



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

REGION VI
Arkansas, Louisiana,
New Mexico, Oklahoma,
Texas

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Fort Worth, TX 76102
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June 28, 2010

Mr. Kelvin Solco
Manager, Southwest Region Airports Division
Federal Aviation Administration
2601 Meacham Boulevard
Fort Worth, TX 76137-4298

Dear Mr. Solco:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), the local lead agency, intend to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study the implementation of rail passenger service on the 26-mile long Cotton Belt Corridor from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFWIA) to the existing DART Red Line. The alignment extends eastward from the Fort Worth Transit Authority's (The T's) DFW North Station, within the DART owned Cotton Belt right-of-way approximately 2 miles of the 26-mile corridor traverses the northern portion of DFWIA.

Since the project will examine an alignment that extends through DFWIA, and because of your agency's jurisdiction over airports and expertise in airport planning and analysis, we are requesting you to be a cooperating agency.

The project proposes a new regional rail line to provide express rail passenger service within the Cotton Belt Corridor. The primary purpose of the project is to provide passenger rail connections that will improve mobility, accessibility and system linkages to major employment, population and activity centers. The alignment being considered was developed through consultation with DFWIA staff.

The Scoping process for the EIS will be initiated through the publishing of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. The project is expected to enhance airport access by providing an alternate means of travel and improving mobility for residents throughout the DART Service Area by linking with the regional transit system.

Potential environmental impacts associated with the project are anticipated to be minimal but may include:

- Potential floodplain and/or wetland impacts;
- Construction related impacts;
- Others as determined in the EIS process.

Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its jurisdiction and expertise. The following are activities we will take to maximize interagency cooperation:

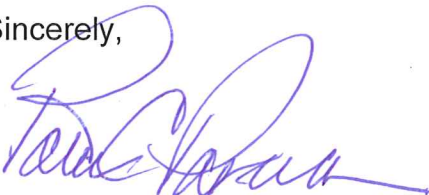
- Invite you to coordination meetings;
- Consult with you on relevant technical studies that will be required for the project;
- Organize joint field reviews with you;
- Provide you with project information, including study results;
- Encourage your agency to use the above documents to express your views on subjects within your jurisdiction or expertise; and,
- Include information in the project environmental documents that cooperating agencies need to discharge their National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) responsibilities and any other requirements regarding jurisdictional approvals, permits, licenses, and/or clearances.

It is anticipated that an Airspace Study may be required. Additional analysis may also be needed by FAA environmental specialists to ensure that FAA policies and procedures for preparing an EIS are met. Your cooperation in expediting these studies will be appreciated.

You have the right to expect that the EIS will enable you to discharge your jurisdictional responsibilities. Likewise you have the obligation to tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met. We expect that at the end of the process, the EIS will satisfy your NEPA requirements including those related to environmental consequences and mitigation.

You are also welcome to attend an inter-agency scoping meeting that will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 28 at DART Headquarters located at 1401 Pacific Avenue in Dallas, TX. We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please contact Lynn Hayes, FTA Community Planner at 817/978-0565, or John Hoppie, DART Project Manager, at 214/749-2525.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Patrick
Regional Administrator

cc: Lynn Hayes, FTA Region VI
Paul Blackford, FAA
Jeffery Fegan, DFWIA
Gary Thomas, DART
Steve Salin, DART
Eron Linn, DART
John Hoppie, DART
Richard Ruddell, FWTA