

# BLUE LINE EXPRESS



A project report from  
Dallas Area Rapid Transit || March 2010



## Leadership Rowlett takes DART Tour

Recently, the 2010 Leadership Rowlett class participated in a special Blue Line tour, which involved riding DART Rail from the Downtown Garland Station to DART Headquarters at Akard Station in downtown Dallas. From there, the class took a bus tour to DART's Service and Inspection Facility and Rail Control Center.

Chris Masters, DART's assistant vice president of Rail Program Support, gave a brief Blue Line Extension project update, and Patrick Hamilton, DART's senior manager of Operations Control, conducted the guided tour.

Sponsored by the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Rowlett is an

annual, nine-month educational program devoted to the development of emerging community leaders through exposure to real life civic and business experiences. The program is open to anyone living and/or working within the City of Rowlett. For more information or to request a Leadership Rowlett application, contact the Chamber office at (972) 475-3200.



## Radio Disney brings safety measures to Rowlett schools

The Radio Disney – DART Safety Program, now in its ninth year, promotes safe behaviors near rail construction sites to elementary and middle school students.



Recently, program organizers hosted three Radio Disney programs at Coyle Middle School, Stephens Elementary School and Rowlett Elementary School in Rowlett. The high-energy, music-filled program consisted of a series of safety-related trivia questions posed by the Radio Disney host, Jay Jensen, along with entertaining student/teacher dance contests and giveaways.

At the Radio Disney network, kids help pick the music and are encouraged to interact directly with the Radio Disney studio. The network's playlist includes recording artists like Miley Cyrus, Hannah Montana, Jonas Brothers, Taylor Swift, and Jordin Sparks. Locally, Radio Disney can be heard on AM 620 – Dallas.



### Blue Line Facts at a Glance

- 4.5 miles
- Total Project Cost: \$275 million
- Austin Bridge & Road (prime contractor): \$188 million
- 42% participation goal for Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises
- Opening to the public in December 2012
- Blue Line service to Downtown Garland opened in 2002



### Construction Safety Tips

Be aware of your surroundings around the Blue Line

extension project, just as you would near any construction site. Here are some tips. Share them with your children!

- Walk only in designated areas
- Adhere to all posted signs
- Be aware, alert and observant at all times in construction zones
- To avoid distraction, do not use cell phones in construction zones
- Do not enter construction sites

# Blue Line Profile

## D. J. Evans, Safety Supervisor

One of the most important aspects of any project is safety. On the Blue Line Extension project, D. J. Evans gets the job done when it comes to safety. Evans is charged with training employees, conducting safety inspections and ensuring the safety of team members and the public.

“I live in the Garland – Rowlett area. This is more than a job to me. I take it personally because I want my community to understand the importance of safety on this project,” Evans says.

Evans is owner and president of The Safety Advisors, a full-service consulting firm that specializes in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and worker compensation compliance issues. On the Blue Line Extension project, Evans holds the position of safety supervisor – a role is usually reserved for an employee of the general contractor,

in this case, Austin Bridge & Road. But DART and Austin agreed that Evans was well-suited for the task. Evans has 35 years of experience in safety and 28 years as the head of The Safety Advisors.

“The Blue Line Extension will bring us closer to so many things we like to do outside of our neighborhood. My wife loves it, and I know you will, too,” Evans says.

“I live in the Garland – Rowlett area. This is more than a job to me. I take it personally because I want my community to understand the importance of safety on this project.”

– D. J. Evans, Safety Supervisor



## Project Update

The Blue Line Extension linking downtown Garland and downtown Rowlett began construction in December 2009 and is scheduled to open in December 2012. The following is a list of specific construction elements under way in the first quarter of 2010:

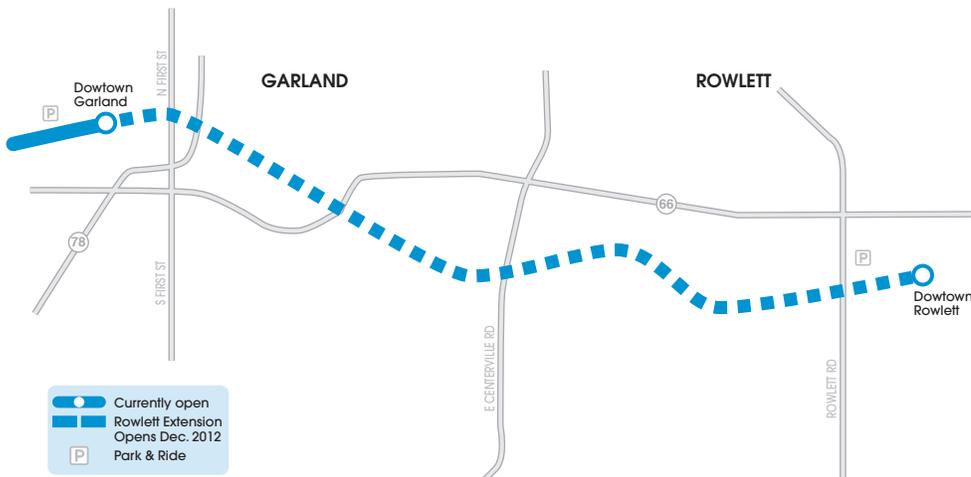
### Garland

- Relocating franchise utilities (Atmos, Verizon, Time Warner, Sprint, Oncor)
- Designing and building a new Dallas, Garland and Northeastern Railroad (DGNO) freight bridge adjacent to an existing DGNO freight bridge at State Highway 78
- Reconfiguring existing DGNO freight bridge at State Highway 78 to new light rail transit (LRT) bridge

- Realigning existing DGNO freight line at State Highway 78
- Building and designing new LRT bridge at State Highway 66, adjacent to existing DGNO freight bridge
- Performing earthwork and grading operations
- Constructing storm drainage systems

### Rowlett

- Relocating franchise utilities (Atmos, Verizon, Time Warner, Sprint, Oncor)
- Building and designing new LRT bridge adjacent to existing DGNO freight bridge at Rowlett Creek
- Building and designing new LRT bridge adjacent to existing DGNO freight bridge at Main Street
- Performing earthwork and grading operations
- Constructing storm drainage systems



## Contact Us



**Dawn Dorman**  
*(Community Affairs Representative)*  
214-749-2598

**Austin Bridge & Road**  
*(Prime Contractor)*  
972-651-0414



## Websites & Social Media

### 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

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

**Be on the lookout for DART's doorhangers and postcards of the Blue Line Extension upcoming activities.**

