

Quarterly NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 7 | MARCH 2024



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Biannual COMMUNITY MEETINGS

DART concluded its first set of 2024 biannual meetings on February 1. Mario Zavala, project communications manager, provided each community with a general update on the DART Silver Line Regional Rail Project and public involvement. DART leadership and representatives from Archer Western Herzog (AWH), the design-build contractor, outlined major milestones achieved in each city and on the project overall while highlighting upcoming construction activities.

The Silver Line team made sure each city was aware of ways the community could stay informed on the project as well as how to reach out with questions or concerns. After the presentation, the audience was given the opportunity to ask questions and get specific answers from the appropriate person.

A special thank you to the elected officials and DART Board members who attended the meetings: Carrollton Mayor Pro Temp Nancy Cline, Carrollton Deputy Mayor H.A Rusty Pendleton, Carrollton Councilmember Daisy Palomo, DART Board Chair Gary Slagel, Dallas City Councilmember Cara Mendelsohn, Addison Mayor Bruce Arfsten, Addison Councilmember Nancy Craig, and Addison Councilmember Darren Gardner.

Each city along the Silver Line corridor has specific needs, questions, and concerns. The goal of the Silver Line team was to address these during the biannual presentation. Frequent questions asked included Silver Line hours of operation and construction scheduling. Meeting summaries are below:

Plano

Plano residents had questions on the operation schedule and frequency of trains, inquiring about ways to increase the frequency of trains to get them connected to other transit routes and their destinations faster. The amount of parking at the 12th Street Station was raised by residents as well as how DART will monitor long-term parking at the Shiloh Road Station.

Richardson

With the presence of the University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson has a large student population that has classes before and after the tentative hours of operation. Students asked about opportunities to extend the hours of operation to allow them to use the Silver Line to travel from campus after later classes and campus activities. Residents also asked about the connectivity to the Silver Line with the current bus schedule and about business and residential development near the UTD Station.

Coppell

Coppell residents asked about the hours of operation and if they may be expanded to better connect users to and from DFW Airport. Many are hoping hours will be extended so they can use Silver Line for early or late flights. Residents were also concerned about safety, asking about the hike and bike trail, landscaping and wait times at rail crossings.

Dallas

A large crowd attended the Dallas meeting, with residents asking about the frequency of trains and hours of operation. While some feel service provided by DART may be too frequent, others including business travelers, welcome the project and want service frequency to match airline arrivals and departures with easy access via Silver Line to DFW Airport. DART heard about construction traffic and thanks residents for being engaged in the project and for providing feedback on work activities.

Addison

Residents in Addison are looking forward to enhanced walkability, and inquired about the future pedestrian bridge over the Dallas North Tollway. They also asked how walkable the Addison Station will be to the bus transit center as well as nearby development that is planned for the future. While most construction activities in the city will be completed this summer, Addison residents inquired about cameras at Quorum Road used to monitor vandalism of construction signage, wanting to keep their community beautiful.

Carrollton

Carrollton residents asked about sound walls and trail connectivity downtown. They were pleased with the progress to date and eager to connect to nearby Addison and Coppell by train. While some had concerns about the safety and cleanliness of their current light-rail stations many were excited to hear about how DART is improving safety and keeping vehicles clean along current routes and for the future Silver Line.



Visit the Frequently Asked Questions to learn more about DART Silver Line: <https://www.dart.org/about/plans-projects-and-initiatives/expansion/silver-line-project#factSheets>

summer 2024 biannuals



Visit us online to stay informed on summer biannual meeting dates and locations.

