



BLUE LINE EXPRESS

A project report from Dallas Area Rapid Transit | Spring 2011

Blue Line Facts at a Glance

- 4.5- mile extension from Downtown Garland to Downtown Rowlett
- Total Blue Line Project cost: \$360 million
- Rowlett Blue Line extension is scheduled to open in December 2012
- Approximately 700 parking spaces will be available at the new DART Downtown Rowlett Station
- Reconfiguration of Melcer Drive and Martin Drive will allow for the creation of a pedestrian plaza at Downtown Rowlett station
- Forty-eight special antique-style lights will line Richard Street, Melcer Drive, and Martin Drive, which surround and lead up to the Downtown Rowlett Station

Making History

On March 23, nearly 200 people celebrated a historic day for Rowlett: the beginning of construction on the much-anticipated Downtown Rowlett Station. A well-attended groundbreaking event drew media and dignitaries from throughout the region, as well as community leaders, business owners and residents from Rowlett and nearby Garland.

The milestone was marked with speeches by Dr. John Harper, former mayor of Rowlett; Gary Thomas, president and executive director of DART; Mike Moore, Regional Manager of Austin Bridge & Road; and Mark Enoch, former mayor of Rowlett and member of the DART Board of Directors, which he chaired from 2005-2007. The speakers touted the importance of the partnership between DART, the City of Rowlett, and Austin Bridge & Road. Each

expressed excitement at the fruition of a 20-year dream, as well as optimism about the economic development possibilities the Blue Line will bring to Rowlett. The event was capped off when an excavator moved dirt on the exact site of the station, ceremonially kicking off construction activities.

Station artist Viola Delgado was on hand, along with many panels depicting the future station art, to give attendees a clear idea of the station's aesthetic components (see accompanying article). Additionally, project calendars featuring the station's artwork and quotes from Rowlett citizens were distributed as official souvenirs for the event.

The Downtown Rowlett Station and the 4.5-mile DART Blue Line extension from Downtown Garland to Downtown Rowlett is scheduled to open for service in December 2012.

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DART President/Executive Director Gary Thomas and a host of other dignitaries were on hand to kick off construction activities.



Nature and History Converge

Lake Ray Hubbard is central to Rowlett's identity as a city – and accordingly, it figures prominently in the art & design of Downtown Rowlett Station. "I grew up around the lake, so this project has been very special for me personally," says Viola Delgado, station artist for the Downtown Rowlett Station. Delgado originally hails from South Garland, and her theme for the station draws equally from the nature and the history of the area.

The lake theme is woven throughout the station – from the blades of cattails in the columns to the shade of blue that is embedded in the walkway leading to the platform. Additionally, the pioneer background of Rowlett emerges as a motif.

Near the platform, a cornucopia of artwork proliferates across 11 undulating panels, which echo the motion of water.

The scenes depicted on the panels range from sketches of the surrounding landscape and fauna, to portraits of the prominent families that settled the area, to representations of the family activities that are so much a part of the fabric of current-day Rowlett. The installation also features quotes from celebrated authors Alex Hailey and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

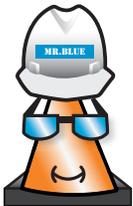
Throughout the process of designing the station, Delgado worked closely with a community Art and Design committee, which she praises for having strong focus and a firm sense of direction. "The Downtown Rowlett Station will be a park-like setting designed to appeal to families



A lake theme will be woven throughout Downtown Rowlett Station.

and commuters alike, and we've all worked hard to make sure it will be a treasure for Rowlett residents for generations to come," she says.

Signs of the Times Around Construction Zones



It's a sign of progress! Full and partial road closures are an inevitable part of the Blue Line Extension Project, and Austin Bridge & Road is committed to providing informative signage to help motorists maneuver through construction zones with minimal disruption.

In addition to the signs, variable message boards are being deployed well in advance of the closures, particularly those that will occur over several days. Where appropriate, the signage is in both English and Spanish. Take advantage of this strategic information – it is designed to optimize the flow of traffic, maximize safety and hopefully spare you a headache or two. As always, thanks for your patience. Rest assured it will pay off!

Project Update

The DART Blue Line Extension project linking Downtown Garland and Downtown Rowlett continues on course for its opening in December 2012.

Rowlett Road At-Grade Crossing

The civil elements are complete, and track installation at the crossing is scheduled for June 21 - June 29. A 7-day closure will be required for the crossing work.

Dexham Road At-Grade Crossing

The civil elements are nearly complete, with track installation to follow in June/July. A 3-day closure will be required for the crossing work.

Rainbow Estates Sound Wall

Construction of the wall foundation is under way. It should be completed in July.

Rowlett Creek Bridge

Deck paving is under way, and the entire bridge should be done in October 2011.

Main Street Bridge

Deck paving is under way and this bridge should also be completed in October.

Contact Us



Dawn Dorman
(Community Affairs Representative)
214-749-2598

Austin Bridge & Road
(Prime Contractor)
972-651-0414

Website & Social Media

Blue Line Project

www.DART.org/about/expansion/blue.asp

Austin Bridge & Road

www.austinprojects.com
(click on Austin Bridge & Road and select DART Blue Line Expansion)

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