

BLUE LINE EXPRESS



A project report from
Dallas Area Rapid Transit || 2009



A message from Gary Thomas

Get ready to make dynamic new connections! Come December 2012, a new 4.5-mile extension of DART's Blue Line will connect historic downtown Rowlett to downtown Garland. When complete, the Blue Line will put Rowlett minutes away from the entire DART Rail System – as well as provide an important economic engine that drives development. Until then, look to these pages for important information about design and construction activities, and how they will affect you and your neighbors. In addition to this newsletter, DART and the Austin Bridge & Road design-build team will keep your community informed through face-to-face meetings and the Internet, via email updates, www.DART.org and links found on www.austinprojects.com.

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DART is dedicated to being a good neighbor, which includes: constructing the project safely and on time; minimizing interruptions to residents, businesses and the traveling public; and keeping the lines of communication open to you, the public. After all, it's your system, and when the dust has settled, Garland and Rowlett will have transit facilities and high-quality rail

service in which you can take justifiable pride. I promise to save you a seat on the Blue Line!


Gary C. Thomas
*President/Executive Director
Dallas Area Rapid Transit*



Ground has already been broken to connect Rowlett to DART's fast-moving, regional transit system.



Blue Line Facts at a Glance

- ◉ 4.5 Miles
- ◉ \$188 Million
- ◉ Arriving December 2012
- ◉ Line runs along the Missouri Kansas Texas Railroad (MKT – “The Katie”) which arrived in Rowlett in 1889
- ◉ Austin Bridge & Road prime contractor
- ◉ 42% participation goal for Minority/Woman-Owned Business Enterprises

Project Update

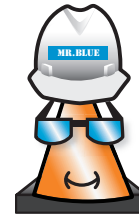
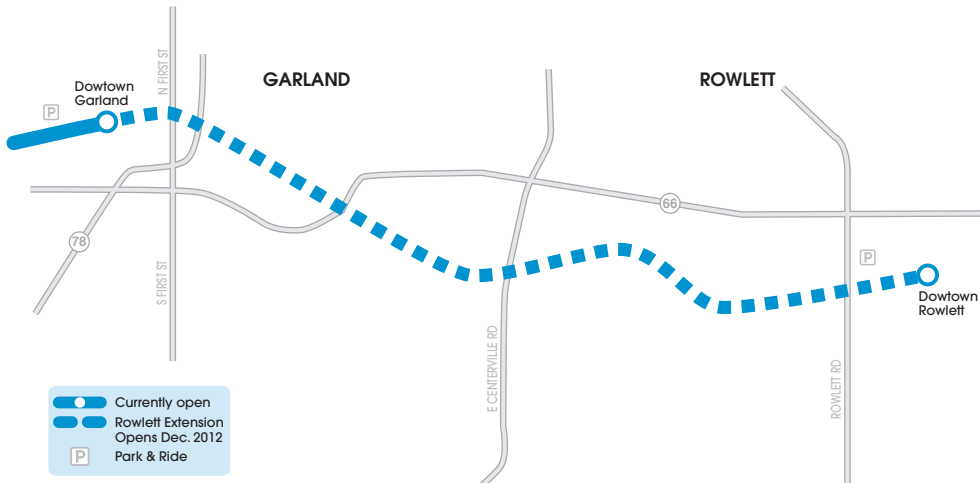
The Blue Line extension project is currently at the 60% design phase. Ground has been broken and preliminary work is under way; actual construction will begin soon.

Work currently under way:

- Verifying existing utilities below the surface
- Geotechnical testing of existing soil & subsurface conditions
- Staking and verifying Right of Way (ROW)
- Construction staking
- Surveying existing trees within DART ROW
- Clearing, removing and recycling vegetation in direct conflict with proposed Blue Line

Work beginning soon:

- Relocating franchise utilities (Atmos, Verizon, Time Warner, Sprint, Oncor)
- Building temporary roads and bridges that allow construction access through Rowlett Creek
- Installing storm drainage
- Constructing bridges over KCS (Kansas City Station), SH 66, Rowlett Creek and Main Street bridges
- Earthwork



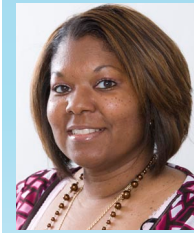
Construction Safety Tips

Be aware of your surroundings around the Blue Line extension project, just as you would near any construction site. Here are some tips. Share them with your children!

- Walk only in designated areas
- Adhere to all posted signs
- Be aware, alert and observant at all times in construction zones
- To avoid distraction, do not use cell phones in construction zones
- Do not enter construction sites



Contact Us



Dawn Dorman
(Community Affairs Representative)

DART Community Affairs Representative Dawn Dorman is the go-to person for questions about the Blue Line extension to Rowlett. She has been meeting with property owners and residents all along the emerging corridor. Look for Dawn at the next community meeting, or call her at 214.749.2598.

You can also contact Austin Bridge & Road at (972) 651-0414



WEBSITE

For additional information visit the Blue Line Project website at <http://www.dart.org/about/expansion/blueline.asp>. Also check out www.austinprojects.com, click on Austin Bridge & Road and select DART Blue Line Expansion.

A more streamlined process

The Blue Line to Rowlett is being developed through a design-build process in which a single contractor – Austin Bridge & Road – is responsible for both final design and construction.

Design-build projects are more streamlined and can be completed more quickly. This project delivery method also provides greater flexibility, as well as enhanced opportunities for creativity and innovation through the ongoing collaboration of design and construction teams.

The community speaks, DART delivers

Neighbors have made it clear in community meetings: Preserve the trees along the new route! Responding to these concerns, DART and Austin Bridge & Road are taking measures to save as many trees as possible. “The design team has spent countless hours developing and analyzing design concepts that minimize the impact on vegetation,” says

Darren Ratajski, Austin Bridge & Road’s construction manager. “We’ve employed licensed landscape architects, surveyors and arborists to aid in the design efforts with preservation as a major goal.”

This is a perfect example of how the design/build process serves the community.