DART.org





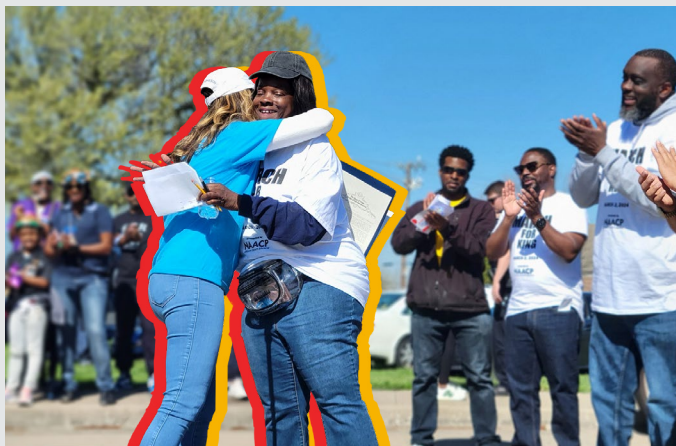
DART Celebrates Black History Month

The Collin County NAACP Celebrated Black History Month with a Martin Luther King Jr. parade in Plano's Historical Douglas Community on Saturday, March 4. DART was a proud participant, carrying members of the Silver Line team and leaders of the Douglass Community, in the parade alongside City of Plano Mayor John Muns, Chief of Police Ed Drain, and State Representative for District 70 Mihaela Plesa.

The sororities and fraternities of Phi Beta Sigma, Tau Zeta Sigma Alumni Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Xi Tau Lambda Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Delta Alpha Alpha Zeta Chapter, and Alpha Kappa Alpha marched alongside participants in the parade. Local business owners and employees joined families, visitors and passersby in joining in on the music and fun the city's annual MLK parade brings.

"HUGE thank you to the Plano Texas Police Department & City of Plano, Texas Government for providing NAACP Collin County Branch the space to make the March For King Parade possible! Today was nothing short of amazing with all of the volunteers, participants, and sponsors. Thank you to the Divine Nine of The National Pan-Hellenic Council as well for your support. The MLK parade was a wonderful opportunity to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." was a message shared on the Collin County NAACP Facebook page.

The Douglass Community held a Sesquicentennial Celebration after the parade, where attendees took part in a scavenger hunt to learn about the historical significance of the area. More than 300 people attended the event and took part in activities, where they could register to vote, sign up to volunteer with various civic groups, let their children play games and learn about the Silver Line Stations coming to 12th Street and downtown Plano.



2024 NORTH DALLAS COMMUNITY MEETINGS



7 PM
April 4
June 4
Sept. 19
Nov. 14

Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center at Dallas
17360 Coit Rd, Dallas, TX 75252

AWH Holiday Giving

Silver Line Project Keeps AWH's Giving on Track

AWH and Hope Restored Missions are going on their fourth year of a fruitful partnership. What started out as an over-catered holiday lunch turned into a yearly partnership for the two groups. AWH was hosting a Thanksgiving holiday lunch when they realized they had over-ordered. With a significant amount of food left over, the team looked for somewhere local that they could donate the remaining food. They came across Hope Restored Missions and were inspired by their story. The next year, AWH wanted to contribute more than leftovers, so they teamed up with subcontractors and other companies in the area to gift the needs of [Hope Restored Missions](#). AWH, now on toiletries and hygiene products duty, goes out to Plano every year to contribute to the non-profit organization.

AWH 3rd Annual Winter Clothing Drive

The AWH Silver Line team was proud to partner with various supporters to host the third annual Winter Warm Up clothing and sleeping bag drive, benefiting [Making It Count, Inc.](#) The non-profit provides supplemental necessities such as shelter, food, clothing, and personal hygiene items to individuals and families in Dallas during economically challenging times.

With the help of its sponsors - The Walsh Group, Herzog, The Burrell Group and DART - the AWH Silver Line team was able to help more than 300 people. Through the work of donations and volunteers, Making It Count received 150 sleeping bags, 200 pairs of winter socks, 100 pairs of gloves, 50 blankets and a host of personal toiletry items.

"We're thankful to DART for the opportunity to represent the community and support groups like Making It Count that make a difference," said Marvin Jackson, who helped organize the drive for AWH.



AWH Makes Sleeping Bags Count

When AWH representatives and Making It Count Founder Rhonda Willingham crossed paths four years ago, little did either side know how beneficial each side would be to the Dallas community. The non-profit aims to provide food, shelter, showers and clothes to those in need, and Willingham simply needed someone to donate sleeping bags for the cold winter. AWH stepped up to support Making It Count back then and has continued to help, partnering with subcontractors to collect hundreds of sleeping bags and other essential needs for the non-profit. DART thanks both for supporting those less fortunate in the community.

