

Quarterly NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 8 | JUNE 2024

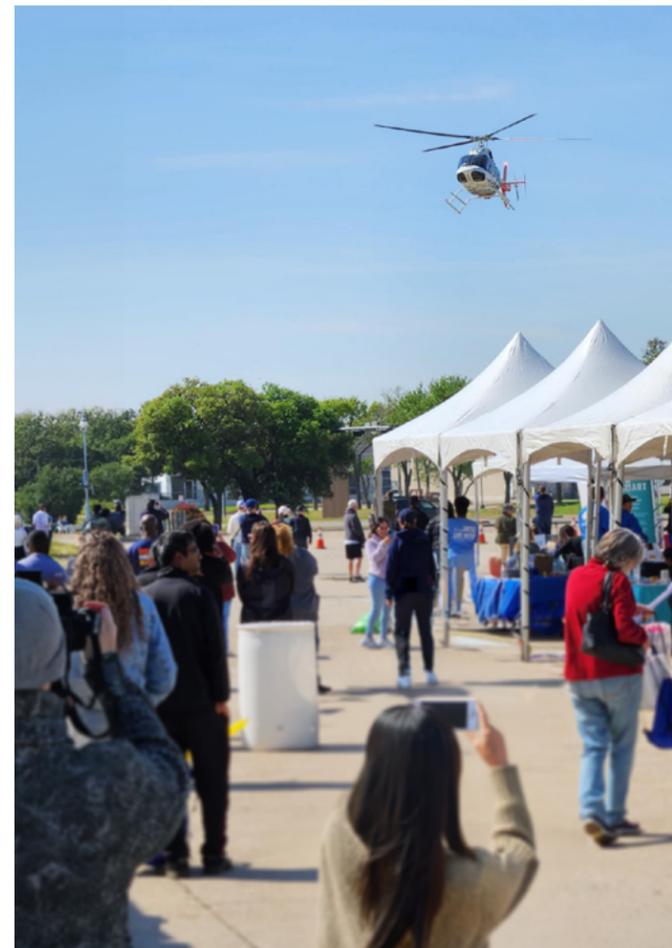


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COMMUNITY EVENTS *and Presentations*

With construction on the Silver Line Regional Rail project exceeding 60% during the spring, it was extra imperative for DART to get current information in the community's hands. The Silver Line team managed to cover community events throughout the corridor to update residents on the project's progress, stress safety at rail crossings, stations and construction sites, and answer questions about parking, service, and the trains.

Each city and community has its own questions and concerns, which is why the Silver Line team consists of people knowledgeable about the project and community relations members familiar with each city's needs. Below is a summary of the events DART attended this quarter:



Carrollton Safety Fair

Sponsored by Carrollton Fire Rescue, the event focused on providing community members with access to health and safety information, providers, and supplies. Attendees learned about Care Flight services, watched a simulated rescue demonstration from a vehicle crash and a high-rise environment while visiting with a variety of service organizations.

Questions from DART staff stressed safety concerns around the downtown station and the wait time at crossings around the area. Attendees were reassured that the Silver Line will provide a safe and clean environment with an increased DART Police presence on trains and at stations. Work is already underway to limit the length of wait times downtown while giving pedestrians and bikers enough time to cross safely.

City of Dallas - District 12 Meeting

The Silver Line team provided a construction update to more than 50 residents in the North Dallas area on the Silver Line project. The details included informing residents that the opening of a lane of traffic in each direction on Hillcrest Road is on pace for January 2025, there will be a shift of traffic onto the northbound roadway of Coit Road later this summer and the revenue service schedule has yet to be established.

Residents issued concerns on the ability to find up-to-date information easily on dart.org/silverline and asked if the meeting could start earlier to maximize time on questions and answers.

Exchange Club of Richardson Presentation

An update on the Silver Line project and the specific work occurring in Richardson was given during the civic organization's regular meeting. The team let them know that the rail bridge over US-75 is almost complete and that segmented testing of the Silver Line vehicles will begin between the Shiloh Road Station in Plano and the UT Dallas Station in Richardson later in late July or early August.

Oak Cliff Chamber Leadership Luncheon

The Oak Cliff Chamber asked for an overview of the Silver Line and wanted to know why there was no access into the area and limited stops in Dallas. During a meeting with the current OCC Leadership Class, the team let them know that the rail only runs east to west, which is why there is no direct access to downtown Dallas or Oak Cliff. They were also informed that the project includes Dallas stops at the Knoll Trail and Cypress Waters Stations.

