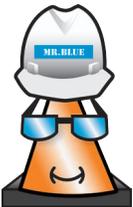




# BLUE LINE EXPRESS

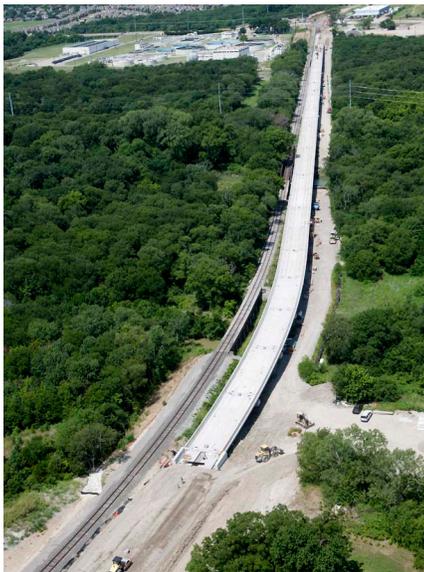
A project report from Dallas Area Rapid Transit | Fall 2011



## Walking the Walk

Signs are prominently displayed near the work sites to show pedestrians where to safely access walk areas.

Please pay attention to these signs and to your environment – especially at high-traffic intersections and crosswalks. If you're walking with children, take special care that they are attentive, too.



## Heading East Fast!

Construction is moving at a steady clip on the Blue Line extension to Rowlett – and milestones are being made by the month. In October, Austin Bridge & Road (DART's prime contractor on the Blue Line extension project) completed six important light rail bridges along the 4.5-mile corridor. These bridges span:

- Kansas City Southern Railway right-of-way (Garland)
- S.H. 78 (Garland)
- S.H. 66 (Garland)
- Commerce St. (Garland)
- Rowlett Creek (Garland/Rowlett)
- Main St. (Rowlett)

With the completion of these structures, the big-ticket work is mostly done. In addition, 50 percent of the rail is in place; at-grade crossings at Rowlett, Dexham,

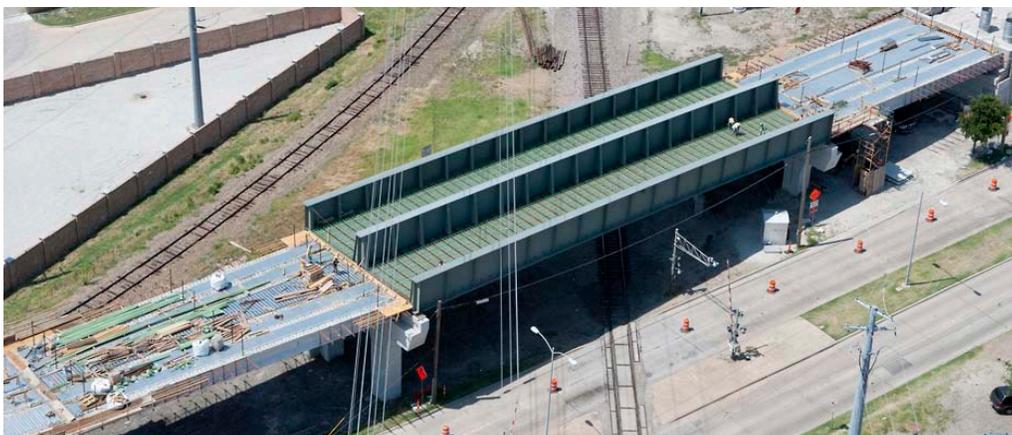
and Centerville roads are complete; and by spring 2012, the traction power sub-station and the catenary system (the overhead wires) will be finished.

The following summer, the familiar yellow trains will make a sneak-preview appearance as DART begins making test runs along the new route.

Meanwhile, the landmark Downtown Rowlett Station is currently 40 percent complete. It is adjacent to the current Rowlett Park & Ride and will feature artwork reflecting Rowlett's dynamic history and life, as well as 750 parking spaces. Construction on the station is on schedule for you to catch the Blue Line in December 2012.



