

# INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION REPORT – JANUARY 2023

RTC / TxDOT / DART / NTTA / DRMC / TRB /DFW Airport



## **DATES FOR 2023 RTC MEETINGS PUBLISHED**

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) **meeting dates for 2023** are as follows:

- January 12, 2023
- February 9, 2023
- March 9, 2023
- April 13, 2023
- May 11, 2023
- June 8, 2023
- July 13, 2023
- August 10, 2023
- September 14, 2023
- October 12, 2023
- November 9, 2023
- December 14, 2023

## **LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM BRIEFING**

North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff updated the RTC on federal and state legislative efforts related to air quality and transportation issues affecting the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

## **DALLAS AWARDED “OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE” BY AIR NORTH TEXAS PARTNERS**

**NCTCOG’s Air North Texas Partners awarded the City of Dallas the “Outstanding Initiative” award** for its leadership in programming/initiatives to improve air quality.

Some of the City’s many initiatives to improve air quality include the Community Air Monitoring program, the Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), Clean Air Action Day, Earth Day Every Day events, the North Texas Climate Symposium, Environmental Commission presentations on air quality, the Dallas Climate Action website, and the Green Dallas website.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The **next RTC meeting is in-person and is scheduled for February 9, 2023** at 1:00 PM in the Transportation Council Room at the NCTCOG headquarters (616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011).



## **SOUTHERN GATEWAY RIBBON CUTTING**

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 30, 2022 to commemorate the completion of the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) \$666 million Southern Gateway project.

To complete the project, TxDOT and its partners rebuilt and expanded a total of ten miles of roadway which widened both general purpose and non-tolled managed lanes along I-35E between U.S. 67 and Interstate 30 (I-30) and on U.S. 67 between Interstate 20 (I-20) and I-35E south of downtown Dallas. As part of TxDOT's Texas Clear Lanes initiative, the new improvements to the major highway system enhance safety and provide significant congestion relief for more than 180,000 motorists per day in southern Dallas County.





## **DART GoPASS TAP CARD PILOT PROGRAM EXTENDED**

The Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board of Directors **extended the Discount GoPass Tap Card pilot program through December 31, 2024.**

The program provides riders using any one of nine support assistance programs with a **50% discount on the regular price of a DART local pass.**

DART launched the pilot-program to ensure riders who qualify have access to jobs, health care and educational opportunities, reducing social and economic inequalities by making mobility financially feasible to more people.

**All new and current DART riders who participate in any of the following programs are eligible for DART services at half the fare:**

- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)
- TANF (Texas Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- CEAP (Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program)
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- Housing Choice Vouchers
- DHA Housing Solutions for North Texas program
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Texas WIC (Texas Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)

**Participants renewing their discount** must visit the DARTmart store with documentation verifying participation in a qualifying program. **Current Discount GoPass® Tap card holders must renew their card registration by January 31, 2023, to keep their discount.**

**Registration for new users** is available at [DART.org/TapForHalf](https://www.dart.org/tapforhalf), or at the DARTmart store at DART Headquarters (1401 Pacific Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202).

Discount Tap Cards can be used on any DART bus, GoLink or light rail, including the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) between EBJ Union Station and CentrePort/DFW Airport Station.

More information is available at [DART.org/TapForHalf](https://www.dart.org/tapforhalf) or by calling DART Customer Service at 214-979-1111, Option 1.

## **DART RETURNED NINE MAJOR BUS ROUTES TO REGULAR FREQUENCY ON DECEMBER 12TH**

**On Monday, December 12, 2022, DART returned nine major bus routes to regular operating service frequency.**

In June, to provide service dependability for riders, DART implemented a five-minute service frequency reduction on 31 bus routes due to a nationwide shortage of bus operators. Thanks to an aggressive hiring initiative by the agency, DART has returned nine of those bus routes to regular service.

**Bus Route Frequency Adjustments 15-minute peak and 20-minute midday service will resume on the following routes:**

- DART Bus Route 13 Ervay
- DART Bus Route 15 Buckner
- DART Bus Route 16 Ferguson
- DART Bus Route 17 Skillman
- DART Bus Route 18 Samuell
- DART Bus Route 20 Northwest Highway
- DART Bus Route 22 Forest Lane
- DART Bus Route 38 Ledbetter
- DART Bus Route 57 Westmoreland

## **Bus Bay Changes**

To improve schedule efficiency and provide more direct service, **DART Bus Route 13 will serve Hatcher Station in both directions from stops on Elsie Faye Heggins Street.** Route 13 will no longer use the triangular routing over Lagow and Robert L. Parish streets to enter the station on Scyene Road.