Carrollton Historical Society

The Silver Line team provided a construction overview and hosted a Q&A session with members of the Carrollton Historical Society. The two biggest questions surrounded the timing of the rail crossings in and near downtown Carrollton and the future use of the Historic Downtown Carrollton Depot. The team informed them that they're working with the city to ensure the timing provides enough time for pedestrians to cross while also not slowing down traffic coming into the downtown area. They also discussed the plan DART is developing to reuse the depot building, which will be located near the new Silver Line station.

Dallas Bike Coalition Quarterly Meeting

DART joined the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to provide members of the Dallas Bike Coalition and its sister organization in Richardson an overview of the Silver Line Regional Rail project and accompanying Cotton Belt Regional Trail. NCTCOG provided an outline of its diverse trail system that will eventually connect pedestrians and bikers from Dallas to Fort Worth.

The group included the plans of the Cotton Belt Trail, which follows the Silver Line alignment from Plano into Grapevine with connections to existing trails in Dallas, Richardson, Addison, Carrollton and Coppell. The bikers were thrilled to learn the Dallas North Tollway pedestrian bridge will open later this year and that the Silver Line trains would have storage bins and bike hooks for those wishing to hop on after a ride on the trail.



2024

Summer
Biannual
Community
Meetings

DART.org



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



Silver Line Service Plan DART provides answers as part of UTD Student Government transportation panel

While the Silver Line Regional Rail project has sparked a lot of interest and questions from residents and community groups in every city along the corridor, no group has been a bigger vocal proponent of the project than the University of Texas at Dallas. As the third largest university within the prestigious University of Texas System, UT Dallas administration, faculty and students see the Silver Line as major component to helping the university continue supporting its 30,000-plus student population mobilize around the Dallas area.

The City of Richardson’s biannual meeting in January featured a heavy dose of students asking questions specifically around connectivity to existing DART bus and light-rail service, while also having various questions about the Silver Line’s vehicles, stations and service overall. The DART Silver Line team offered to return in the spring with updated details on the project and connectivity.

“We know we can’t answer every question the students have right now about service and bus connections, so we wanted to provide them with as much accurate information as possible before we get trains on tracks to test and the new bus routes take effect,” said Mario Zavala, DART Silver Line project communications manager.

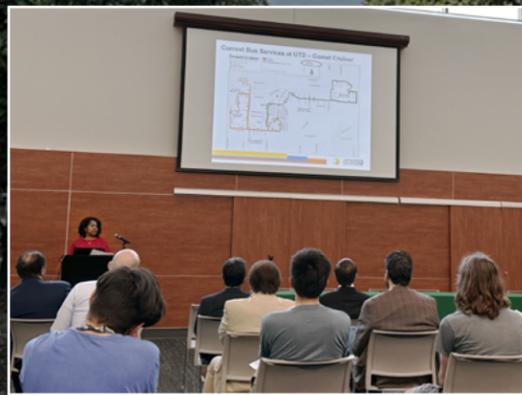
DART partnered with Comets for Transit and UT Dallas Student Government to host an on-campus Silver Line construction and service planning meeting while also offering support to a transportation panel featuring DART Board Chair Gary Slagel, UT Dallas Vice President for Business Affairs Dr. Calvin Jamison, Richardson Mayor Pro Tem Arefin Shamsul and Richardson City Council Member Dan Barrios.

The Silver Line team informed the group that the UT Dallas Station was approximately 70% complete, segmented testing would begin in their area in late July and that DART would plan an event for the UT Dallas and Richardson community to be able to check out the trains before revenue service begins. Members of the service planning team provided the group with maps of a new bus route that will be added later this summer while also going over changes to existing routes.

Students and faculty attending were pleased to learn that the DART Board will consider expanded service with a 60-train schedule, but expressed concern that there would not be a bus stop at the Silver Line Station. DART staff shared that the current bus stop is within a reasonable walking distance and said adjustments could be made once Silver Line service and the new bus routes are in place.

Slagel stressed the importance of listening to the UT Dallas community’s want to connect to both Dallas airports, the downtown area and other parts of Richardson – highlighting the value of DART’s connectivity to students and nearby residents. Barrios pledged to continue supporting DART and asked the students to get more involved to make Richardson better.

“DART has been a valuable partner in helping the city grow and succeed. You can too, and you don’t have to wait until you graduate to make a difference,” Barrios said.



