



Board Chair Report

A performance update from your regional transit agency

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RANDALL D. CHRISMAN
DART Chairman
of the Board

FTA backs expansion, Orange Line receives Record of Decision || *A special message from Randall D. Chrisman*

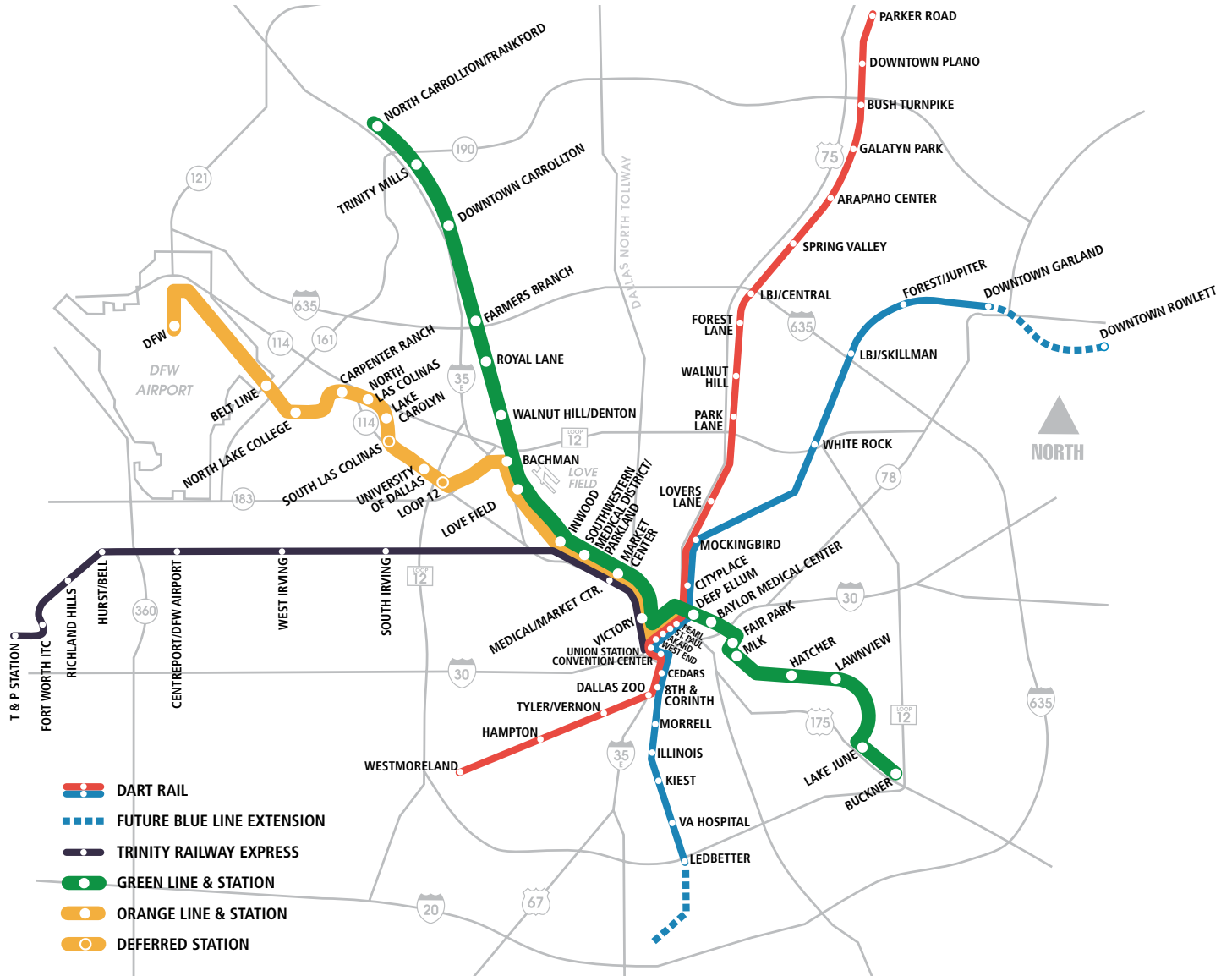
The Federal Transit Administration has issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Orange Line. With receipt of the ROD, we will be able to begin work on the corridor including the purchase of rail to be used on the Orange Line.

The Board will award a contract for Orange Line rail shortly. We awarded a contract for rail for the Blue Line extension to Rowlett earlier this summer.

We have identified locations for rail storage along both lines and expect to begin delivery of the rail November/December. We are still awaiting the ROD from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the use of federal property at DFW Airport. We anticipate the FAA decision later this month.

We are scheduled to review design-build contract proposals

for both the Orange and Blue lines in late October. Irving will have representation on the bid evaluation team for the Orange Line and Rowlett will have representation on the Blue Line evaluation team. The cities previously were involved in selecting the teams competing for the two projects. We anticipate awarding both projects in the December/January time frame.





DART ridership sets record for third straight month

July ridership on bus, light rail, Trinity Railway Express (TRE) and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes reached another new high of 10.8 million trips eclipsing the previous record set in June of 10.4 million trips.

For the first time, DART Rail exceeded 70,000 average weekday trips for the month setting another ridership record. The TRE also set a record in average weekday ridership with more than 11,200 trips. HOV usage was up 45.1% over July 2007.

July Average Weekday Ridership	
HOV Lanes	163,460
DART Bus	157,244
DART Rail	70,487
Trinity Railway Express	11,234

One of the areas where we've experienced growth has been in our express bus service. Earlier this month we added an early morning trip for Bus Route 206 from the Glenn Heights Transit Center. While the buses are still full and there is some waiting for the next bus, the early indications are

our additional service has helped. We've also added capacity on the Irving and Telecom Flex Route lines as well as Route 283 from the Lake Ray Hubbard Park & Ride. We're continuing to evaluate other service adjustments to help respond to rising ridership on specific routes and trips.

Board sets legislative agenda for 2009

Our top priority in Austin next session is legislation that will provide clarification on DART's ability to issue long-term debt. New legislation will clarify DART's ability to issue bonds paid back with revenues toward bonds, whereas current law provides that operation and maintenance costs must receive the first pledge of revenues. This change will enhance DART's bond credit ratings and provide us with additional capacity to issue long-term debt. By enhancing our bond ratings we'll improve our ability to move projects forward more quickly. That's especially important as construction costs continue to rise.

Other agenda items include pursuing legislation that would provide DART the statutory ability to charge differential rates for parking. We also will work with the other transit authorities in the state to exempt the agencies from the state motor fuels tax. We will continue monitoring the ongoing Rail North Texas legislative initiative to seek a menu of options to fund additional passenger rail lines across the region.

State Fair Shuttle returns Sept. 27

Again this year we will offer the best ride to the State Fair of Texas: our shuttle from Pearl Station. The shuttle runs weekends during the Fair, costs \$5 and will take customers to the Superpages.com Center inside the fairgrounds. Details are available at www.DART.org/StateFair.

To celebrate the arrival of the Green Line at Fair Park next year, guests of the Fair will be able to see a new DART Super Light Rail Vehicle (SLRV) at the future Fair Park Station at the Parry/Exposition entrance. We began putting the SLRVs into service earlier this year and will have even more of them ready to go next year. This is a great opportunity to see the future of DART Rail and learn more about the Green Line, the longest light rail project under construction in North America.

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