

INTERAGENCY TRANSPORTATION REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2021

RTC / TxDOT / DART / Dallas County/ NCTA / DRMC / DFW Airport / HSR



D2 LIGHT RAIL UPDATE

At the September Regional Transportation Council (RTC) meeting, Mr. Michael Morris, Director of Transportation for the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), offered some thoughts around timing for construction of the D2 line.

The original rationale for D2 was, as ridership and the frequency of trains on the existing light-rail increased, there would come a time when the trains would be traveling so frequently they would impede car traffic traveling across rail lines through downtown. When this happened, D2, by providing additional capacity for trains underground, would offer relief to the above ground rail lines which would allow for cars to continue to move effectively through downtown. The existing February 27, 1990 executed master interlocal agreement between the City and DART outlines some conditions for moving forward with construction of the D2 line.

Mr. Morris suggested that Covid-19 and the latest census data resulted in fewer riders and fewer cars in downtown. Based on this new reality, he asked if it still makes sense to make investment in construction of the D2 line now, or would it be better for DART and the City to discuss other items to move forward now within the City of Dallas in advance of a future D2 implementation.

Dallas RTC appointees were later briefed on the D2 update because some could not attend the RTC meeting due to the rescheduled City Council meeting that conflicted with the RTC meeting.

CLEAN CITIES ANNUAL FLEET RECOGNITION

At the September RTC meeting, the City was recognized for its commitment to clean fleet. The City of Dallas received recognition in three categories: "Greatest Progress in NOx (Nitrogen Oxide) Reduction", "Greatest Progress in GHC (Greenhouse Gas) Reduction" and as a "Gold Fleet Winner". All these recognitions are a result of the City Council's commitment to environmental policies that allow staff to move these efforts forward.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

The August 2022 RTC meeting will be held on August 18, 2022 at the Irving Convention Center during the annual City of Irving Transportation Summit. The

August RTC meeting has traditionally been held as part of this Summit but has not happened in the last two years due to Covid-19 concerns.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The **next RTC meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2021** at 1:00 PM via teleconference, unless otherwise notified.

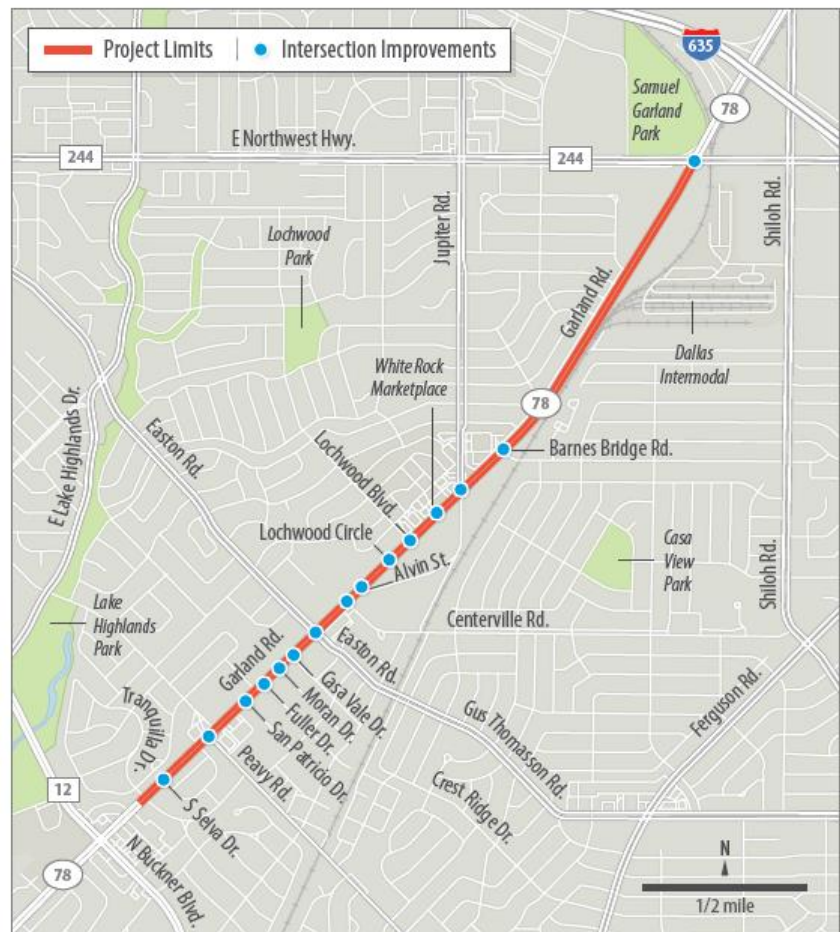


GARLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

TxDOT continues construction of improvements along Garland Road from Tranquilla Drive to Northwest Highway with project completion anticipated by the end of 2021.

