



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line Project Quiet Zones Questions & Answers

(ID# 25; Received May 25, 2019; Answered June 10, 2019)

Q: How will the Betterments/Mitigations Interact with/connect to the Quiet Zone/Quad Gate?

A: The quiet zone mitigations are independent of the sound wall mitigations. Through the design process the interface between the 2 elements will be coordinated to ensure compliance with all local, state and federal requirements for quiet zones and noise mitigation.

(ID# 118; Received June 27, 2019; Answered August 2, 2019)

Q: 1- Did Dart incorporate the entire city of Dallas resolution for the Cotton Belt?

A: The City of Dallas resolution was considered in the project approved by the DART Board in August 2018. DART Board Resolution No. 180084 outlined a program for additional potential betterments to address the City of Dallas resolution in addition to mitigation measures. The following provisions were incorporated in the project:

- Cypress Waters Station and Knoll Trail Station in City of Dallas
- Grade-separated street crossings at Hillcrest Road and Coit Road
- 15-foot sound wall (12-foot sound wall plus additional 3 feet for screening)
- 12-foot or 15-foot betterment wall based on input from residential adjacent property owners
- Vibration mitigation in residential areas to address the 65vdB standard
- Landscaping to reduce visual impacts
- Quiet zones based on FRA approval of application from City
- Vehicle noise level restriction at maximum headways
- Crossing bell mitigation
- Cooperation in the implementation of the hike and bike trail as funds become available
- Freight abandonment between Waterview Parkway and Knoll Trail Drive in Dallas

(ID# 155; Received July 3, 2019; Answered July 31, 2019)

Q: You reference in your email below the sound including bells. We were told this would be a quiet zone without bells. With regard to the bells, what bells will make a sound and where will the bells be located?

A: Although there are elements of continuity at all Cotton Belt Stations, DART is seeking input from the site-specific committee to define elements that will be reflective of the community near the station. The site-specific committee is expected to attend the kick-off meeting on July 24, 2019, as well as the subsequent four meetings outlined in Exhibit I of the subject binder. Throughout the collaborative process, DART invites the committee to meet with the station artist and design team members; define what is important to the community; provide input on the content of the artistic value statement prepared by the station artist; brainstorm on options for station design-including materials, pattern and colors; and work to reach consensus on a final design. The Art and Design program is further outlined in the briefing shared with city staff on March 27, 2019, and with the council on June 18, 2019.

(ID# 191; Received July 24, 2019; Answered September 30, 2019)

Q: Rough surface walls on the track side will break up the sound. Smooth surface will reflect the sound and be louder

A: The sound wall will be designed to optimize sound mitigation and, after implementing quiet zones, mitigate the potential noise impacts below the threshold of noise impact.



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(ID# 192; Received July 24, 2019; Answered September 30, 2019)

Q: How many decibels is generated at operating speed of 45mph, which was said to be operating speed.

A: The FEIS Section 4.14 identifies the assumption that noise levels were projected based on the DART DMU vehicle noise specification, the Project's Operating Plan and the prediction model specified in the FTA guidance manual. The vehicle manufacture is still at an early stage of design and cannot yet provide the exact vehicle sound level at 45mph. However, based on analytical estimates, the noise level generated at an operating speed of 45 mph is estimated to be 75 dBA measured at a distance of 50ft from the train. Additionally, the vehicle manufacturer has committed to be less than the maximum 76 dBA at 50 ft from the train as stipulated by the technical specification in the vehicle contract.

(ID# 204; Received August 1, 2019; Answered October 24, 2019)

Q: Identify all the safety measures you are putting at Meandering Way/Rocky Top crossing including the tracks crossing the walking trail.

Note City Council requirements:

3. Mitigation and Betterments are provided throughout the residential communities in Far North Dallas to mitigate adverse impacts including, at a minimum:

- a. Continuous 15-foot high concrete, sound-absorbing walls that meet the 3dBA Ldn limits at all residences on both sides of the rail line,
- b. Tire-derived aggregate for track ballast to reduce vibration,
- c. Enhanced landscaping to reduce visual impacts,
- d. Double gated, lower height crossings and quiet zones at all at-grade street crossings to improve safety and to reduce noise,
- e. Train Noise shall not exceed current community noise levels by more than 3dBa Ldn at maximum headways,
- f. Vibration levels – the standard of reference for human exposure to vibrations in buildings will be ANSI S2.7-1983 (R2006), or 65 vdB peak vibration level,
- g. Directional crossing bells in all quiet zones that adhere to the lowest/quietest federal safety limits. DART will employ all practical measures to obscure sound intrusions from the bells into the residences, and ...”