Christmas Food Drive with Dallas Police Department

The AWH Silver Line team also took part the Dallas Police Department's annual winter food drive. AWH and The Walsh Group partnered alongside the Dallas Mavericks and Paul Quinn College to collect enough donations to feed 500 people. All monetary funds, canned goods and boxed food was donated to the North Texas Food Bank.

Join us

Coffee



Construction

conversations



AWH hosts breakfast and coffee meetings at local coffee shops, eateries, and community gathering venues to present information about the DART Silver Line Regional Rail Project, address concerns, and answer questions.

Visit your hosts at awhsilverline.com for more information.



➤ Meet Your Local Community Reps!



Porsche McGinnis | PMcGinnis@DART.org
Community Relations Rep. for Town of Addison

Porsche is a mother to daughter, Winter, and her dog, as well as a proud Californian. She enjoys doing whatever her 2-year-old likes, including going on walks and playing at the park. She is a play-kitchen plastic food connoisseur and, when she can step away, enjoys going to the movies and catching up with friends. Porsche and Winter love to frequent Les Lacs Park in the heart of Addison. She is excited for the completion of the Silver Line because it will provide a new travel option to Kaboom Town and other Addison events.



Robert Sullivan | RSullivan@DART.org
Community Relations Rep. for DFW Airport, Cypress Waters & cities of Coppell and Grapevine

Robert is a native Texan who loves to cook, watch movies and read books. An arts aficionado, he spends time acting in a community theater, writing fiction, and making wine from his family's prickly pear fruit – when he's not out riding his motorcycle. Robert enjoys frequenting The Sound farmers market in Cypress Waters and is looking forward to the completion of the Silver Line so that he can take the train to update the community at DART presentations and get to his creative writing group without sitting in traffic.



Soira Teferi | STeferi@DART.org
Community Relations Rep. for City of Dallas

Meet Soira! Her name may be hard to pronounce (it's Soy-Ruh), but she's an easy-going outdoorsy, family-oriented Texan. Soira is a sports fan who enjoys reading, exercising, and volunteering. She loves trying the expansive menu at her favorite restaurant, the Cheesecake Factory. Soira loves exploring Farmers Branch and North Dallas, and is excited to be explore more of the area once the Silver Line is completed.



Chris Walters | CWalters@DART.org
Community Relations Rep. for cities of Plano and Richardson

Chris is a husband, father, bandwagon Chiefs fan, and nature lover. He enjoys spending time with his family, cooking, and hiking. You can find him eating at Dimassi's Mediterranean Buffet, or the restaurants at City Line in Richardson and Downtown Plano. He enjoys the Arbor Hills Nature Preserve in Plano and is looking forward to being able to walk the Cotton Belt Regional Trail and get to DFW Airport quickly from Plano using the future Silver Line.



Leslie Rios Cruz | LRioscruz@DART.org
Community Relations Rep. for City of Carrollton

Leslie is a traveler, coffee drinker, concertgoer, and foodie who enjoys reading, running, and going to the gym. She loves shopping at the Teso Life grocery store and dining at all the mom-and-pop restaurants in Carrollton. Leslie loves the idea that people will be able to visit Carrollton to try foods and experience the city's culture easily once the Silver Line is in operation.

➤ Presentations Around the Corridor

State of Coppell Luncheon

The DART Silver Line team presented an update on the Cypress Water Station and the overall progress of the Silver Line Regional Rail Project as part of the annual State of Coppell luncheon hosted by the Coppell Chamber of Commerce. The crowd, which featured Mayor Wes Mays as well as elected officials, city staff and Coppell business leaders asked questions on construction traffic, pedestrian crossings, future parking and security at Silver Line stations and transit-oriented development (TOD) around the project.

Billingsly Co., the primary developer in Cypress Waters, has plans for TOD near the new new Silver Line station that will feature a hotel, meeting facilities, and a mixed-use development with office, retail and residential space.

Brookhaven Rotary Meeting

The DART Silver Line team returned to present an update on the Silver Line Project's progress and ongoing

construction activity in the area to the Brookhaven Rotary Club in January. This marked the fourth presentation to the Rotary Club, and the group provided great feedback and excitement for the ease of airport connectivity and the prospect of growing Downtown Carrollton's popularity with visitors that the Silver Line will provide.

