



Board Chair Report

A performance update from your regional transit agency

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RANDALL D. CHRISMAN
DART Chairman
of the Board

DART ridership setting records

A special message from Randall D. Chrisman

May Ridership 2008

Bus	DART Rail	TRE	Fixed Route Total	HOV	Total System
3,835,923	1,584,138	222,570	5,642,631	4,639,450	10,282,081

in bus service. Through the first eight months of fiscal year 2008 total bus ridership is down 1.1% compared with the same time last year. Most of the decline in bus ridership is a result of changing neighborhoods, primarily those with a large number of apartment teardowns. In those cases, riders

have left the neighborhood. We are continuing to review demographic data in order to adjust routes accordingly.

By contrast, ridership on express, shuttles, and transit center feeder routes is up over last year.

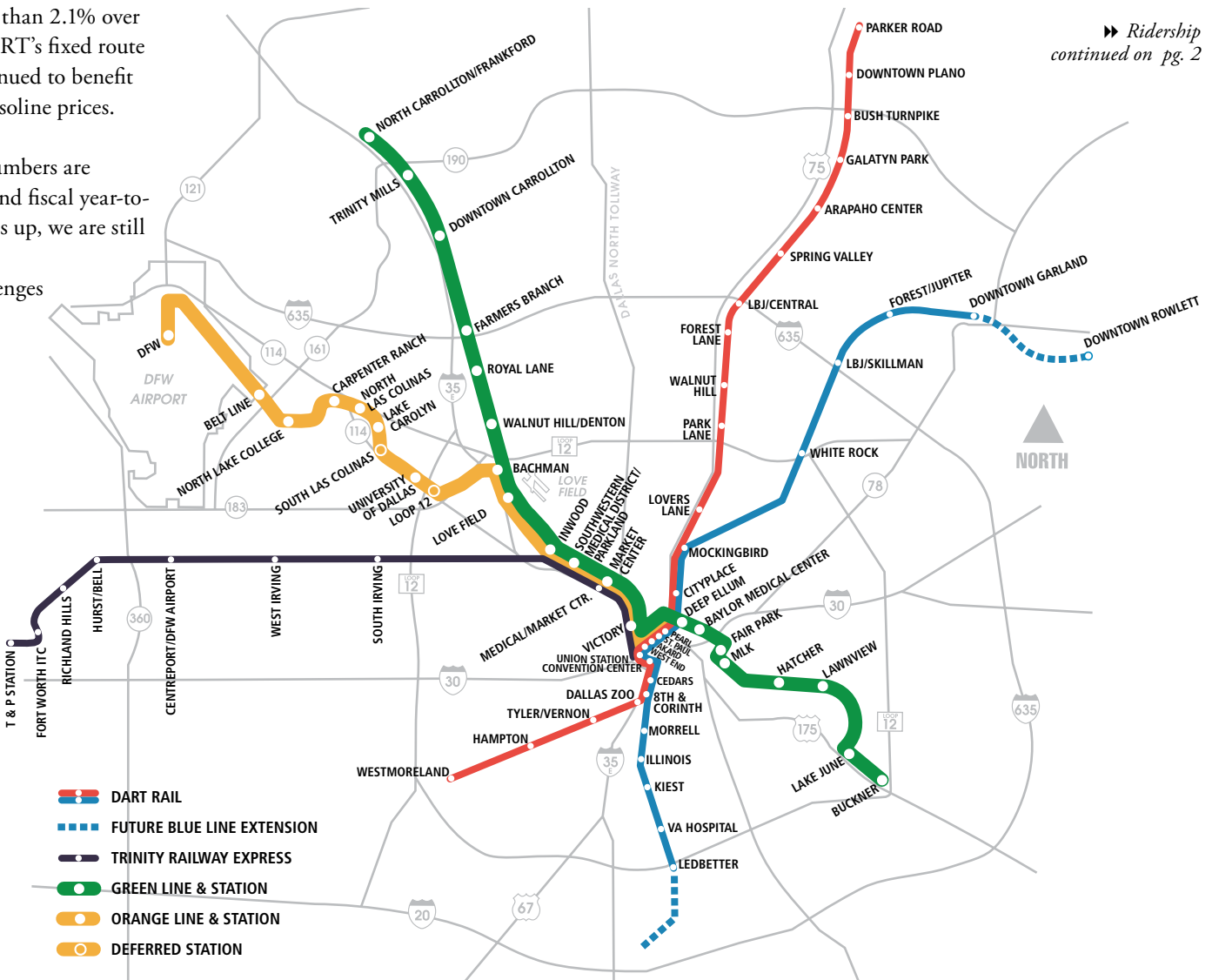
DART Rail is up 5.4% and TRE is up 7.1% for that same period. To help stimulate ridership in all modes we have launched an advertising campaign to remind commuters about the great value we offer. Look for the ads in print and on TV or listen for them on the radio.