## **DART RETURNING 22 MAJOR BUS ROUTES TO REGULAR FREQUENCY ON JANUARY 23RD**

**On January 23, 2023, DART plans to return the remaining 22 bus routes to regular service frequency:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • DART Bus Route 1 Malcom X/Maple       | • DART Bus Route 55 Love Link             |
| • DART Bus Route 3 Ross                 | • DART Bus Route 101 Hampton              |
| • DART Bus Route 9 Jefferson/Gaston     | • DART Bus Route 102 Fort Worth           |
| • DART Bus Route 23 Haskell             | • DART Bus Route 103 Cedar Springs        |
| • DART Bus Route 25 Cockrell Hill North | • DART Bus Route 104 Illinois             |
| • DART Bus Route 27 Ridgecrest          | • DART Bus Route 105 Henderson            |
| • DART Bus Route 28 Singleton           | • DART Bus Route 106 Bickers              |
| • DART Bus Route 30 Lake June           | • DART Bus Route 108 Camp Wisdom          |
| • DART Bus Route 41 Bonnie View         | • DART Bus Route 109 Beckley              |
| • DART Bus Route 45 Marsalis            | • DART Bus Route 114 East Oak Cliff       |
| • DART Bus Route 47 Polk                | • DART Bus Route 306 Glen Heights Express |



## **DART GoLink Service Hours and Days Expanding**

**Starting January 23<sup>rd</sup>**, DART GoLink zones (with the exception of Inland Port Connect) will begin seven-day-a-week operations, with service hours extended to 5:00 a.m. until midnight, nearly equal to bus and light rail service hours. Full details are available at [www.DART.org/GoLink](http://www.DART.org/GoLink).

Inland Port Connect, a zone operated jointly between the Southern Dallas County Inland Port Transportation Management Association (IPTMA), Star Transit, and DART, will continue to operate Monday – Friday, 5:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**For specific information on the route updates, see [DARTService Change](#) or contact DART Customer Service at 214-979-1111.**

## **SILVER LINE IN-PERSON BIENNIAL COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

DART is hosting in-person biannual community meetings to review the progress of the DART Silver Line project.

DART and their contractor, Archer Western Herzog (AWH) will be in attendance to outline the latest design and construction developments and to answer questions. Presentations will include:

- Project facts and updates
- Design-Build update
- Betterments program progress
- Vehicle design progress
- Hike and bike trail progress
- Construction progress
- Community engagement update
- Safety education update

**The meeting in Dallas will be on February 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 PM** at the Texas A&M AgriLife/Dallas Center Water and Land Resource building at 17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX 75252.

The schedule for meetings in other cities can be found at this website: [Community Meeting/Public Hearing Notices \(dart.org\)](http://CommunityMeeting/PublicHearingNotices(dart.org))

## **UPCOMING MEETING**

The next DART Board meeting will be on **January 24, 2023**, at the DART Headquarters Building, 1401 Pacific Avenue in Dallas.



## **BOARD MEETING HELD DECEMBER 21, 2022**

The NTTA Board of Directors held their regular meeting on Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

**The Board approved vendor selection** for a project communications consultant and lane system assessment.

**The Board approved contracts** for construction services for President George Bush Turnpike Western Extension frontage road striping project, and for lane equipment parts and maintenance.

The Board also approved the 2023 Legislative Agenda for the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, and the Final FY2023 NTTA system budget.

**The Board received briefings** on the Consolidated Monthly Performance Report, and the Executive Director's report on contracts, supplements, and change orders less than \$300,000 that were executed in November 2022.

### UPCOMING MEETING

The **January Board meeting is canceled**. The Board will hold a **retreat on Friday and Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**.

