

# BLUE LINE EXPRESS

A project report from Dallas Area Rapid Transit | Spring 2012

## Blue Line FUN Facts

- **How many feet of track for the Blue Line?**
  - **Over 100,000 linear feet of rail**  
*19 miles or the length of 333 Rowlett High School "Eagles" football fields (33,333 yards)*
- **How many rail ties throughout the alignment?**
  - **Approximately 17,000 concrete rail ties**  
*Equal in length to driving two roundtrips between Downtown Rowlett and Downtown Rockwall*
- **How much wire on the OCS System?**
  - **Over 111,000 linear feet**  
*Nearly two feet for every person in Rowlett (population 56,199)*
- **How much concrete was poured in Park & Ride, Martin/Melcer/Richardson construction?**
  - **Approximately 16,900 square yards**  
*Enough to cover the infields of 19 major league baseball teams*
- **How much vegetation has been planted?**
  - **Over 18,000 shrubs and trees**  
*Equals 6.5 times the number of Rowlett High School students (2,700 students)*
- **How many structures built?**
  - **6 light rail bridges**  
*Equal to the number of Dallas Mavericks championships: 3 Division Championships, 2 Western Conference Championships, and 1 NBA Championship*
- **How many work hours/no incidents?**
  - **1,061,000 hours worked (end of March 2012)/1 lost time incident**  
*It would take a full-time Rowlett city employee 26,525 weeks to work 1,061,000 hours. That equates to 510 years.*

## Passing the Test Run with Flying Colors

When the crew flipped the switch, they made Rowlett history. The mayor, city manager, city council members, police officials, and DART board members were on hand for the April 25, 2012, Live Wire test – the first run of the new Blue Line from Downtown Garland to Downtown Rowlett stations. The train ran without a hitch; it's "all systems go" for the December 3, 2012 opening.

"Who would have thought when we started DART in 1983 and opened that first light rail line in 1996, that we'd be where we are today," said DART President Gary Thomas. "Our charter was to give the people the choice to get out of their cars and get on the train and the bus – and with projects like the Blue Line Extension, we're doing just that."

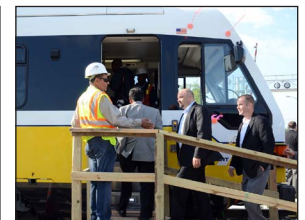
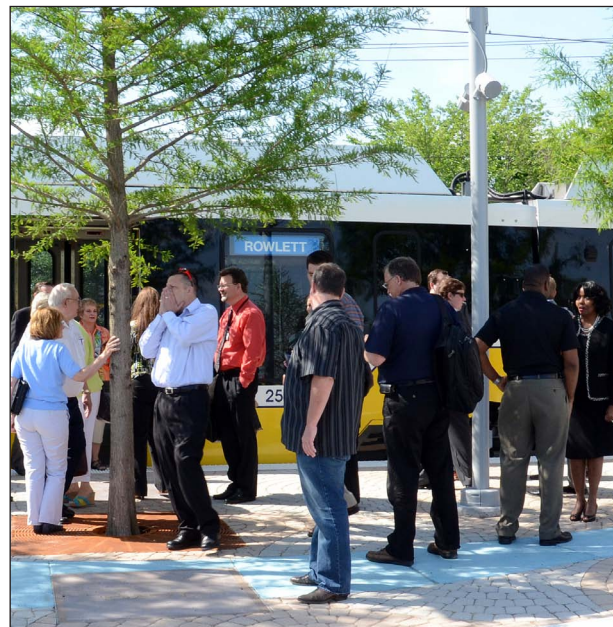
Devin Manke, Construction/System manager, said that each component

of the system will come under careful scrutiny; DART light rail vehicles will now travel at speeds exceeding 45 miles per hour, at all hours. The public can expect to see the installation of systems such as signals, traffic control devices, and vehicular and pedestrian gates.

Components being tested include the overhead catenary cables that convey electricity; traction power sub-stations, which are positioned approximately every mile along the rail corridor; and automatic warning signal cabinets at road crossings.

"Each level of testing ensures that the parts and components work safely and adhere to stringent quality standards," Manke said.

The Blue Line testing will be complete at the end of August.



## Make Safety a Habit – Now and Later

Now is the time to get in the habit of being safe in and around the DART Blue Line. Your family should make it second nature! Teach your children to follow the safety rules now and when the new alignment opens for service on December 3, 2012.

Those rules are clear: Obey all signs. Don't interfere with railroad property. Never stop on the tracks at any time. Never cross the tracks when the gates are down. Only cross the tracks at road crossings. Finally, report suspicious or unlawful behavior to the local or DART police.

Being observant of your surroundings can help keep everyone be secure. Using safety measures now, in and around the Blue Line Extension alignment, can put you and others on track for a safe rail experience later.



## Taking the Message to the People

DART wants you to know about the Blue Line Extension's most recent developments. The latest news is the system testing – it's currently under way and will continue through the summer. DART has been stressing the importance of safety during this time. As Downtown Rowlett Station's opening draws closer, the public will continue to see the hustle and bustle of work crews. Please continue to keep children out of their path.

DART is always eager to share information with the citizens in Rowlett and Garland. Let us know about your event or gathering, and we'll be glad to bring DART's message to you, too. Contact Dawn Dorman for more information!



## Project Update

- DART Blue Line Extension Light Rail System Testing has begun.
- Bus Loop and Park & Ride (Rowlett Station) are 99% complete.
- Light Rail Transit signal cabling is 99% complete.
- Work on the overhead catenary (electrical) systems is in progress.
- Live wire testing Phase 1 is complete.

### Contact Us



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

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

### 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

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#### DART Speakers Bureau

214.749.2524