Greenhill School Presentation

The DART Silver Line team met with Tom Perryman, Associate Head of School at Greenhill School in Dallas to provide an overview of the Silver Line project and DART's transit safety offerings. While most Greenhill families don't use public transit for everyday use, Perryman said he encourages staff members to familiarize themselves with the greater Dallas area using DART. He also expressed an interest in a partnership that would tout the benefits of public transit to students for the environment and explore public transit's use of energy resources.



The past meets the present. The Historic Downtown Square was the hub of the City of Carrollton in the 1800s. Silver Line will provide new connectivity to the City of Carrollton.

Photo courtesy of City of Carrollton

Stay *connected!*

Follow DART on social media to keep up-to-date with the latest news, highlights, project updates, existing events and breaking news. Get connected by following us today!

-  @DARTDallas
-  @DARTmedia
-  @DARTdaily
-  @DARTDallas



★ The wait is finally over...



The Silver Line trains are in Texas!

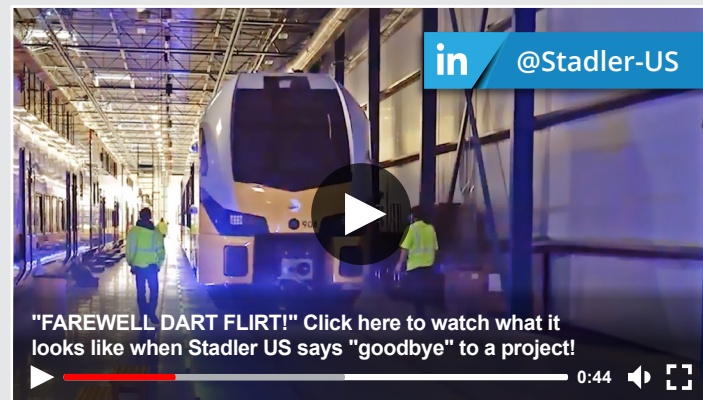
The last batch of vehicles scheduled to operate on the DART Silver Line Regional Rail pulled into the Trinity Railway Express (TRE) Railyard in Irving on the evening of February 1. This marked the second and final shipment of passenger trains (eight total) from Stadler Inc.'s manufacturing facility in Salt Lake City, Utah to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"We've been eagerly anticipating this date, so there was a lot of excitement in the air once these trains pulled into the railyard," said DART Vice President of Capital Design and Construction Trey Walker. "For years all everyone in these cities have been seeing is construction vehicles, construction workers and construction overall, so we're eager to get these trains on the track so future riders can see what the Silver Line is going to be all about."

DART partnered with Stadler to get the premier vehicle on the market for the Silver Line. Its fleet will include a state-of-the-art design that features noise-absorbing polyethylene foam in the bogie (truck) areas, HVAC enclosures, variable speed cooling fans and wheel skirts to make it one of the quietest trains in the industry.

The interior of the vehicle features padded, vinyl seating – fixed, multi-rotational and flip-up seats – as well as an overhead rack for storage and additional hooks for bicycles. At full capacity a vehicle can hold 485 passengers, including 230 seated.

Each train is equipped with closed circuit television (CCTV) systems with internal and external cameras, allowing DART Police to always monitor activity. Additional cameras will be at the platforms and stations to enhance security.



Technological enhancements also make the Silver Line vehicles the most environmentally friendly in the industry, rating as Tier 4 compliant by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) thanks to its electric diesel multiple unit (DMU) engines. DMUs reduce the emissions of particulate matter and oxides of oxygen, while also being self-contained in a separate section of the vehicle and self-propelled – meaning a locomotive is not required to operate the engine. These advancements make DMUs easier to maintain.

"These vehicles will provide a whole new ridership experience to DART customers accustomed to our light-rail or the TRE. The performance and safety of these vehicles is enhanced so customers can expect a quieter and more comfortable ride on the Silver Line," Walker said.

The public will get a chance to see the vehicles running on the track later this year. Segmented testing is scheduled to begin in Plano and Richardson during the summer, with additional parts of the Silver Line corridor added in the fall/winter and early 2025.