The project includes improving and/or widening 15 intersections in northeast Dallas along State Highway (SH) 78. The project is adding and/or improving left turn bays at some locations and curb ramps at most locations. Signal and utility work are also included in the project scope along with installation of new pavement markings.

Intersections receiving additional left turn bay work and signal work: Peavy Rd., Easton Rd., Centerville Rd., Lochwood Blvd., Jupiter Rd., Barnes Bridge Rd, and NW Hwy. Additional intersections scheduled for various improvements, including curb ramps and utility work: South Selva Drive, San Patricio Drive, Fuller Drive, Moran Drive, Casa



Vale Drive, Alvin Street, Lochwood Circle, Lockwood Blvd., and White Rock Marketplace.



BUS NETWORK REDESIGN APPROVED

At their August 24th meeting, the DART Board unanimously approved recommended changes to DART's bus network.

Under study for more than a year, the redesign of the network studied the balance between “coverage” which aims to maximize the areas served and “ridership” which emphasizes routes that are more frequently used.

The new DART zoom final Bus Network Plan's goal is to improve service frequency and hours buses are available in areas with the heaviest ridership in all 13 cities in the DART service area. The redesigned network will also expand coverage and offer more direct routes throughout its service area.

Highlights of the changed network are:

- **GoLink service will be increased substantially** and become a bigger part of the system. This on-demand service allows riders to schedule a trip in a vehicle rather than waiting at a bus stop. The vehicle picks up the customer and takes them anywhere in the designated zone or to a connection point, typically a light-rail station.
- **All local routes will run seven days a week** from, at minimum 5:00 AM to midnight, with some routes having even longer service hours.
- **In some cases, bus routes are farther apart from one another**, especially those that were bunched together.

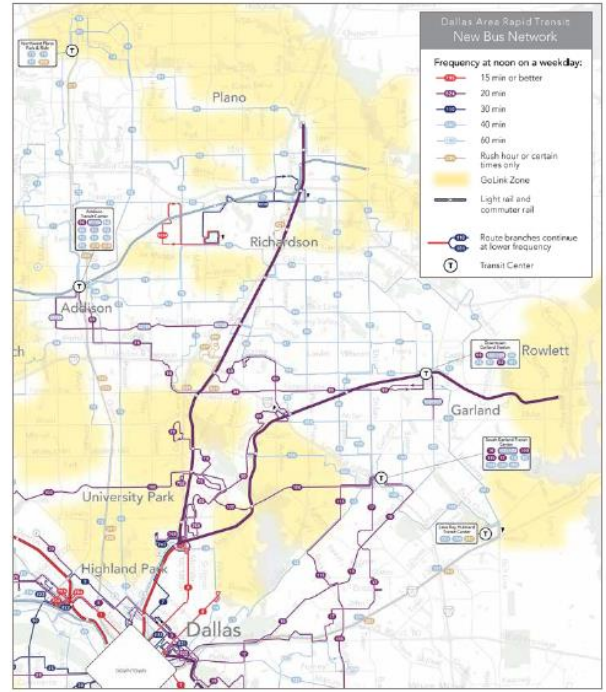
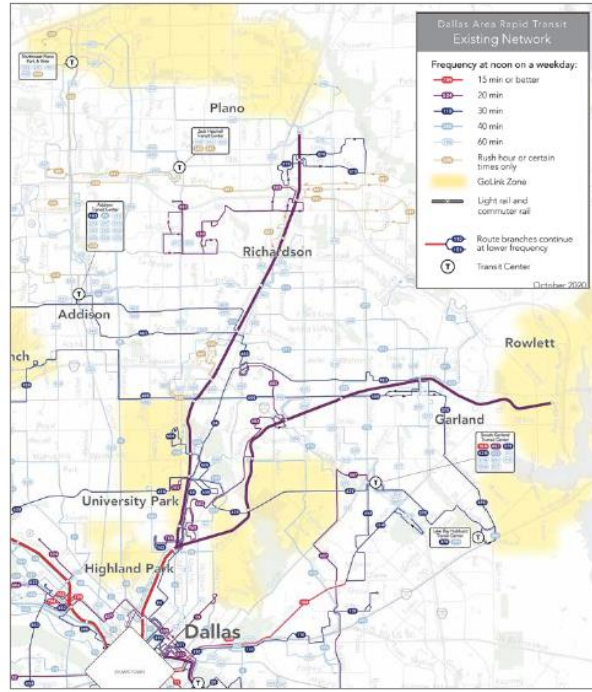
Below are maps showing before and after for each quadrant of the City and downtown. For more detailed information including interactive maps, please see the DARTzoom website at: <https://www.dartzoom.org/>

Network changes are expected to go into effect January 24, 2022.