---



### DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

At the January Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition (DRMC) meeting, Drew Campbell, Executive Director of the DRMC, provided a preview of what he expects to see during the State of Texas' 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session including the following data points/observations:

- The regular session runs from January 10<sup>th</sup> to May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Republicans control both chambers
- The session will have a lot of focus on excess revenues the State has generated.
  - It has been reported that Governor Abbott wants to use half of the surplus for property tax relief but that Lt. Governor Patrick wants to use the funds to shore up the state's electrical grid.
- Other issues likely to arise include:
  - Private school vouchers and additional school choice
  - Additional fixes for the state's power grid
  - More funding for border security, law enforcement, and school safety
  - Mandatory minimum sentences for people who use firearms in a crime
  - Revamping how state funding is determined for community colleges
  - Election security and integrity
  - Legalizing gaming
  - Expanding medical cannabis

## **UPCOMING MEETING**

The next DRMC Board meeting is scheduled at **11:00 AM on Friday, February 3, 2023**, at the NTTA headquarters in Plano (5900 West Plano Parkway, Plano, Texas 75093).

---



## **TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD**

### **102<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 12<sup>TH</sup>**

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) is part of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and is the leading transportation innovation, research, and information exchange group serving the transportation sector.

The TRB provides leadership in transportation improvements and innovation through trusted, timely, impartial, and evidence-based information exchange, research, and advice regarding all modes of transportation.

### **The TRB held its 102nd Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. January 8–12, 2023.**

Thousands of transportation professionals from around the world attended the meeting to convene on all transportation modes, including sessions and workshops addressing topics of interest to policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions.

**Dr. Ghassan Khankarli, the City's Director of Transportation, was a panelist at the Annual Meeting** on a committee addressing local challenges and efforts from the growing demand for warehousing and its effect on communities.

---



### **DFW WELCOMES INAUGURAL SERVICE TO MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

**Qantas Airways began non-stop service to Melbourne, Australia, on December 3, 2022.**

This is DFW's longest route served at 8,992 miles and a flight time of 17 and a half hours. This is Qantas' second destination to Australia from DFW, complementing its daily service to Sydney.



## **2022 HOLIDAY TRAVEL STATISTICS**

**DFW Airport experienced one of its busiest holiday travel seasons.**

**4.18 million passengers travelled through DFW with a daily average of 209,000.** This is up 1.1% compared to the same holiday travel period in 2019. December 30 was the peak travel day with over 250,000 passengers traveling through DFW and was the busiest day since the pandemic.

## **SERVICE MEMBERS SUPPORTED**

Each December, local military units from Fort Sill in Lawton, OK, Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX, and Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, TX, descend upon DFW to travel home and be with their loved ones for the Christmas and New Year holiday.



Although these service members are arriving when ticket counters, security checkpoints, and concessions are closed, the DFW Airport community came together to open for four nights in support of the over 4,500 arriving members.

## **BOARD APPROVES NEW CONCESSIONARIES AT ITS OCTOBER MEETING**

The Airport Board awarded four new concessionaires:

### **1) Plum Market, Terminal A, Gate 08**

Plum Market showcases locally sourced items through their Miles to Market program. The Market will offer fast casual dining alongside convenient quick-service retail options. Natural, organic, local, and specialty food, beverage, and wellness essentials are the core of what they offer, with an emphasis on quality and exceptional guest experience.

### **2) Nowitzki, Terminal C, Gate 37**

This newest entertainment bar featuring DFW's Nowitzki iconic brand who resonates with a broad fan base worldwide, creates an opportunity to represent the spirit of Dallas and the region. The restaurant will have many innovative features like contactless experiences and augmented reality and will be sports/celebrity themed with great-tasting food selections and merchandising.



### **3) The Bridge, Terminal A, Gate 9**

The Bridge is an original, first-ever collaborative concept specifically created to elevate, accelerate, and alleviate the travel experience while mutually benefitting the local community. This concept will bring together two cities by focusing on a Homeless Recovery Center in Dallas County named Bridges and a Fort Worth program that aims to break the cycle of homelessness and unemployment called UpSpire.

### **4) AMPM Hospitality, LLC, (Ampersand), Terminal C, Gate 37**

Nestled in the heart of Fort Worth, Ampersand is a community-driven coffee shop that delivers a modern twist to the average cup of Joe. Currently, they have two locations – the cultural district and Texas Christian University. Ampersand was founded with the mission of bringing the community together, with Sharing Shifts to promote community to the local hospitality industry.

### **UPCOMING MEETING**

**The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2023.** For more information, please visit [www.dfwairport.com/board](http://www.dfwairport.com/board).