



BLUE LINE EXPRESS

A project report from Dallas Area Rapid Transit | Winter 2012



Be Safe and Alert!

Soon, you will be seeing DART's familiar yellow trains making test runs along the new tracks.

Be careful to watch for signal lights and signage. Never walk on the tracks. Continue to watch for temporary lane closures along the new light rail route, particularly near the at-grade crossings. Safety takes everyone's awareness and cooperation. *"It's Your DART."*

If You're Walking . . .

- ◉ ALWAYS pause and look both ways before crossing the tracks.
- ◉ NEVER cross tracks when the gates are down, or if you hear the bell or see the lights.

If You're Driving . . .

- ◉ HEED all warning/instruction signs – STOP HERE ON RED, DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS.
- ◉ RESPECT crossing gates.
- ◉ ALWAYS look both ways before attempting to cross tracks.
- ◉ NEVER go around gates in the down position.

DART Blue Line Extension Facts at a Glance

- ◉ Total length, from Downtown Garland to Downtown Rowlett: 4.5 miles
- ◉ Cost: \$360 million
- ◉ Construction started in 2009
- ◉ To enhance safety and provide plenty of visibility, DART has installed over 48 lights at the new station
- ◉ Revenue service begins December 3, 2012

Our New Rail Gateway Almost Complete

It's full speed ahead on the Blue Line extension from Garland to Rowlett. DART and its prime contractor, Austin Bridge & Road (ABR), have completed six bridges, a new bus loop at the Downtown Rowlett Station, and additional parking that gives the station about 790 parking spaces.

The station itself is rapidly taking shape, as well – and it promises to be a real showpiece. The platform, which is nearly complete, will include a glass mosaic of pastoral scenes. A landscaped walkway will feature paneled walls depicting flowers, birds and trees; and the walls will culminate in an undulating circle that recalls cascading water. This attention to local detail reflects the involvement of community members participating in the station's design.

Rowlett city officials are thinking big about the area surrounding the station, as well.

They believe DART Rail will unlock the potential of the city's Downtown Transit Oriented Development area, as well as the Pecan Grove Waterfront Entertainment District.

"The Blue Line is the right economic engine at the right time," says Rowlett Mayor Todd Gottel. "The station is the gateway to our city's future."

In December, all eyes will be on Rowlett as the city becomes part of America's largest light rail system. Garland will enjoy a new source of visitors, while employees and shoppers will have a new way to easily reach the city and all it has to offer. At the same time Rowlett citizens will have a new gateway to 13 cities in the DART Service Area.



System Testing Ensures Precision & Safety

Testing on DART's Blue Line extension begins on April 25. Over the next several months, DART will test everything from the communication systems to making sure the extension integrates with the rest of the light rail system.

The testing involves months of verifying that all electrically-designed and constructed components are operating correctly. During the testing, the three inter-related aspects of communication, signaling and traction power will be operated under

scrutiny to ensure that they synchronize with precision and run the light rail vehicles safely as programmed.

The new segment of Blue Line must seamlessly integrate into the existing Garland Station, as well as DART's Train Control Center. Motorist and pedestrian safety are also important parts of the system testing. Having trains operating on the line serves as a regular reminder that the rail corridor is active and everyone needs to be on the lookout for trains, particularly at key intersections.

Learn How to Ride!

The train is coming and it's time to get on board! DART and Austin Bridge & Road will be participating in various events around town and sharing DART information about your new ride.

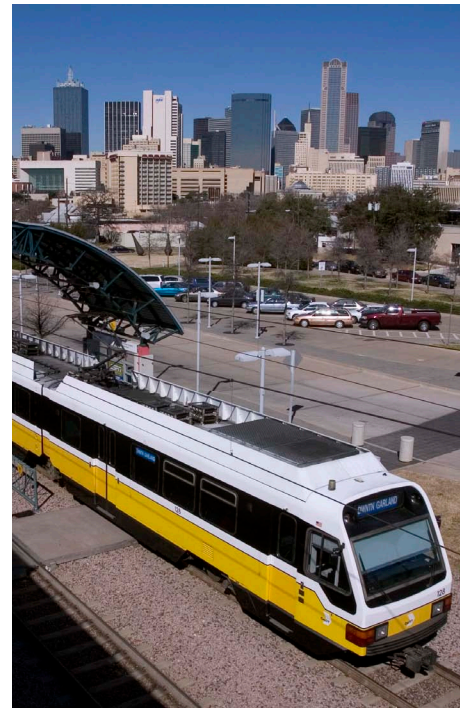
Helpful presentations and materials will explain how to use the ticket vending machines, as well as how to purchase reduced, weekly, monthly and annual passes. There is also helpful information about how to plan your daily commute, safety, bike lockers and racks, events on the line and much more.

Here are just some of the events where DART and Austin Bridge & Road will be distributing information:

- **In Rowlett:** Senior Health Fair (4/14), Touch-A-Truck (5/26), Rowlett Police Department's Children's Bike Rodeo (6/4), National Night Out (10/2), and Taste & Trade (10/23).

- **In Garland:** Cinco de Mayo Celebration (4/28), Taste of Garland (4/28), Unity Fest (8/31), and Healthy Living Expo (9/22).

Don't miss the train! Let us know if you want us to present information on DART and the Blue Line at your event. Just call DART Community Affairs at 214.749.2543. We'd love to help your group or organization get on board!



Contact Us



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Want to learn more?

Blue Line Project

www.DART.org/about/expansion/blue.asp

Austin Bridge & Road

www.austinprojects.com
(click on Austin Bridge & Road and select DART Blue Line Expansion)

Social Media

facebook.com/dartdallas
twitter.com/dartmedia
youtube.com/dartdallas

DART Speakers Bureau

214.749.2524

Super Saturday is Dec. 1

DART is known for hosting wonderful Super Saturday celebrations before revenue service begins. December 1 will be no different. So mark your calendar for tons of family fun, plus a chance to be among the first to ride the new rail segment between Garland and Rowlett. Watch for more details coming soon.