A: The safety measures included in the project at Meandering Way/Rocky Top are:

- a.) 15' mitigative sound walls are provided on both sides of the rail in this area required by the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS);
- b.) Tire Derived Aggregate (TDA) will be provided as required for vibration mitigation in the FEIS that includes 700 feet of TDA between Hillcrest and Meandering Way under both east bound and west bound tracks.
- c.) The residential adjacency betterment dollars may be used for enhanced landscaping. Residential Adjacent Property Owners of Rocky Top Circle (Highlands of McKamy) have \$126,400 of Residential Adjacency Betterments budget that can be used for enhanced landscaping to reduce visual impacts;
- d.) All crossings in North Dallas are proposed to be quiet zones. Establishing quiet zones will require cooperative action among the municipalities along the Project, FRA, the freight railroads and DART. The City of Dallas is a key participant in the process as they must initiate the request to establish the zones through application to the FRA. Types of gates will be determined during design of the intersection;
- e.) Consistent with DART Policy the impacts over 3dB will be required to be mitigated. The mitigation at this location include a 15' mitigation wall, crossing bell mitigation, and quiet zone;
- f.) FEIS Section 4.15 "Vibration" says FTA one-third octave band impact threshold is 72 VdB for residential buildings. DART Board of Directors determined that a more conservative approach should be employed end added locations where TDA will be installed;
- g.) Directional electronic crossing warning bells will be used.



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line Project Quiet Zones Questions & Answers

(ID# 301; Received August 19, 2019; Answered November 27, 2019)

Q: Letter of Action for Dallas City Council –

Enforce Dart to Become Compliant with City of Dallas Cotton Belt Resolution

Date: August 16, 2019

To: Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson & Dallas City Council: Chad West, Adam Medrano, Casey Thomas II, Carolyn King Arnold, Jaime Resendez, Omar Narvaez, Adam Bazaldua, Tennell Atkins, Paula Blackmon, Adam McGough, Lee Kleinman, Cara Mendelsohn, Jennifer S. Gates, David Blewett

The proposed Cotton Belt “Silver Line” diesel hybrid rail project will materially impact Far North Dallas. These are just a few concerns needing action: **Safety – For all residents including children that walk to & from school & play in the neighborhood. 2 schools will receive chain link fences at their properties per DART. Safety – How many children will DART have to kill to stop the Cotton Belt? Since June 6, 2019 – 3 people have been struck and killed by a DART train, 1 officer struck by a DART train this week. 1 person struck & killed by DCTA train. Dense Residential Neighborhoods: The proposed route runs through a neighborhood full of children which is a major safety issue. Preston Road to Waterview Parkway - 9 railroad crossings in 3 miles. Train Speeds present material safety issue – DART keeps changing speeds while FEIS shows up to 70 MPH, DART has moving targets – average 35 MPH then average 43 MPH (should be 56 MPH+) then max 45 MPH. Decreased tax revenue: Home Values will be negatively impacted. Quality of Life will decrease from safety concerns and noise. DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) is Non-Compliant with multiple items of the City of Dallas Cotton Belt Resolution: Full non-compliance list on back of this page, Page 2, including but not limited to: Non-compliance with “at grade or below grade” at Coit Road & (now Hillcrest) Non-compliance with “Continuous 15-foot high concrete, sound-absorbing walls that meet the 3dBA Ldn limits at all residences on both sides of the rail line” I want Dallas City Council to pass a NEW resolution to Enforce DART to become compliant with each & all of the items in City of Dallas Cotton Belt Resolution. Action item from Mayor and Each Council Member – Please respond. Please provide to me a response by Friday August, 23rd, of how the Dallas City Council will Enforce DART to become compliant with each & all items in the City of Dallas Cotton Belt Resolution. Name : XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Address: XXXX Blue Mesa Drive, Dallas, Texas 75252**