DART Zoom Network Proposed Changes – Northeast/Southeast Quadrants

Zoom in on the Northeast Quadrant

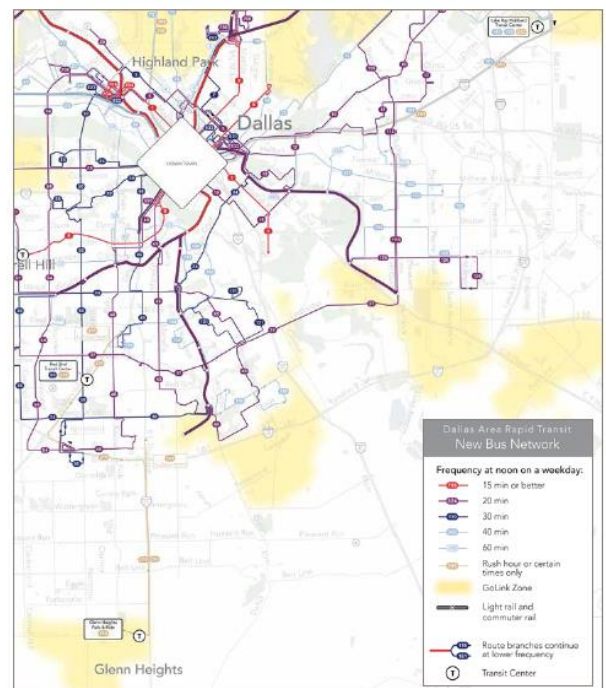
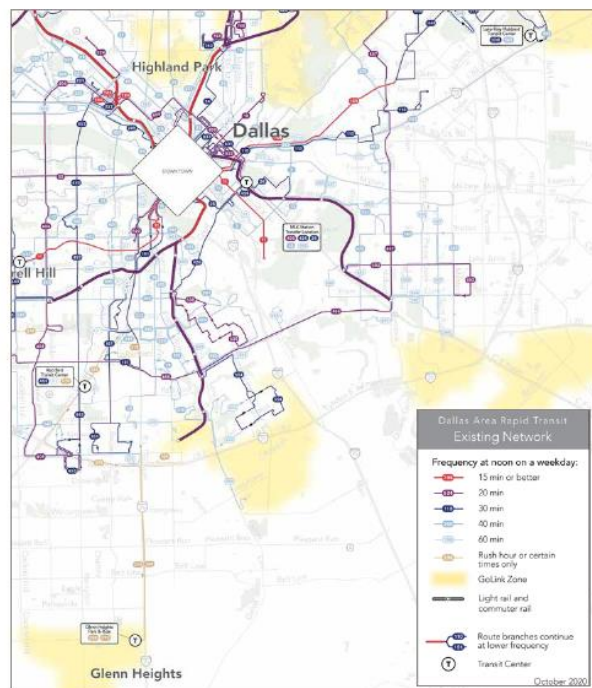
The best way to look closely and compare the New Network to the existing network is by using the interactive map at <https://dart-new-bus-network-viewer.s3.amazonaws.com/index.html>.



DRAFT NEW BUS NETWORK

Zoom in on the Southeast Quadrant

The best way to look closely and compare the New Network to the existing network is by using the interactive map at <https://dart-new-bus-network-viewer.s3.amazonaws.com/index.html>.

