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Sports Business

Summit FC inches closer to breaking ground on Santa Fe Yards stadium



An aerial view of the Summit FC's future NWSL stadium site.

DON IRELAND | SPECIAL TO THE DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL



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Story Highlights

- Denver City Council cleared a final hurdle for Summit FC's permanent stadium at Santa Fe Yards.
- The team will begin construction in early September for a 14,500-seat venue opening in 2029.
- Summit FC plans to spend over \$150 million building the stadium on six acres of city-leased land.

The Summit FC is within reach of breaking ground on its permanent home at Santa Fe Yards, which will mark a significant step for the team's future in Denver.

On Monday, the Denver City Council cleared one of the project's last hurdles preventing construction, which is now on track to begin in early fall.

The team plans to build a permanent, 14,500-seat home stadium at Santa Fe Yards, off Interstate 25 and Santa Fe Drive in Denver. The Summit planned to have the stadium ready for the 2028 National Women's Soccer League season, but delays over city council votes and the land acquisition have [pushed the expected opening to as far as the start of the 2029 season](#).

The land deal was hindered by the need to release a Colorado Department of Transportation encumbrance on 80,000 square feet at I-25 and Broadway, where the stadium itself will sit, [according to previous Denver Business Journal reporting](#). The encumbrance along the northwest side of the planned 14-acre stadium and entertainment district development had been held by CDOT since the 1950s when it was building Interstate 25, according to CDOT materials.

The DBJ reported that the encumbrance was lifted and [the land was acquired on March 27](#). Once lifted, the City and County of Denver still had to vacate the right of way on the land, which the City Council approved through its consent agenda Monday.

The vote allows the Broadway Station Metropolitan District, the special taxing district created to access bond funding for Santa Fe Yards, to move forward with the final reconfiguration of the development parcels in the stadium property. The city purchased the 6 acres of land the stadium will be built on and leased it to BSMD, and the Summit FC plans to spend over \$150 million constructing the venue.

In a July meeting with bondholders, BSMD board President Mark Tompkins said that the ROW vacation would be one of the last hurdles before a building permit can be issued for the stadium. The city must also vacate existing utility easements on the land for the development plan to be finalized and approved.

He expects all of that to occur within just over two months. The team plans to start building infrastructure by early September that will enable the stadium and adjacent private development, he said.

"The club expects, once that construction starts, that the stadium will be ready to be open to begin the 2029 National Women's Soccer League season," Tompkins said.

A club spokesperson told The DBJ that design has been completed and construction schedules are being finalized. The team still hopes to play some of its 2028 NWSL season at Santa Fe Yards, the spokesperson said.

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