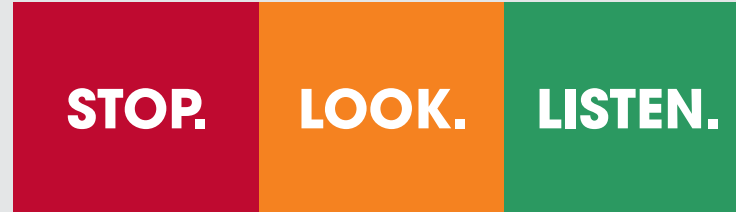
➤ DART Stresses Safety

Safety is always the utmost priority for DART, and the Silver Line Regional Rail Project is no exception. Silver Line staff are taking measures to keep our communities safe by holding regular safety pop-ups to engage students and families at nearby schools including All Saints Catholic School and Frankford Middle School.

At a pop-up safety event in January at Frankford Middle School, the Silver Line team distributed safety tip handouts, reflectors for backpacks and bikes, and information for upcoming meetings. Students, parents, school staff and community members dropped by to ask questions about the project, gather details on impacts to their school and neighborhoods, and grabbed plenty of fun swag including drawstring backpacks, squishy buses, slap bracelets, reflectors, pencils, rulers, and safety whistles – always a student favorite!

With heavy construction underway across the corridor, the Silver Line team discussed the Hillcrest Road closure and the vehicle testing that will begin later this year. The team reinforced the message of "Stop, Look and Listen!" anytime pedestrians and bike riders are near construction sites and rail crossings. They also encouraged students to put away their phones and take ear buds and headphones off before passing through rail crossings or when they are near active construction zones.

DART recognizes the importance of taking inventory of school locations, attendance zone boundaries and students' modes of transportation. Knowing if students must cross the alignment to reach school by bike or foot helps the Silver Line team and communicate the importance of the existing levels of safety and the student's understanding of construction and rail safety.



Any Questions

Let us come to you.

Invite our community representatives to your community or meeting help keep you informed.

Schedule today at DART.org/SilverLine



► Hillcrest Road Closed, Work Continues

The planned 52-week closure of Hillcrest Road began on January 25, with minimal increased traffic.

DART and the City of Dallas agreed to close the 1/5-mile section of Hillcrest Road in North Dallas, allowing zero access to the area between McCallum Boulevard and Wester Way through January 2025. Both parties agreed the closure is necessary to ensure the utmost safety for both the public and construction crews as they worked to lower Hillcrest Road by 10- to 12-feet and build a grade separated rail crossing, which will allow for drivers to use Hillcrest Road without having to stop for a rail crossing when the Silver Line is in operation.

With Hillcrest serving as a major artery of travel for commuters and residents near the Dallas and Richardson border, DART implemented a communication plan to well in advance. DART worked with local cities, private schools, the University of Texas at Dallas and the school districts in Plano and Richardson to minimize the traffic impact and raise awareness of safety around the construction site.

DART worked with Dallas Fire Rescue (DFR) and the Dallas Police Department (DPD) early on to establish emergency access at several locations throughout the construction site. Media coverage was expansive, with print and online outlets notifying the public of the closure a week in advance and local TV traffic reporters on site at the start of the closure reminding the public about work activities and detour routes.

More than a month into the closure, construction is progressing with crews, working to ensure pedestrian walkways remain clear. DART has also worked with the local Jewish community to extend and clear walkways within the ERUV boundary, so the community can maneuver during construction.

“Anytime you take on a road closure of this length and magnitude you want to make sure that you have thorough and effective communication. I feel we did that with all the parties involved and that helped everyone be prepared,” said DART Chief Development Officer Dee Leggett. “As we move forward, our goal is to keep everyone informed of the progress we’re making in Dallas and on the Silver Line corridor overall.”

Archer Western Herzog (AWH)
Construction HOTLINE
(972) 833-2856

Workers finish installing rebar and spraying shotcrete at the Hillcrest pump station. The work required crews to excavate multiple feet to build the pump station and use a boom lift to access the area and complete the work.

► Freight Rail Service back in Plano and Richardson

Plano and Richardson saw trains hauling freight along the Silver Line Regional Rail Project corridor for the first time in almost 18 months when Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) began freight operations again earlier this month. The move signaled progress.

