



Board Chair Report

A performance update from your regional transit agency

January 27, 2009 • Vol. 2, No. 1



RANDALL D. CHRISMAN
DART Chairman
of the Board

Rail to Rowlett ready to roll Design-Build team selected for Blue Line

A special message from Randall D. Chrisman

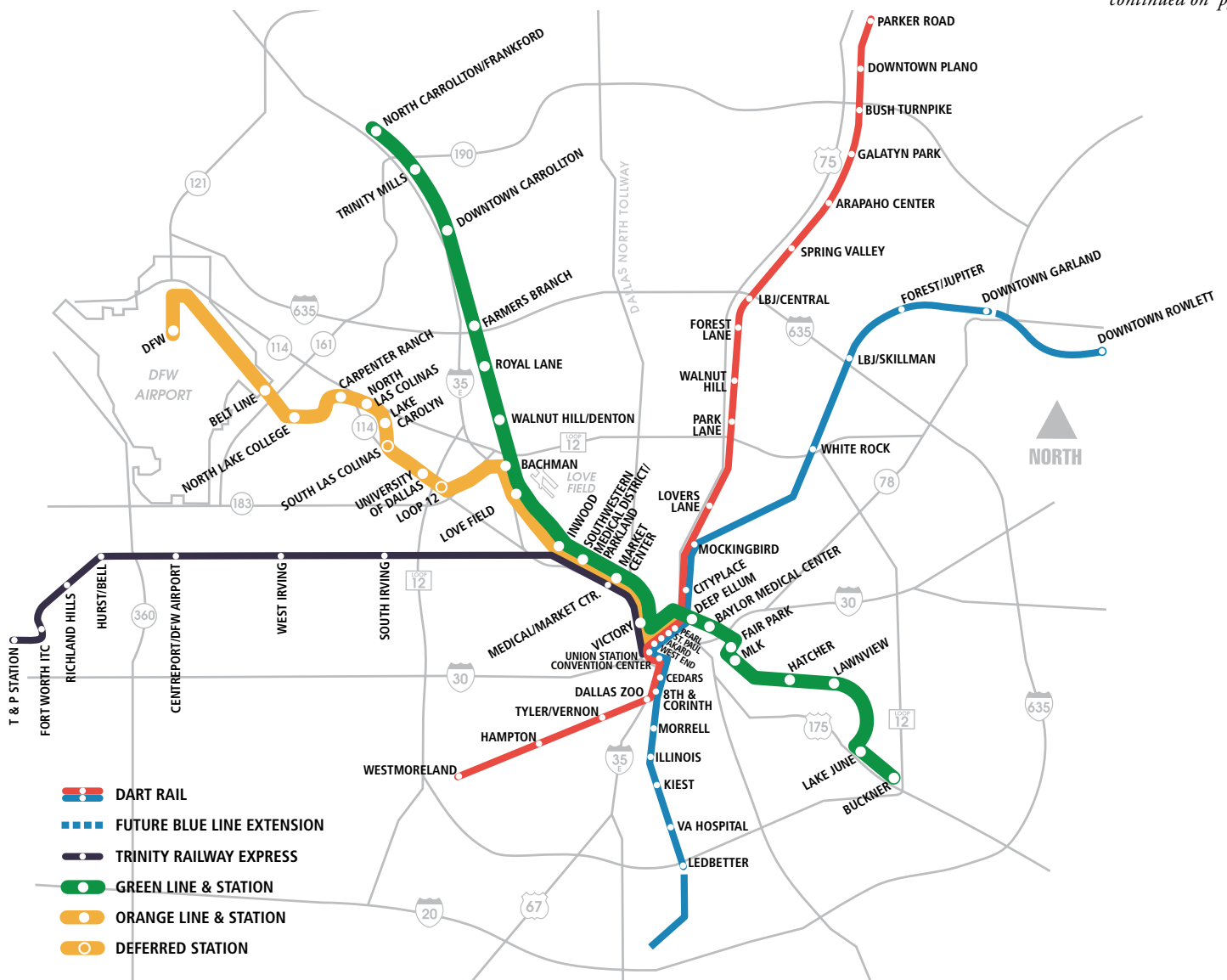
Austin Bridge & Road has been awarded the design-build contract for the DART Rail Blue Line extension from Garland to Rowlett. The nearly five-mile line is scheduled to open in December 2012.

Funding for the \$188-million project is included in DART's 20-year Financial Plan, and work is scheduled to begin in February. The light rail line will

forever link the downtowns of these two important member cities. Rowlett Mayor John Harper says the project will help transform their downtown. "The official approval of the Blue Line is precisely the economic engine we need to foster the kind of development that will mark downtown as an attractive destination for living, working and playing in Rowlett."

The contract award follows the recommendation of a technical review team which include members of DART and Rowlett staff. Proposals were received in October and Board briefings on the contract began in December. A key to the success of the award was the ongoing dialogue throughout the review process between our staff and Rowlett representatives.

» Rail to Rowlett
continued on pg. 2



Rail to Rowlett

► continued from pg. 1



“We are excited and grateful that the dream of having light rail service to downtown Rowlett is becoming reality. We all say a special thanks to the DART Board and DART executives and staff who worked so hard to bring this special event about.”

– Rowlett Mayor John Harper

Austin Bridge also has agreed to exceed DART’s goal of 42% participation by disadvantaged, minority and women-owned (D/M/WBE) businesses. Benefits of this commitment will pump significant dollars in the local economy.

The Blue Line extension, along with the Orange Line to Irving and DFW Airport, is part of one of the nation’s most aggressive rail expansion programs. Leading off with the September 2009 opening of the first phase of the Green Line connecting Victory Station with Fair Park, the completion of the Green Line from Pleasant Grove to Farmers Branch and Carrollton in December 2010, and the final Orange Line section to DFW Airport, DART will more than double our current 45-mile light rail system in 2013. We’re also working on a second rail line through Downtown Dallas followed by a Blue Line extension from Ledbetter Station to UNT Dallas.

Ridership remains strong

Our ridership continued growing through the holidays. In spite of changing gasoline prices, customers are sticking with transit. Fixed route ridership in December was up 5.3% when compared with December 2007. Increases in total ridership by mode for December were as follows:

MODE	% INCREASE
DART Bus	up 3.4
DART Rail	up 8%
Trinity Railway Express	up 15.9%
HOV Lanes	up 40.6%

Fixed route ridership is 5.34% ahead of last year’s total through the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2009. So, we are living up to our mission statement: “DART is your preferred choice of transportation for now and in the future.”

DART monitoring federal economic recovery package

Like transit agencies and state and local governments across the country, DART is closely following the progress of and aggressively pursuing its share of the \$825 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The latest information we have received is \$9 billion has been designated for transit projects nationwide. We are reviewing possible projects for inclusion in the program and are continuing to work with members of the North Texas congressional delegation, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Texas Department of Transportation and the American Public Transportation Association to see how DART can participate in the program if it becomes law.

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