National Bike to Work Day a Success at DART Stations

Since 2001, DART has invited North Texans to start their commute to work on two wheels as part of the Dallas area’s annual Bike to Work Day. This national event encourages everyone to ditch their cars for a day and try cycling as their primary commute method to their jobs.

This year was no different with DART staff joining city council members and staff from participating member cities to rally around over 100 cyclists at various stations along the DART transit system. With places to store their bicycles, commuters rode to the Downtown Carrollton Station, Akard Station, Tyler/Vernon Station, CityLine/Bush Station, and Cockrell Hill Transfer location before catching DART for the rest of their ride to work.

One lucky participant – Dallas student and resident Brooklyn Nguyen – won a new bicycle through a contest at the Akard Station in downtown Dallas. Nguyen said she has been car free for six years and is grateful for DART as it is her “go-to for every excursion” in and around the Dallas area.

Bicycling has become a popular commuting alternative and has numerous benefits such as improving physical and mental health, being an environmentally friendly alternative to cars and providing a financial savings on fuel.

DART welcomes and encourages North Texans to bike their commute and even combine their commute with a DART bus or train as all DART vehicles feature bicycle storage options to help residents get from Point A to Point B with ease.

DART’s buses are equipped with easy-loading bike racks and the center car of

every DART light-rail vehicle has a low-floor section, making it easy to board with your bike. DART rail stations and transit centers also offer bike racks and environmentally friendly, state-of-the-art, bike lids free of charge.

All bike lids meet homeland security requirements, are homeless and vandal-resistant, and do not overheat or melt plastic bike components. Use of the bike lids is on a first-come, first-served basis and cyclists should provide their own padlock, U-Lock, chain lock or cable lock to secure the bike lid. (Please note, bike lids may not be locked for more than 72 hours at a time, and locking of unused lids is not allowed.)

The DART Silver Line features, wide entrance doorways with visual and auditory warning devices and bicycle hooks to transport and secure them out of the aisles. The Silver Line’s 26-mile corridor opens for revenue service in late 2025 or early 2026 and will also have the adjacent Cotton Belt Regional Trail that can be used for hiking and biking.



Dallas student and resident Brooklyn Nguyen



DART celebrated National Bike to Work Day at several light-rail and future Silver Line stations. DART Board Chair Gary Slagel (second from left) and Chris Walters, DART Community Relations Representative, (middle) joined City of Richardson staff in encouraging commuters to bike, while student Brooklyn Nguyen (posing with bike) was the winner of DART’s Bike to Work Day contest at the Akard Station in downtown Dallas.



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Coffee & Construction conversations



Every community within the DART Silver Line Regional Rail project corridor is different, so the team works diligently to meet their needs and get them the necessary information in ways that reach the most people. That sometimes requires providing a door-to-door approach that the Silver Line team and Archer Western Herzog (AWH), its design-build contractor, tackle together.

AWH works with the team to establish regular quarterly events throughout the city so residents are informed about the project and its progress. One way to reach a large population in a short amount of time is to visit apartment complexes and have town hall-style meetings where the specific questions and concerns for each resident and the complex overall can be addressed together.

Many of these apartment complexes are within a block of construction or can visibly see it from their unit windows or amenity centers, so these residents want to be knowledgeable and engaged. Below is a summary of the presentations and Q&A sessions DART and AWH hosted this quarter:

Switchyard - Carrollton

Switchyard residents that live in the northeast towers may have the best view of the project of anyone along the Silver Line corridor. With the existing DART Green Line light-rail station in forefront, the Silver Line Station being constructed below and the new rail bridge and freight rail line being installed in the background, it provides an unparalleled spot to see how much progress has been made on the project.

Following a project update by AWH, questions for the Silver Line team focused on safety around the downtown station, wait time at downtown crossings, pedestrian access to trails from the apartment complex and the establishment of quiet zones. They were informed that the adjacent Cotton Belt Regional Trail will have connections to existing trails in downtown Carrollton and that an increased DART Police presence along with lighting and monitored cameras would enhance safety in the area. Residents thanked the team for their work with the city to establish quiet zones and better regulate freight noise traffic.

IMT Prestonwood - Dallas

The residents at IMT Prestonwood face the Dallas North Tollway, so their questions focused on nighttime construction, the opening of the pedestrian bridge, and trail access. The AWH construction team let them know that the majority of evening construction was complete and that the pedestrian bridge over the DNT is set to open later this year.