CPKC, agreed to cease freight operations within the Silver Line corridor in July of 2022, allowing DART to advance major construction of the project in a quicker, safer manner.

“This marks a huge step for us on the Silver Line as it shows we’ve progressed to the point that we don’t need that concession to keep moving forward with construction and we’re one step closer to getting our own trains on the track for segmented testing,” said DART Vice President of Capital Design and Construction Trey Walker.

The agreement gave DART the ability to move about the corridor with its construction activities, while rerouting CPKC freight traffic out of the area.

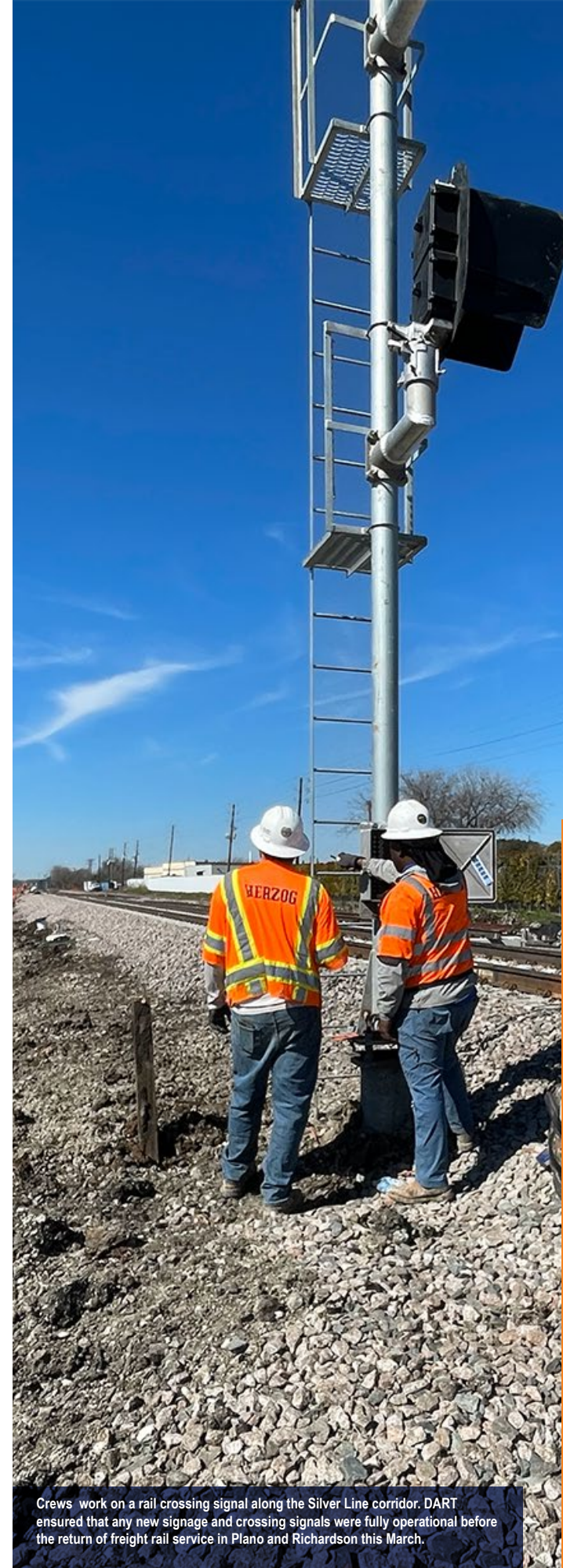
Normal freight operations resumed March 4, which meant DART spent extra time ensuring that new signage, warning systems and existing crossing signals were tested and operational before the trains returned to the tracks. Testing of the systems and crossings occurred March 3, and now, 12 at-grade crossings in Plano and two in Richardson have been reactivated for freight along the Silver Line alignment.

Freight and commuter traffic in Plano and Richardson will operate under quiet zones within the city limits once fully operational. The quiet zone term means the freight trains will not sound their horns unless there is a hazard on or near the tracks during its path of travel.

