

April 2016 Service Changes: RTD Route AB reroute via NW Parkway and E-470

The rerouting of the route AB was suggested as part of the US36 BRT service plan, back in the fall of 2014, which in its draft form also included a proposed route 270X that would operate hourly from US36 & Broomfield and US36 & Sheridan stations to DIA. However, due to the low demand/ridership on the AB (about 70 passengers per average weekday), at both of these stations/ Park-n-Ride (data researched from 2012 to 2015) even the stakeholders along the US36 corridor realized that such an 'express' route would not sustain itself and asked that the proposed 270X not be moved forward to the draft recommendation. Thus route 270X was never vetted through the public process. However, throughout the public process, staff made sure to explain the reasoning for the Route AB reroute, as well as pointed out the low demands at both US36/Broomfield and US36/Sheridan, for one-seat ride service to DIA from these locations.

Route AB (Airport – Boulder) was always meant to be the route from Boulder/Louisville/Superior to DIA; since at its inception the NW Parkway and E-470 did not exist, it had to be routed via US36 and I-70. It over the years, morphed into a 'back up' to the BV along the US36 corridor, since the BV trips only operated every hour, and the BX also only ran every hour, yet did not stop at all of the Park-n-Rides along the corridor. Now that the FF1 operates all day at 15 minute frequency, this 'back up' route no longer is needed along the corridor and it can return to its original purpose.

We delayed the rerouting of the AB, so that passengers from US36 & Broomfield and US36 & Sheridan would have alternative options to DIA, not significantly impacting overall travel time, when the University of Colorado A-Line to DIA opened this April (2016).

Passengers from US36 & Broomfield and US36 & Sheridan now actually have 4 opportunities each hour to make connections to DIA, while before they only had one per hour. With the FF1 operating every 15 min, from 6am – 9:00pm and the University of Colorado A-Line running every 15 minutes between 6am and 6:30pm, customers thus have very convenient connection options, pretty much all day long, from both US36 & Broomfield and US36 & Sheridan stations.

Customers from both of these US36 stations also have the option to take route FF1 to US36 & Flatiron Station and board route AB there. This however would indeed result in a longer trip from US36 & Sheridan than the FF1 to University of Colorado A-Line option.

We understand that this change is not going to work for everyone; however, it will improve service between Boulder/Louisville and Superior to DIA for the vast majority of the current route AB ridership and we anticipate the ridership actually to increase noticeably once the new routing is in place, since it will be much more enticing to passengers to travel at 75mph along the NW Parkway and E-470 than crawl in I-70 traffic.

RTD staff will monitor, as we always do, the demand for potential one-seat ride options between DIA and US36 & Broomfield and US36 & Sheridan stations. As the new developments around the US36 & Broomfield Station and Downtown Westminster are being build out and density and activity is increasing, RTD will monitor the potential demand between these locations and DIA. Should at any time the demand become such that additional service to/from DIA would be warranted, as per our Service Standards, we will consider as to what the most appropriate, effective and efficient service option would be to meet that demand.