More room on board

Our first larger-capacity Super Light Rail Vehicle (SLRV) began carrying passengers Monday

DART had its busiest month ever providing nearly 10.3 million trips in the month of May. Up more than 2.1% over May 2007, DART's fixed route ridership continued to benefit from higher gasoline prices.

While these numbers are encouraging, and fiscal year-to-date ridership is up, we are still dealing with ridership challenges



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Ridership setting records

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morning, June 23. It travels on the Blue Line between Downtown Garland and Ledbetter Stations. Two additional SLRVs are in testing and scheduled to be in service next month.

The SLRV, a modified DART Light Rail Vehicle with a low-floor center section, will immediately add room for more customers. The center section adds seating capacity for about 25 more passengers and improves access through level boarding, which will allow passengers with disabilities – plus people with strollers, bicycles and the like – to step or roll directly onto the trains without using mechanical lifts. DART is modifying all of its 115 rail cars. The vehicle conversion is scheduled for completion by the end of 2010.



Level boarding at St. Paul Station

The SLRVs get their name because of their greater length and added passenger capacity. They seat approximately 100 passengers compared to 75 on the current vehicles. Standing passengers on the vehicle can nearly double the capacity. The vehicles are designed in partnership with our rail vehicle manufacturer Kinkisharyo of Osaka, Japan, and are assembled at two DART facilities in Dallas, providing an added economic boost to our region.

To take full advantage of the new cars we are retrofitting our rail stations to accommodate level boarding. Level boarding construction continues at Akard Station. That station is scheduled for reopening shortly. Work at West End starts in July. Because of heavy passenger loads and the interconnection between rail and bus services, we will build a temporary platform while West End Station is being modified. Other stations will be modified over the next two years.

Orange, Blue Line updates

With the 20-year Financial Plan in place, we're accelerating the purchase of rail for the Orange and Blue lines in order to mitigate the impact of rising steel prices globally. In addition, in preparation for the new lines and to help meet our schedule commitments, we're working with the cities of Irving and Rowlett to verify utility locations and are purchasing the real estate necessary for expansion.

The request for proposals to build the Orange and Blue lines are due in October with the planned contract award around the end of the year. Since issuing the request for proposals in April we have conducted meetings with the five teams who are competing for the two design-build contracts. We're using the design-build contract delivery method to construct the first two segments of the Orange Line and the Blue Line extension because we believe it will expedite the overall project schedule through concurrent efforts on design and construction.

Sales tax

Sales tax receipts for April were up 8.36% over April 2007. Year-to-date we are 6.48% ahead of last year. April receipts were up 3.15% better than budget, and year-to-date we are 2.5% (\$5.8 million) ahead of budget. While this is excellent news, we will continue to monitor the evolving regional economic environment and the impact of growing ridership and record bus diesel prices on our budget.

Diesel prices

Our contract price for bus diesel has broken through the \$4 per gallon ceiling. DART is now paying more than \$4.10 per gallon. This is the latest benchmark in the dramatic price increases we have experienced over just the last 12 months. Other transit agencies around the nation are dealing with the same issue and are responding with a mix of fare increases and service cuts. Thanks to the natural gas excise tax rebate we currently benefit from, we have not had to take such measures at this time but may need to consider alternatives in the future.

Fiscal Year 2008 Board of Directors

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