Construction on the station is on schedule for you to catch the Blue Line in December 2012.



**Top Left:** Passengers will travel through the scenic Rowlett Creek Preserve between the Downtown Garland and Downtown Rowlett stations.

**Top Right:** Once crews complete the major structural elements of the new Downtown Rowlett Station, art and design elements like columns, pavers, windscreens and landscaping will be installed.

**Bottom:** The 4.5-mile Blue Line extension includes six bridges, which represent the majority of the project's work.

## Quality Control: The Heart of the Project



For an undertaking as big as the DART Blue Line extension, nothing less than a seasoned and energetic Quality Manager will do.

Austin Bridge & Road's J.D. Nelson fits the bill. In fact, for J.D., quality control is in his academic background and in his blood, as his father has pursued a career in the field for more than 30 years.

J.D. serves as an onsite resource for Austin Bridge & Road's team, helping to prevent and resolve issues in the field. He also is in constant contact with DART personnel,

keeping them abreast of all aspects of Austin Bridge & Road's construction efforts, and helping to craft solutions when needed. J.D. regularly meets with DART to review the extensive documentation involved in a project this size, and to make sure that the contractor is meeting

"DART's contract and design specifications. Constant communication between DART and Austin Bridge & Road is at the heart of the project," he says.

J.D.'s commitment and professionalism play a big role in keeping the Blue Line extension on track for its December 2012 opening.

"Constant communication between DART and Austin Bridge & Road is at the heart of the project."

— J.D. Nelson, Austin Bridge & Road's Quality Manager

## Your New Ride: The DART Light Rail Vehicle (LRV)

- The LRVs were manufactured by Kinkisharyo of Japan and assembled by DART at its assembly facility in Northwest Dallas.
- There are currently 163 LRVs in the DART fleet.
- An LRV consists of three segments; the center segment features "level boarding," meaning wheelchairs, bicycles, strollers and the like can roll right on board without ascending any steps. Accordingly, this center section has

enhanced accommodations for bicycles and the mobility impaired.

- An LRV has approximately the same emissions as a golf cart – virtually none. It is classified as "zero emissions."
- One DART LRV is 123 feet, 8 inches long and weighs 140,000 pounds.
- One LRV seats 100 passengers; standing room bumps that figure up to 160.
- The expected lifespan of an LRV is 30 years.

## Keeping You Up to Speed on Safety

With excitement mounting about the new Blue Line extension, DART and Austin Bridge & Road continue to take DART's safety message to Garland and Rowlett residents. Whether through face-to-face meetings, handout materials or safety-themed giveaways, the goal is to arm you with the latest, up-to-date safety information.

Recent safety education events included a Play Day in the Rainbow Estates neighborhood of Garland, which featured bounce houses, Radio Disney activities,

and snacks supplied by Walgreens and Dos Banderas.

Garland residents also enjoyed entertainment along with education at the Healthy Living Expo, at Mt. Hebron's Unity Fest, and at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Health Fair and Back-to-School Rally.

In Rowlett, DART and Austin Bridge & Road got residents up to speed at the city's National Night Out and the First United Methodist Church Rowlett's Fall Festival.

### Contact Us



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### Want to learn more?

#### Blue Line Project

[www.DART.org/about/expansion/blue.asp](http://www.DART.org/about/expansion/blue.asp)

#### Austin Bridge & Road

[www.austinprojects.com](http://www.austinprojects.com)

(click on Austin Bridge & Road and select DART Blue Line Expansion)

#### Social Media

[facebook.com/dartdallas](https://facebook.com/dartdallas)

[twitter.com/dartmedia](https://twitter.com/dartmedia)

[youtube.com/dartdallas](https://youtube.com/dartdallas)

#### DART Speakers Bureau

214.749.2524