Non-compliance Items We Put Together (Myself and other residents): -The DCC resolution requires infrastructure changes “at grade or below grade”, but the Cottonbelt plans include infrastructure changes that are above grade on COIT road (and now Hillcrest) -The DCC requires a “Continuous 15-foot high concrete, sound-absorbing walls that meet the 3dBA Ldn limits at all residences on both sides of the rail line”, but the DART plans for the Cottonbelt do not provide for a continuous/consistent wall meeting these standards. -The DCC requires “Enhanced landscaping to reduce visual impacts”, but the plans for the Cottonbelt project require that many residents choose between getting the wall required above and getting the enhanced landscaping(i.e. These residents cannot get both of the requirements, but that they can only have one or the other) -The DCC resolution requires that “Train Noise shall not exceed current community noise levels by more than 3dBa Ldn at maximum headways,” and “Vibration levels – the standard of reference for human exposure to vibrations in buildings will be ANSI S2.7-1983 (R2006), or 65 vdB peak vibration level,”, but DART’s plans do not guarantee that these thresholds will be maintained. -The DCC resolution requires that “DART will employ all practical measures to obscure sound intrusions from the bells into the residences”, but the DART plans for the Cottonbelt do not apply all practical measures to minimize sound intrusions into the adjacent residents. The plans specifically exclude any implementation outside the boundaries of the current Right-of-Way. -The DCC resolution requires that “DART will enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Dallas to assure that freight service will never be allowed on the Cotton Belt rail line between Waterview Parkway and the Dallas North Tollway”, but no such interlocal agreement has been entered into. -The DCC resolution Section 3 requires “That the DART Board increases its \$50 million commitment to provide betterments in residential areas of the Cotton Belt corridor, adjusts the funding amount to reflect inflation since their resolution was approved in 2006, and stipulate that these funds will be used to provide betterments that would be in addition to the mitigation measures required by the FTA.” -Per Dart email, DART is providing \$38 million for Cotton Belt Corridor Betterments which is significantly below the \$50 million even without the adjustment for inflation.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PAGE 4 FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS QUESTION AND THE ANSWER



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line Project Quiet Zones Questions & Answers

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-The DCC resolution Section 4 requires “That the DART Board uses the funds budgeted for the eliminated Preston Road/Keller Springs and Coit Road stations on betterments for the Far North Dallas portion of the rail line”, but the plans for the Cottonbelt area in Far North Dallas does not provide a budget commensurate with the requirement to use the funds from the eliminated stations in Far North Dallas. -Per DART email, DART is providing \$15 million for Betterments in Far North Dallas which is significantly below the removal of the Coit and Preston Stations of \$30.1 million. I think the stations are more than \$15 million each.

A: Thank you for reaching out with your comments and concerns. Please know that DART is available for inquiries, you can also contact us through email at Cottonbelt@DART.org or through our DART Hotline number at (972) 833-2856.

(ID# 357; Received August 22, 2019; Answered November 27, 2019)

Q: Will the trains activate horns at points during the route?

A: Trains will be required to activate their horns at all street crossings that do not have quiet zones. Generally, all at-grade crossings in residential areas may be quiet zones. A complete list of quiet zone crossings can be found in Table 4-10 of the FEIS. A complete list of all roadways and other crossings can be found in Table 5-7 of the FEIS. Additionally, train operators will use the horns in emergency situations and in work zones. Train horns will also be required during a short quiet zone testing phase prior to final implementation of the quiet zone.

(ID# 358; Received August 22, 2019; Answered November 27, 2019)

Q: What is the remediation plan if the sound exceeds expected levels?

A: As stated in DART’s Environmental Impact Assessment and Mitigation Guidelines for Transit Projects: “While DART strives to assess all potential impacts during the environmental review process, there may be cases after operations commence where a potential impact is identified by the community. In most cases the potential impact was evaluated during the environmental process and no impact requiring mitigation was found... It is DART’s responsibility to assess each situation to determine if there is a legitimate issue and to take steps to assess the situation to determine if mitigation is required.” While these issues can fall into a range of impact categories, the most common complaints relate to noise.

(ID# 371; Received September 8, 2019; Answered November 21, 2019)

Q: Information on the gates and horns at the Meandering Way/McCallum intersection

A: All public at-grade crossings along the Silver Line will be protected by standard safety features including flashing lights, bells, and gate arms alerting vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians of approaching trains. Both crossings will be quiet zones which will not require use of train horns in normal operations. Both crossings will also employ crossing bell mitigation minimizing the sound exposure level. See Section 4.14 of the Final Environmental Impact Study (FEIS) for further detail. FRA (Federal Railroad Administration) design requirements will be incorporated into the crossing design to ensure full compliance.



