



Building westward from Topeka, Kansas, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway reached Dodge City in 1872 and the Kansas-Colorado border in 1873. At La Junta, Colorado (just east of the map area), the AT&SF line split: one branch headed west up the Arkansas River reaching Pueblo in 1876, and the other branch headed southwest to Raton Pass and the Rio Grande, reaching the New Mexico state line in 1878.

Eastward view of the AT&SF (1876)(now BNSF) line from La Junta to Pueblo crosses the flat floodplain of the Arkansas River on the plains east of the Rocky Mountains.



Southeast view of the AT&SF (1876) east of Pueblo, constructed during a race with the narrow gauge Denver & Rio Grande Railroad to reach the Royal Gorge and Colorado mines. Both railroads were at the same time racing to Raton Pass.