Communication with the cities and school districts in Plano and Richardson, as well as neighboring Murphy and Wylie, was shared so everyone knew that the formerly dormant crossings are now active. DART prioritizes safety and awareness on the Silver Line, especially with testing scheduled to begin in this segment of the corridor later this year.

List of Active Rail Crossings:

- US-75 Southbound Frontage Rd.
- US-75 Northbound Frontage Rd.
- E Plano Pkwy. (near US-75)
- F Ave.
- 10th St.
- K Ave.
- Municipal Ave.
- N Ave.
- Jupiter Rd.
- Shiloh Rd.
- Los Rios Blvd.
- E Plano Pkwy. (near 14th Street)
- Custer Pkwy
- Alma Rd.



Crews work on a rail crossing signal along the Silver Line corridor. DART ensured that any new signage and crossing signals were fully operational before the return of freight rail service in Plano and Richardson this March.

DART, NTTA Plan for Closure of Dallas North Tollway

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) have agreed to an overnight closure of the Dallas North Tollway (DNT) between Belt Line and Keller Springs roads from 10 p.m. Saturday, March 23, to 5 a.m. Sunday, March 24, to advance construction of the DART Silver Line Regional Rail Project.

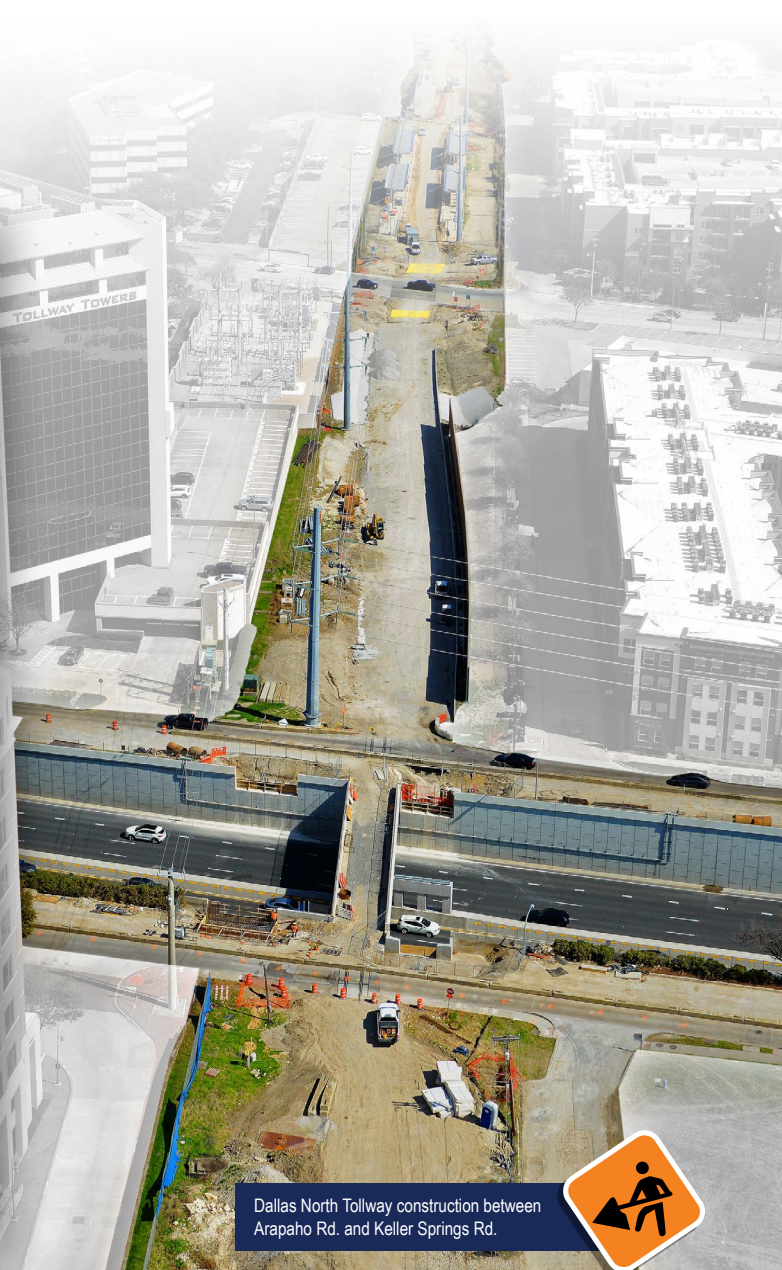
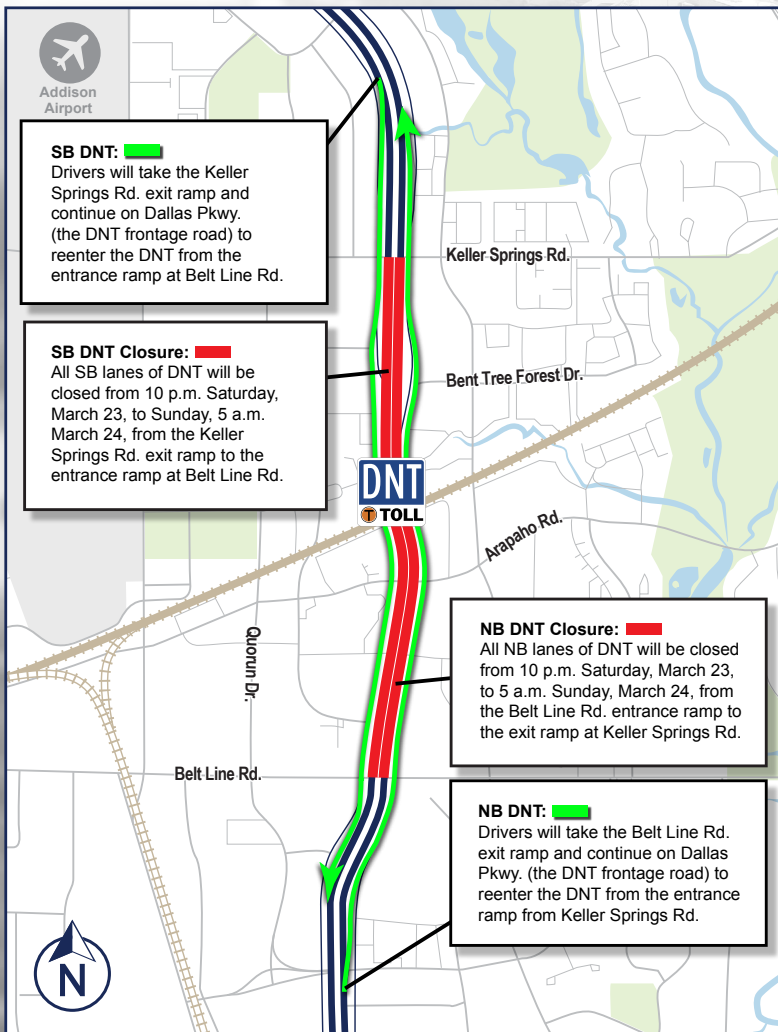
The closure will have southbound DNT drivers take the Keller Springs Road exit ramp, remain on the frontage road, and reenter the DNT at Belt Line Road. Northbound DNT drivers will exit at Belt Line Road, continue onto the frontage road, and reenter the DNT at Keller Springs Road.

DART and NTTA agreed on the overnight closure to ensure the safety of the traveling public and change to work crews while limiting the impact of construction on DNT traffic. Crews from Archer Western Herzog, DART's design-build contractor, will set beams for a rail bridge that will take the Silver Line over the DNT and a future pedestrian bridge that connects Dallas and Addison as part of a regional hike and bike trail.

Additional closures will occur later in the spring to early summer as DART will need to set both bridges and NTTA has additional work to complete on the DNT. In between the planned closures, drivers can expect some DNT lane closures at night as crews prepare for the setting of the bridges. Northbound and southbound frontage roads will always remain open.

“Our primary focus is safety first, so while we understand this will cause an inconvenience for drivers at night, we want to ensure commuters and our construction crews stay out of harm’s way during normal daytime DNT traffic,” said DART Chief Development Officer Dee Leggett. “We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as we make progress on the Silver Line and adjacent hike and bike trail in the area.”

*Dates subject to change based on weather or unforeseen circumstances.



Dallas North Tollway construction between Arapaho Rd. and Keller Springs Rd.