



The Carson & Colorado Railway was incorporated in 1880 with plans for a 600 mile, narrow gauge line to connect the Carson and Colorado rivers and traverse the mining country along the route. The line started from a connection with the standard gauge Virginia & Truckee Railroad at Mound House, Nevada, and by the time the line reached Keeler, California, in 1883, the owners realized they'd built "300 miles too far or 300 years too soon". They hung on for 20 years and then sold out to the Southern Pacific. The sale was well timed for the SP; only months later there was a mining boom at Tonopah allowing SP to recoup its investment. In 1905, the SP-controlled Nevada & California Railroad standard gauged the line from Mound House to Mina, Nevada, and connected with the Tonopah & Goldfield Railroad, which standard gauged the former Tonopah Railroad in the same year. The combined V&T, N&C (SP), and T&G formed a standard gauge line from the SP (original Central Pacific) mainline at Reno to the Tonopah mines. This standard gauging also resulted in isolating the remaining N&C narrow gauge line (original C&C) from a junction with the standard gauge N&C south of Mina to the end of the line at Keeler.

Some old loading facilities are still present along the C&C/N&C grade at Luning, Nevada.