Design-Build team selected for Orange Line to Irving || A special message from Randall D. Chrisman

DART Board members have awarded the design-build contract for the first two sections of the Irving corridor light rail project (Orange Line) to the joint venture of Kiewit, Stacy and Witbeck, Reyes, Parsons. The approximately $430 million contract is for design and construction of a nine-mile, six-station rail line from Bachman Station on the Green Line in northwest Dallas to Belt Line Rd. on the southern portion of DFW Airport.

Funding for the project is included in DART’s 20-year Financial Plan. Project design is scheduled to begin in January 2009 with major construction getting underway in May. The first phase of the project, from Bachman Station to the Las Colinas Urban Center is scheduled for completion in December 2011. The second phase, from Las Colinas to Belt Line, is scheduled to open one year later. A third section, from Belt Line to the DFW Airport terminals, is scheduled to open in December 2013. The contract for that project was not part of this solicitation and will be awarded at a later date.

The contract award was based on the recommendation of a review team from DART and the city of Irving. Proposals were received in October and Board briefings on the contract began in late October. A key to the success of the review process was the ongoing dialogue between our staff, community and homeowner’s groups, and Irving representatives.

Design-build continued on pg. 2
The team impressed us with the scope and depth of their collective experiences in transit projects. In fact, two of the joint venture partners, Kiewit and Parsons, have worked on DART projects. It was equally important for the joint venture to share our commitment to disadvantaged, minority and women-owned (D/M/WBE) businesses. DART established a D/M/WBE goal of 39% and the team will ensure that goal is met. Reyes, a joint venture member, is a certified minority contractor and has worked with Kiewit on Chicago Transit Authority projects.

The Orange Line, along with the Blue Line extension to Rowlett, is part of one of the nation’s most aggressive rail expansion programs. Leading off with the September 2009 opening of the first phase of the Green Line connecting Victory Station with Fair Park, the completion of the Green Line from Pleasant Grove to Farmers Branch and Carrollton in December 2010, and the final Orange Line section to DFW Airport, we’ll more than double our 45-mile light rail system in 2013. And that doesn’t even include the second rail line through Downtown Dallas that is scheduled to get underway in 2014 or the Blue Line extension from Ledbetter Station to UNT Dallas in 2018.

This is a great time to be part of DART.

Rowlett Blue Line contract vote set for January

Review of proposals for the five-mile extension to Rowlett is continuing. The evaluation team, which includes members from DART and Rowlett, briefed the Board in November and again on December 9. Another update is scheduled for January 13 prior to the selection of the winning design-build team by the Board on January 27.

All of these steps keep us on schedule to open the first phase of the Orange Line in December 2011, and the second phase of the Orange Line and the Blue Line extension in December 2012.

Sharing the spirit of the season

Again this year DART employees are reaching out to members of our community who are in particular need during the holidays. Already they have joined with our customers to literally stuff a bus with warm clothes and blankets. Later this month, our DART Police will again put on their stocking caps and load their sleighs with Christmas cheer as Santa Cops delivering food and toys to hundreds of families. Other employee-based programs include our annual support for the Union Gospel Mission. In recent years, the “Friendly Food Fight” has produced more than 45 tons of food to help families. Board members are proud of how our employees go the extra mile for our customers and our community, but never more so than this time of year.

I hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas and a great holiday season.