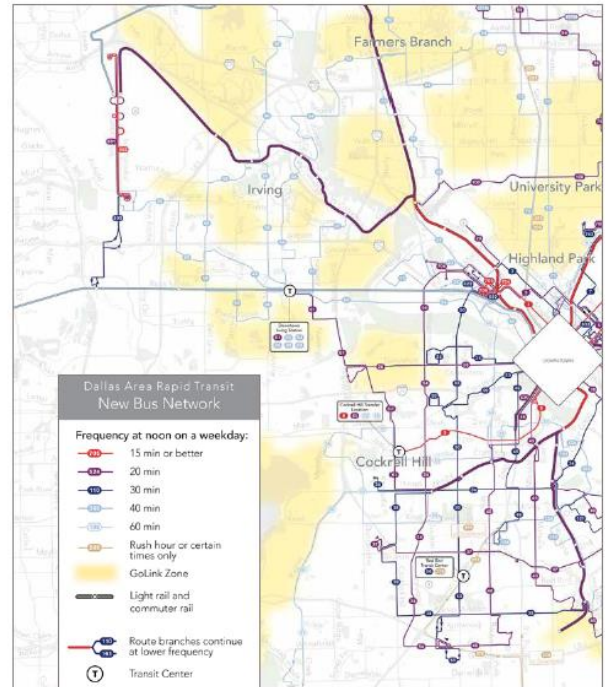
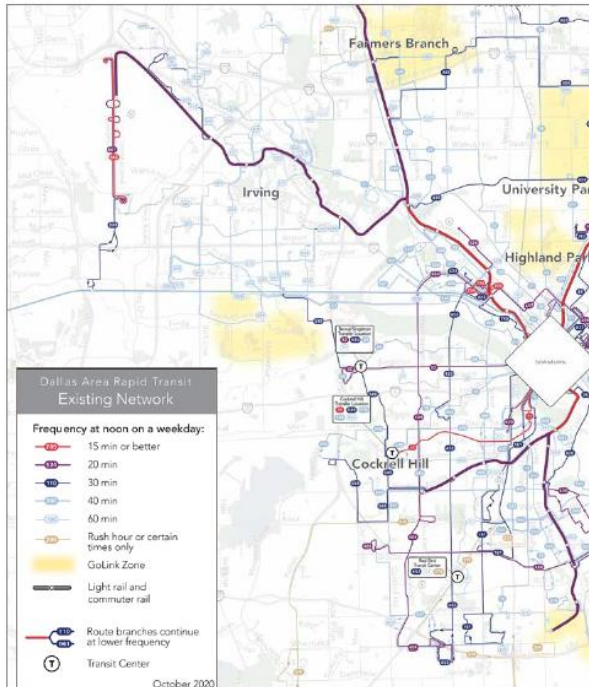


DRAFT NEW BUS NETWORK

DART Zoom Network Proposed Changes – Southwest/Northwest Quadrants

Zoom in on the Southwest Quadrant

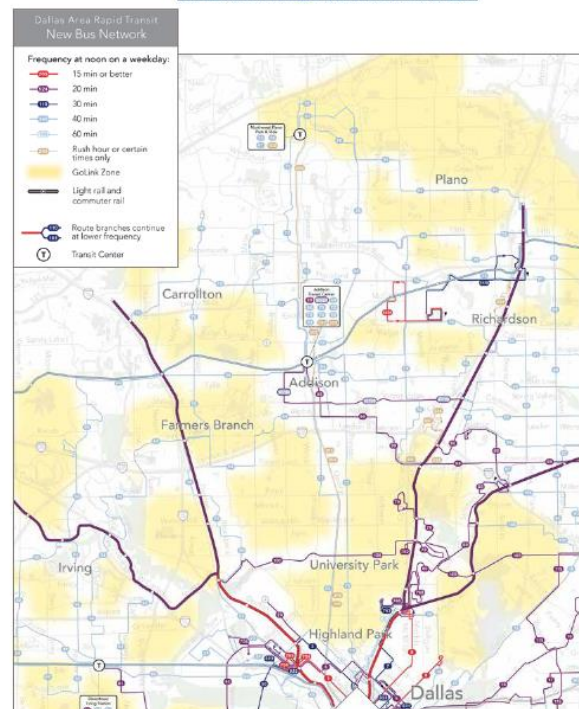
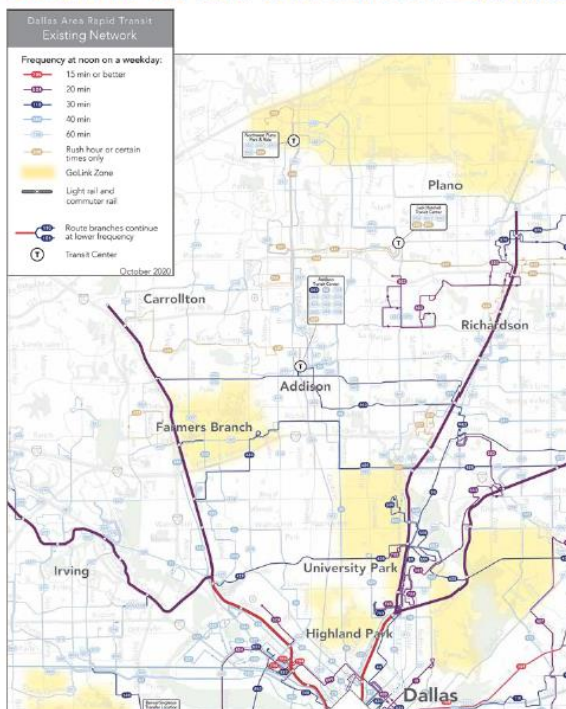
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DRAFT NEW BUS NETWORK

