12 million for initial design, environmental work, Coalition staffing and technical support. Additional funding will be needed for later design phases and construction.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that City Council discuss the proposed Coalition and provide direction regarding participation and the selection of a Council representative.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have questions, please contact Jason Loveland, Acting City Manager, at jloveland@northglenn.org or 303.450.8817.

ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation

Complete the N Line: Keep the FasTracks Promise

Partner Outreach | N Line Coalition



The FasTracks Promise — Still Unfinished

North Metro voters approved FasTracks in 2004. They have been paying into it ever since.

What Exists Today

- N Line operates Union Station → Eastlake & 124th
- 3,600+ average weekday riders and growing
- Exceeds ridership projections
- Paid for by North Metro taxpayers since 2004

What's Missing

- 5.5 miles from Eastlake & 124th to Highway 7
- Two stations: York & 144th and North Thornton at Highway 7

Where We Are: RTD Action and What's Ahead

- On July 28, the RTD Board authorized up to \$12 million for N Line design and environmental work and Coalition staff.
- \$10 million in the first year for preliminary design and project development. Total design is estimated at \$55 million.
- \$2 million over three years for Coalition staff and technical support. Coalition partners will not be asked to fund the Coalition.
- The IGA between RTD and Adams County took effect September 25, 2026.
- Corridor communities will join the Coalition, Adams County will convene the first meeting, and the County will hire Coalition staff.

The N Line Coalition

A regional partnership to advance completion of the N Line.

Proposed Founding Members

- Adams County
- City of Thornton
- City of Brighton
- City of Commerce City
- City of Northglenn

A forum for regional cooperation, engagement, consultation, and advocacy

Coming together around design and to pursue funding for the remaining phases

Infrastructure to enable us to tackle problems and seize new opportunities as they arise

Speaking with one voice to RTD, CDOT, DRCOG, and the State

How the Coalition Will Work

- Every member has a seat, a voice in decisions, and a place to stand up for its community's interests on regional transportation.
- Local control alongside regional collaboration. Land use and station-area planning stay with each city.
- Members will decide together how the Coalition is organized and how decisions are made.
- Partner input will shape the coalition and its direction.
- RTD leads the design work, and the Coalition's recommendations help guide it.

Coalition Staffing and Support

Under the IGA, RTD is providing up to \$2 million over three years for a Coalition Manager, a Coalition Project Coordinator, and technical support for studies, analysis, and outreach. Coalition partners will not be asked to fund the Coalition.

Coalition Role

- Recommendations on design alternatives and operations
- Track project milestones and progress
- Build regional consensus and support
- Collaborate on future construction funding and implementation strategies

Project Phasing: The Path to Construction-Ready

Phased milestones with RTD Board checkpoints before each release. Year 1 is funded at up to \$10 million. Total design is estimated at \$55 million.

YEAR 1 Project Development	YEARS 2–3 60% Design	YEARS 2–3 90% Design	YEARS 2–3 100% Design
- Expanded Design Foundation - Environmental & Engineering Integration - Operations & Fleet Strategy Validation - Initial ROW & Property Impact Definition - Early Cost, Schedule & Risk Framework - Coalition formation & governance, including DRCOG and CTE engagement	- Detailed Discipline-Complete Plans - Fixed Alignment & Station Designs - Acquisition-Ready ROW Documents - Systems & Utility Coordination - Refined Cost & Schedule	- Near-Final Plans & Specifications - Fully Finalized Geometry & Structures - Final Utility, Drainage & Access Plans - Certified ROW & Legal Deliverables - Bid-Ready Cost & Phasing	- Final Issued for Construction (IFC) - Complete Systems Integration Packages - Construction Procurement & Delivery Materials - Final Compliance & Safety Documentation - Coalition develops construction funding strategy

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Phase 2 and Phase 3 funding releases are subject to RTD Board review of Phase 1 milestones.

The Path to Construction: Funding Strategy

Completing the N Line will require construction funding from multiple sources.

FISA (FasTracks Internal Savings Account)

Source of approved funding

RTD's dedicated FasTracks completion fund. Source of the \$12 million approved on July 28.

CTE / SB 230 (Clean Transit Enterprise)

State support committed

The State has committed funding through the Clean Transit Enterprise, conditioned on demonstration of significant progress toward completion within one year. A united corridor helps show that progress.

Federal Competitive Grants

A future opportunity

RTD has advised there are currently no federal discretionary programs identified for commuter rail. The coalition will pursue federal funding as programs evolve.

Join the Coalition

We got here together. Every corridor community submitted letters in support of N Line funding, and the RTD Board committed those funds on at the same time service cuts and staff reductions were on the agenda.

That was the first step. Completing the N Line requires construction funding no single community can secure alone. A standing coalition will help North Metro compete for its fair share of regional transportation funding.

The clock is running. The State's commitment is conditioned on demonstration of significant progress toward completion within one year.

None of us can do this alone. Together we can finish the N Line — and build the standing to take on what comes next.

Join the N Line Coalition as a founding member. Select a representative from your City Council to attend meetings. Membership means taking part in meetings and in the Coalition's work on governance, design coordination, engagement. There is no cost.

**The N Line is ready.
North Metro is ready.
Let's finish it.**

N Line Coalition Appendices

The IGA at a Glance

- The Intergovernmental Agreement for N Line Design Project Development between RTD and Adams County took effect September 25, 2026.
- RTD leads the design work. Adams County convenes the Coalition and serves as fiscal agent.
- Members will set the decision rules together, starting with consensus.
- Adams County is accountable to RTD for how the funds are spent. RTD makes final decisions on its own design work.
- Membership means taking part in meetings and in the Coalition's work on governance, design coordination, and engagement. There is no cost.
- Land use and station-area planning stay with each city.

Coalition Funding

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Coalition Manager	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$675,000
Coalition Project Coordinator	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$420,000
Technical support (studies, analysis, outreach)	\$305,000	\$305,000	\$295,000	\$905,000
Total	\$670,000	\$670,000	\$660,000	\$2,000,000