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line Project Quiet Zones Questions & Answers

(ID# 411; Received September 24, 2019; Answered November 20, 2019)

Q: Mr. Huerta,

I live north of Belt Line Rd and west of Mockingbird lane in Coppell. I am excited about the potential and possibilities that the Silver line will bring to the Coppell area. I work downtown and am a daily DART green line rider. I have not been able to attend information sessions due to work/family conflicting times.

I have a few questions regarding the silver line. Feel free to reply to me via email or phone (XXX-XXX-XXXX).

Will the area along belt line road between mockingbird and Moore road be designated a quiet, “no horn” zone?

A: The Cotton Belt Corridor Regional Rail Project Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD) is available at www.dart.org/cottonbelt. It provides information regarding the project.

As discussed in Section 4.14.2 of the FEIS/ROD, quiet zones will be established for East Belt Line Road and Moore Road in the City of Coppell.



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line Project Quiet Zones Questions & Answers

(ID# 452; Received November 1, 2019; Answered December 3, 2019)

Q: Mr. Meshack,

On Sept. 19 we spoke with Ms. Carolyn Cook, Senior Crossing and Trespass Prevention Regional Manager for the Southwest-Region of the Federal Railroad Administration. Region 5. We explained our concern with Dart's current proposal of 60-90 trains a day at street level over the Preston Ridge Trail. The Highlands of McKamy IV & V want the safest solution to address DART's Cotton Belt/Silver line rail traffic in our neighborhood. Tunneling the train is the safest solution.

Ms. Cook indicated that a Diagnostic Review Team is being formed which will make safety recommendations for the Preston Ridge Trail. She said that stakeholders are supposed to be part of this Diagnostic Review Team. That includes our neighbors. We would like someone who represents the 247 homeowners of the Highlands of McKamy IV & V to be on this Diagnostic Review Team. Our request is not for a site visit or conference call, but to be placed on the Diagnostic Review Team.

Also, we read this from Rails-with-Trails: Lessons Learned: Literature Review, Current Practices, Conclusions <https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/RailsWithTrails.pdf>. p IX:

At-Grade Crossings

With many railroads actively working to close existing at-grade roadway-track crossings, consistent with U.S. Department of Transportation policy, new at-grade crossings will be difficult to obtain. Each trail-rail intersection is unique; most locations will require engineering analysis and consultation with existing design standards and guidelines. Issues that should be considered include the following:

- Train frequency and speed;
- Location of the crossing;
- Specific geometrics of the site (angle of the crossing, approach grades, sight distance);
- Crossing surface;
- Night time illumination; and
- Types of warning devices (passive and/or active). Page IX

If the DOT says new at-grade crossings will be difficult to obtain, how is DART going to get one for the Cotton Belt/Silver Line at-grade over the actively used Preston Ridge Trail used by children, the disabled and families?

Highlands of McKamy IV & V HOA 2019 Board

Maura Schreier-Fleming, President, Judi St

Jeff Jones, Treasurer, Halprin

Jerod Bauer, Rocky Top Circle

Jeff Rance, Board Member, Blue Mesa

Catherine Paulson, Board Member, Rocky Top

A: All federal, state, and municipal laws regulating safety, design and operating procedures are being followed for the project. To address pedestrian activity, the design will include the installation of special signage, designated street crossings, and adequate lighting, as required, to mitigate the potential for accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, corridor fencing will be used to control unauthorized pedestrian crossings and secure the project at select locations, including those areas where there are adjacent residential land uses, schools, or other high pedestrian activity centers such as Preston Ridge Trail centers.

The Preston Ridge Trail crossing of the Cotton Belt Corridor is an existing crossing and not a new crossing. This crossing was implemented through a 2009 License Agreement between DART and the City of Dallas. This agreement for the trail to cross the rail alignment at-grade was developed with the understanding that DART intended to implement rail in the corridor and before the abandonment of freight in the corridor. DART intends to operate the Silver Line at-grade where the trail crosses the rail corridor and DART will implement an at-grade crossing. Should you wish to pursue a grade separation for the trail crossing please contact Jared White, City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, at 214-670-4090 or jared.white@dallascityhall.com to request that they construct a grade separation.

DART will follow up with you regarding the Diagnostic Review Team.



