

# INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION REPORT – NOVEMBER 2020

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



## **FUNDING AWARDED FOR TRANSIT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TRE LINE**

At the October 2020 RTC meeting, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff highlighted the federal Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant that was awarded for transit improvement projects on the TRE line. Staff requested RTC approval of an additional \$7.5 million in federal and RTC Local funds to implement Clear Path Technology, a tool used to exchange timely information on train movements to improve throughput, safety, and on-time performance, along the corridor as part of the project.

## **COVID-19 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PROGRAM – ROUND 3**

Over the past several months, NCTCOG staff has been working to select projects that will inject much needed money into the local and state economies in the coming years. The projects recommended through this funding program are those that meet one or more of the RTC policies outlined in Mobility 2045 and/or assist with achieving the region's federal performance targets.

At the October meeting, the Surface Transportation Technical Committee (STTC) voted to recommend RTC's approval of a third round of COVID-19 Infrastructure Program Projects. This will be an action item on the November 12, 2020 RTC agenda. This third round would distribute \$275 million in federal and Regional Toll Revenue (RTR) funds. Projects recommended for funding in the City of Dallas include:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Phases Funded</b>	<b>Federal or RTR Funding</b>	<b>Local Contribution</b>
Midtown People Mover	Engineering Construction	\$10 million	
Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd (SH 352 to Lamar) Complete Streets Project	Engineering	\$500,000	
Traffic signals (2019 tornado impact area, and Hampton and Lancaster corridors)	Engineering Construction	\$14.3 million	\$2.1 million
Pedestrian Routes to Rail Stations - Dallas Zoo and Perot Museum areas	Construction	\$4 million	
Fair Oaks Ave (Ridgecrest to Walnut Hill) Bike Lanes	Construction	\$350,000	\$87,500
High Speed Rail/Cedars Planning Study	Planning Prelim. Engineering	\$4 million	\$1 million
Updating Bicycle Master Plan	Planning	\$150,000	\$37,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$33.3 million</b>	<b>\$3.2 million</b>

## **UPCOMING RTC MEETINGS**

There is a RTC meeting on November 12, 2020, and an upcoming RTC meeting scheduled for December 10, 2020, at 1:00 PM via teleconference, unless otherwise notified.

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## **LBJ East Virtual Groundbreaking Ceremony**

TxDOT hosted a virtual groundbreaking ceremony for the [635 East](#) project, with comments from Governor Greg Abbott, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, members of the Texas Transportation Commission, Mayor Johnson, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem McGough, the mayors of Garland and Mesquite, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, and many other supporters and advocates. The video was made available on Thursday, October 29, 2020 and can be viewed [here](#).

## **Project Updates**

### Projects Under Construction:

- I-30 (Haskell Ave to west of Buckner Blvd): This \$15.9 million project that was let in September includes planning, concrete full depth repair, ACP overlay, and pavement markings.
- I-35E Lowest Stemmons: The \$83.5 million project to provide operational improvements consisting of collector-distributor roads and ramps between Oak Lawn Avenue and I-30 is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2021.
- I-35E Southern Gateway: The \$666 million project to rebuild and widen I-35E and US 67 between downtown and I-20 is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2022.
- SM Wright Phase II: The \$79 million reconstruction of SM Wright between I-45 and US 175 into a 6-lane parkway with traffic signals and sidewalks is scheduled for completion in fall 2023.
- I-635 East: The \$1.74 billion project to reconstruct and widen I-635 between US 75 and I-30 began construction earlier this summer and is scheduled for completion in late 2024.

### Projects Under Design:

- I-35E Phase II (I-635 to Denton County Line): The \$600 million project to widen the I-35E, add managed lanes and collector-distributor lanes is expected to go to construction in August 2021.
- I-30 Canyon: The \$366 million project to reconstruct and widen I-30 between I-35E to I-45 is expected to go to construction in late 2024.

- I-20 Frontage Roads (Cockrell Hill Road to Hampton): The \$71 million project is expected to go to construction in late 2021.
  - I-20 and Bonnie View Road: The \$2.4 million project to widen the bridge to add turn lanes is expected to go to construction in May 2021.
  - Intersection of Gaston Avenue and SH 78: The \$5.7 million intersection reconfiguration is expected to go to construction in May 2021.
  - Northaven Trail Bridge Over US 75: The \$17.6 million project is expected to go to construction in June 2021.
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### **DARTZOOM BUS NETWORK REDESIGN: RIDERSHIP/COVERAGE RATIO**

The October 20, 2020 DART Committee of the Whole meeting featured a briefing on the ridership vs. coverage ratio. The ratio will be used by staff to guide the development of the draft network. The ratio being discussed was a “hybrid option”, a range between 70/30 and 70/25. The hybrid option is intended to maintain service coverage while setting aside resources for frequency improvements. The DART Board Chair plans to bring the ridership/coverage ratio to a vote at the November 10, 2020 Board meeting. Following the vote, DART staff would begin developing the Draft Bus Network in coordination with member cities. Additional information on DARTzoom can be found at <https://dartzoom.dart.org>.

### **NOTICE OF DART SILVER LINE REGIONAL RAIL VIRTUAL QUARTERLY COMMUNITY MEETING**

Quarterly Community Meetings are being hosted in cities impacted by the DART Silver Line. Dallas' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Virtual meeting links can be found at [DART.org/SilverLine](https://DART.org/SilverLine). DART has outlined the following topics to be covered:

- Updated project drawings showing track configurations and station layout
- Status of track grade separations (bridges)
- Betterments Program Progress
- Station Design Progress
- Design-Builder's early design and construction schedule

### **UPCOMING DART MEETINGS**

There is a DART Board meeting on November 10, 2020, and an upcoming Board meeting scheduled for December 8, 2020.

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The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

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DRMC held its regular Board Meeting on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Among other things, there was discussion of the 2021 State Legislative session. Although the Session does not start until January, pre-filing of bills started on Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, and by noon, more than 500 bills had been filed. It is anticipated to be a challenging Session due to revenue losses stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next DRMC meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2020 at 11:00 AM.

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2019 Airport of the Year



### **HVAC Ultraviolet Lighting**

The Airport Board approved a contract to install ultraviolet lights within the HVAC system in Terminals A, B, D, and E, as well as the Rental Car Center. This ultraviolet light will purify and sanitize the air systems within the Terminals which will help prevent the spread of viruses like COVID-19. This is part of DFW's response for keeping customers and employees safe during this pandemic.

### **Air Service Incentive Program**

The Board also approved an increase to the Airport's Air Service Incentive Program in an amount not to exceed \$16 Million to help recruit international routes that were stopped due to the pandemic. The additional incentive program will help make DFW a more favorable option to international carriers as international travel slowly returns and offset some of the costs for carriers that choose to resume international routes out of DFW Airport.

The next Board meeting will be on December 3, 2020 at 8:30 AM. For more information, including agendas and actions, please visit [www.dfwairport.com/board](http://www.dfwairport.com/board).

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Texas Central continues to work with the United States Army Corps of Engineers in pursuit of the remaining federal approvals required for this project. Following the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) assumption of jurisdiction over the project in July, Texas Central is preparing the required application for submission to the STB. The design and construction teams are advancing their work on the project in preparation for beginning pre-construction activities early in 2021.

The City is working with Texas Central to identify City permitting requirements and all real estate and right-of-way needs along the alignment.