DART and its prime contractor, Austin Bridge & Road, have begun building a 4.5-mile extension of the Blue Line that will take it from Downtown Garland to a new station in Downtown Rowlett. Here are some road closures to be aware of:

Garland
- **Walnut St.** – Various lanes on Walnut Street will be closed from Downtown Garland Station to east of Highway 78 (Garland Road), where Austin Bridge & Road will be constructing a bridge. Work in this area will begin in July.

Rowlett
- **Dexham Road** – Dexham Road Crossing Closure scheduled to begin in August. Work will consist of various street closures throughout the summer and into 2011.

- **Main Street** – Road will be closed for Main Street Bridge construction. Work is scheduled to begin late September.

- **Rowlett Road** – A new at-grade crossing will be constructed between Main Street and State Highway 66. Various lanes will be closed over a 145-day period.

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**Blue Line Facts At a Glance**

- 4.5 miles
- Total Project Cost: $275 million
- Opening to the public in December 2012
- Austin Bridge & Road (Prime Contractor)
- 42% participation goal for Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises
- Rowlett Creek get its name from Daniel Rowlett. He came to Texas in 1835
- Rowlett’s Population: Approximately 56,000
- Garland was incorporated in 1891

**Construction Safety Tips**

Be aware of your surroundings around the Blue Line extension project, just as you would near any construction site. Here are a few safety tips. Share them with your friends and family.

- 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
Safety
Jobsite Safety Drill

What if a driver had a heart attack while driving near a Blue Line construction zone, injuring himself and a worker? What if a worker had a heat stroke, or fell from a crane? How quickly could emergency responders get to the scene? The short answer: Very. The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has strict guidelines for dealing with situations such as these, and managers at both DART and Austin Bridge & Road have created detailed plans to deal with medical emergencies.

DART and Austin Bridge & Road recently conducted a simulated heat stress and fall protection emergency drill in conjunction with the Rowlett Fire and EMS Departments. Near the corner of Richards and Main Street in Rowlett, a worker simulated heat stroke symptoms while in a three foot deep trench. The response was rapid – taking only 13 minutes for responders to get to the site, triage the patient, and prepare him for transport to the hospital.

“Simulations like this help us understand the importance of partnerships with emergency responders,” said D.J. Evans, DART Blue Line Safety Supervisor. “We could do a good job of handling emergencies on our end, but if we aren’t communicating with our Police, Fire, EMT, hospital and government partners effectively, we will have failed ourselves and the public. Effective coordination is the key to safety.”

This was just one of a number of simulations DART and Austin Bridge & Road has undertaken with emergency responders to prepare for every conceivable emergency.

“Simulations like this help us understand the importance of partnerships with emergency responders,”

— D. J. Evans, DART Blue Line Safety Supervisor

Working With the Community

Dirt will be flying in earnest this summer along the new extension, and with kids out of school, safety is paramount. Accordingly, DART and prime contractor Austin Bridge & Road are paying special attention to safety measures around construction zones. Trucks, trains, haulers, bridges and big equipment can be like magnets for curious youngsters. Parents should warn children to stay away from construction zones. These areas are always clearly and brightly marked, fenced in where appropriate, and often are surrounded by tape or other indicators.

To help parents remind their youngsters about safety, DART and Austin Bridge & Road will take its safety message to a number of Garland/Rowlett events throughout the summer.

Look for DART and Austin Bridge & Road at the following events and locations.

- Mt. Hebron Baptist Church – Arts & Athletic Camp – Garland
- Mt. Hebron Baptist Church – Unity Fest – Garland
- Gale Fields Recreation Center – Back to School Event – Garland
- First Baptist Church – Rowlett
- Rowlett Community Center – Rowlett

Report any suspicious or unsafe activity to Austin Bridge & Road Hotline, (972) 651-0414.

Such tests will be conducted periodically throughout the life of the project. For more information about Blue Line job site safety, please contact Austin Bridge & Road at (972) 651-0414.