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line Project Quiet Zones Questions & Answers

(ID# 454; Received November 3, 2019; Answered December 3, 2019)

Q: To: Members of the DART Organization

My husband and I are homeowners in the Highlands of McKamy neighborhood, and I am writing to express our concerns about the proposed DART Cotton Belt line.

This line has been moved forward over a decade in DART's plans and is now affecting the safety and value of our neighborhood. DART plans to run trains over this line 60 to 90 times per day. The line is adjacent to houses and will cross the Preston Ridge Trail, which is extensively used by neighbors and children in this area. Running these trains at street level (as planned) will be very dangerous, will disrupt the police and fire services in the area, and the noise will have a negative impact on the quality of life in the neighborhood.

The concerns of current homeowners and prospective homeowners should be obvious from some neighborhood statistics I received recently. A real estate agent (XXX XXXXX) sent out a market report for Preston Highlands, Highlands of McKamy, and Bent Trail for January - September 2019. Reviewing these numbers, I find that the numbers in the Highlands of McKamy are definitely suffering and the most obvious reason is concerns of future buyers about the DART Cotton Belt line: Homes Sold: Preston Highlands, down 33%; Highlands of McKamy, down 67%, Bent Trail, up 24%.

Average Price / Sq. Ft.: Preston Highlands, about the same; Highlands of McKamy, down 19%, Bent Trail, about the same.

Average Days on Market: Preston Highlands, about the same; Highlands of McKamy, up 39%, Bent Trail, down 1%.

Average Sales Price: Preston Highlands, down 2%, Highlands of McKamy, down 24%, Bent Trail, down 2%.

While there are obviously some differences in the homes that sale from one year to the next, based on the huge changes for Highlands of McKamy versus the two other neighborhoods, it seems obvious that the Highlands of McKamy neighborhood is suffering a huge negative as a result of the anticipated DART Cotton Belt line.

We understand that the line is probably a foregone conclusion. We are asking all responsible for the line to consider the safety and property value concerns of the surrounding neighborhoods and require that DART build a tunnel for the train.

**Sincerely,
XXX X XXX XXXXXXXX
XXXX Judi Street
Dallas, 75252**

A: Federal, state, and municipal laws regulating safety, design and operating procedures are being followed for the project. To address pedestrian activity, the design will include the installation of special signage, designated street crossings, and adequate lighting, as required, to mitigate the potential for accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, corridor fencing will be used to control unauthorized pedestrian crossings and secure the project at select locations, including those areas where there are adjacent residential land uses, schools, or other high pedestrian activity centers such as Preston Ridge Trail centers.

The Preston Ridge Trail crossing of the Cotton Belt Corridor is an existing crossing and not a new crossing. This crossing was implemented through a 2009 License Agreement between DART and the City of Dallas. This agreement for the trail to cross the rail alignment at-grade was developed with the understanding that DART intended to implement rail in the corridor and before the abandonment of freight in the corridor. DART intends to operate the Silver Line at-grade where the trail crosses the rail corridor and DART will implement an at-grade crossing. Should you wish to pursue a grade separation for the trail crossing please contact Jared White, City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, at 214-670-4090 or jared.white@dallascityhall.com to request that they construct a grade separation.



Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Silver Line Project Quiet Zones Questions & Answers

ID# 455; Received November 3, 2019; Answered December 19, 2019)

Q: Carlos- what is the status of having crossing bell sound mitigation at the Moore Road and close by Belt Line street crossings in Coppell?

A: Electronic volume adjusting bells are in the design of the Silver Line and will be used at Moore Road crossing and other crossings in residential areas, including Coppell. Adjusting the bell volume and other mitigation measures, as discussed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), may be applied to the Moore Road crossing even though crossing bell mitigation is not required at Moore Road per FEIS. Grade crossing bells are addressed in Section 4.14.3 of the FEIS.

ID# 458; Received November 20, 2019; Answered November 21, 2019)

Q: So to be clear, there WILL be an agreement signed to keep freight abandoned... is that the "plain speak" of your message below?

A: DART has no intention in the foreseeable future of revoking its freight abandonment on the Cotton Belt (Silverline) between Renner Junction (Waterview Parkway) and Knoll Trail Drive that was granted by the Surface Transportation Board in January 2010. The City of Dallas and DART are working on an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) that will address freight abandonment cited in the City of Dallas Resolution dated March 2018. When the ILA is finalized and signed by all necessary Parties, DART will provide an update.