Zoom in on the Northwest Quadrant

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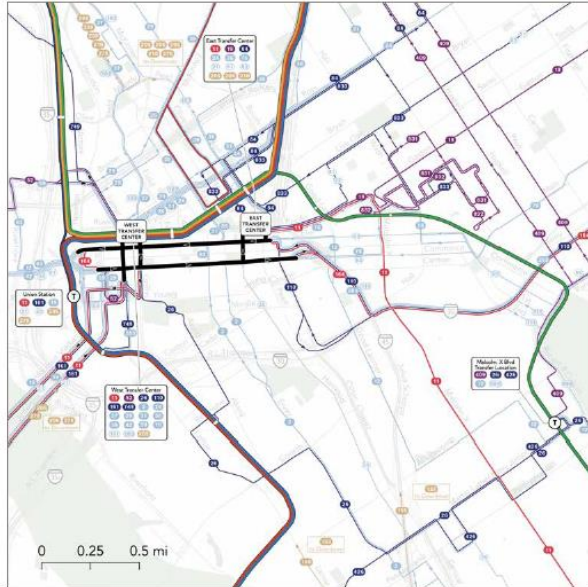
DRAFT NEW BUS NETWORK

DART Zoom Network Proposed Changes – Downtown

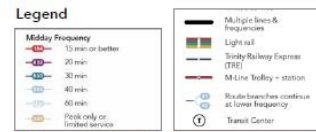
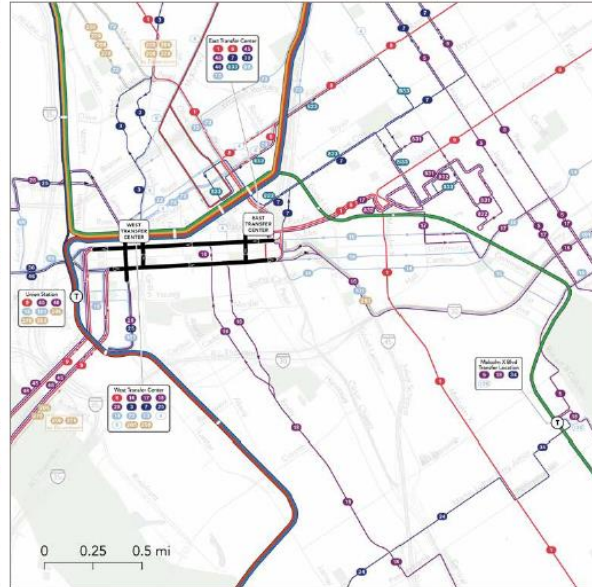
Zoom in on Downtown Dallas

The best way to look closely and compare the New Network to the existing network is by using the interactive map at <https://dart-new-bus-network-viewer.s3.amazonaws.com/index.html>.

Existing Network



New Network



DRAFT NEW BUS NETWORK

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next DART Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 28, 2021** at the DART Headquarters Building, 1401 Pacific Avenue in Dallas.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT APPROVES *forwardDallas* FUNDING

On August 3, 2021, the Dallas County Commissioner's Court **approved a Project Specific Agreement (PSA) to help fund the City's *forwardDallas*** long-range planning initiative. The total project cost is estimated to be \$650,000 with the County contributing \$250,000 in funding provided for under their 6th Call Major Capital Improvements Program.

The *forwardDallas* plan was adopted in 2006 and was last amended by City Council in 2018 with the adoption of the new Housing Plan. This update is

intended to refresh citywide land-use vision and policy through inclusive community engagement and proactive implementation.

The planning process was formally launched with a community kickoff event on August 28, 2021 and is anticipated to be complete sometime around the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023.



BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 18TH

The NTTA Board of Directors held their regular meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

The Board approved recommendations by the Customer Service, Projects and Operations Committee to:

- Advertise for IT roadway traffic control services
- Amend a back-office services contract
- Approve a truck lane restriction policy

The Board approved recommendations from the Finance, Audit and Administration Committee to:

- Advertise for insurance brokerage services
- Select a vendor for depository services
- Approve a contract extension for payment processing services
- Approve of a contract for lockbox services

The Board received briefings on the Consolidated Monthly Performance Report; the Quarterly Financial and Investment Report 2nd Quarter 2021; and the Executive Director's report on contracts, supplements, and change orders less than \$300,000 that were executed in June.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Board meeting will be on **September 15th at 10:00** am at the NTTA headquarters in Plano.



Guest Speaker - TxDOT Executive Director, Marc Williams

On May 26, 2021, Marc Williams was appointed to serve as TxDOT's 22nd Executive Director.

At the September DRMC meeting, Mr. Williams provided insights on the federal infrastructure bill and on TxDOT's priorities, especially TxDOT's renewed focus on safety.

The 2022 Unified Transportation Program targets \$3.4 billion in funding for safety programs, as the state aims to reduce the number of traffic fatalities to zero by 2050. Further, Texas Transportation Commission Chair, Bruce Bugg, announced a task force aimed at finding more money from different funding categories for safety. These efforts are taking on a new urgency as traffic fatalities are trending upward after declines in previous years. Fatal crashes on Texas highway in 2020 totaled 3,900 in a year when highway travel decreased.

IH 45 Project in Houston Still Funded for Now

At the August 31st Texas Transportation Commission meeting, the **Commissioners voted to continue including the IH 45 project funding in the State's Unified Transportation Program for now.**

The Commission gave the Houston region 90 days to address the hold which has been placed on the project by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This will require the Houston region to come to an agreement with FHWA that the environmental justice issues have been resolved.

If they do not come to an agreement with the FHWA by the December Texas Transportation Commission meeting (scheduled for December 9th), then the Commission will remove funding for the project. This will free up approximately \$2.5 billion in Category 12 Commission discretionary funding.

UPCOMING MEETING

The October DRMC meeting will be held virtually and is scheduled for **Friday, October 1, 2021** at 11:00 AM.

2019 Airport of the Year



BOARD APPOINTS INTERIM AUDIT DIRECTOR

At their September meeting, the DFW Board appointed Rosa Maria Meagher to serve as the Interim Director of Audit Services until a next director is identified. Rosa Maria is currently the assistant director of Audit Services and has been with DFW Airport since 2007. The current Auditor, Robert Darby, is participating in the retirement incentive program and will retire from the Airport effective Sept. 30. The Director of Audit is one of two positions that reports directly to the Board of Directors. The Board has hired a search firm to begin the search for the next Audit Services Director.

TURKISH AIRLINES ANNOUNCES DFW – ISTANBUL ROUTE

Turkish Airlines announced it will start service between DFW Airport and Istanbul beginning on September 24. The carrier will service the route four times a week with a Boeing 787-900, which seats approximately 300 passengers and can carry cargo in the belly of the plane. This is the first time Turkish Airlines has served DFW Airport and reflects the strong demand for international travel. In all, Turkish Airlines serves over 300 destinations across five continents from its central hub in Istanbul.



SECRETARY BUTTIGIEG VISITS DFW AIRPORT

On Wednesday, August 11, 2021, DFW Airport was pleased to host US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg while he was promoting the bi-partisan infrastructure package. Secretary Buttigieg was joined by Representatives Collin Allred, Eddie Bernice Johnson, and Marc Veasey. The secretary and representatives received a briefing on infrastructure at DFW Airport, which included a tour of the Integrated Operations Center, and visit to the Terminal C “High C” gate modules being built just outside the Air Operations Area.

Overall, the visit was very successful, and Secretary Buttigieg praised DFW Airport for its leadership in infrastructure and sustainability. In his remarks to the press, he mentioned that the work at DFW Airport should be the standard for airports across the country.

UPCOMING MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be **Thursday, October 7, 2021**. For more information, including agendas and actions, please visit www.dfwairport.com/board.



Lawsuit Dropped

A lawsuit challenging the Federal Railroad Administration's Rule of Particular Applicability (RPA) that established safety standards for the Texas Central Railroad high-speed rail system has been voluntarily dismissed by the plaintiffs.

High Speed Rail CEO Interviewed on "Y'allitics"

Carlos Aguilar, CEO of Texas Central, was interviewed on WFAA's "Y'allitics" program providing an update on the Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail project. Here is a link to the podcast [Texas Bullet Train CEO: The details you haven't heard. \(podbean.com\)](https://www.podbean.com/pb/texasbullettrain).