St. Marin Apartments - Coppell

AWH provided a construction update to more than 60 Coppell residents who were loaded with questions about the Silver Line, its vehicles, bus and light rail connectivity and DART itself. The questions primarily focused on why the Cypress Waters Station is positioned so far away from all the housing and commercial activity in the city and why there were no connections to other transit services throughout Coppell.

The Silver Line team used the opportunity to explain how DART offers services for its members cities, of which Coppell is not one. Residents, many of whom are recent transplants to the area, were surprised to learn that the new Silver Line Station is in the Dallas city limits and that Coppell was once a DART member city but voted to break away over 30 years ago. The team did inform them that there would be bus service connecting them to Carrollton and Irving, where other rail and bus transit options would be available.

Ferro - Plano

An update on the Silver Line project in Plano and the specific work being done directly behind the building (the 12th Street Silver Line Station) and above the complex's dog park (the new aerial 12th Street Station for DART light rail) was of particular concern to residents. The Silver Line team discussed the

start of testing in the area later this summer, addressed concerns regarding cleanup around the complex grounds near the construction site and plans for what divisions would be in place to separate the property from the railroad tracks.

Ferro residents thanked the team for consistently keeping them informed and praised property management's ability to maintain consistent communication with DART staff. The ability to stay connected led to residents receiving previous individual notices about overnight work, getting a personalized Q&A session prior the return of freight rail service and weekly sweeping of the area during peak construction.

Palencia Apartments - Dallas

With Palencia facing one of the most complex pieces of construction along the Silver Line corridor in the reconfiguration of Coit Road, communication between the Silver Line team and residents of this apartment complex occurs regularly. The project has seen Palencia lose parking spaces and a primary entrance until Coit Road is finished, so residents focused their questions on when both of those would be returned to normal. Residents were also given information on the adjustment of the traffic pattern coming during the summer and an update on the DART bus schedule within the city of Richardson and its nearby bus stops – which are within walking distance.

The Pradera - Richardson

Located within a few miles of both the CityLine/Bush Station and the University of Texas at Dallas, residents at The Pradera were interested to learn when service would begin, the two Silver Line Stations nearest to them would open and how parking would work at the UT Dallas Station. Following a Richardson-focused construction update, the team let them know that the project is slated to open for revenue service in late 2025 or early 2026, with all stations opening at the same time. Parking at the UT Dallas Station will accommodate over 200 vehicles.





2024 DART Student Art Contest

For over 25 years, DART has provided a theme and held the DART Student Art Contest for young artists of all ages. The agency's Community Relations team serves as the official hosts, sharing the theme and opportunities for prizes with students in kindergarten through 12th grade in each of the 13 member cities and beyond.

These North Texas student artists compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to have their artwork featured on DART rail stations, buses, and inside light-rail vehicles (LRVs). They have fun researching DART's existing rail system, visiting destinations in each member city to gather inspiration for their designs, and use their creativity in selecting colors and textures to build their submission.

"Art brings real beauty into all our lives. The creativity and imagination our North Texas students bring to their artwork is astounding," said DART President and Chief Executive Officer Nadine Lee. "I'm honored that the agency can provide our young artist with an opportunity to show everyone the wonder and brilliance of their work."

The 2024 Best of Show Winner, Seoyun Lee, is a rising 9th grader from Plano who attends John Paul II Catholic High School, which is located at Coit Road and Plano Parkway, about 1.5 miles north of the new incoming DART Silver Line corridor. Her take on this year's theme "Explore DART's 13 Area Cities" saw two children use their creativity to showcase the best each city has to offer while playing in a bedroom.

Seoyun's winning artwork design is displayed at the Dallas Museum of Art, Love Field Airport and on the DART website. The other grade-winning artwork's can be found at various DART rail stations, on trains and online at <https://studentartgallery.dart.org/gallery/2024>.

This year's contest saw 814 entries from 132 different public and private schools in four grade-level divisions (K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade) and included entries from Richmond, Virginia and Monticello, Arkansas. All 13 cities within the DART Service Area (Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland Park, Irving,

Plano, Richardson, Rowlett, University Park) participated in what has grown to become one of DART's most popular community events.

Past art contest themes have included everyday heroes riding DART, the agency's new bus network, DART Zoom, using transit to stay connected and what you can discover while riding DART's transit options.

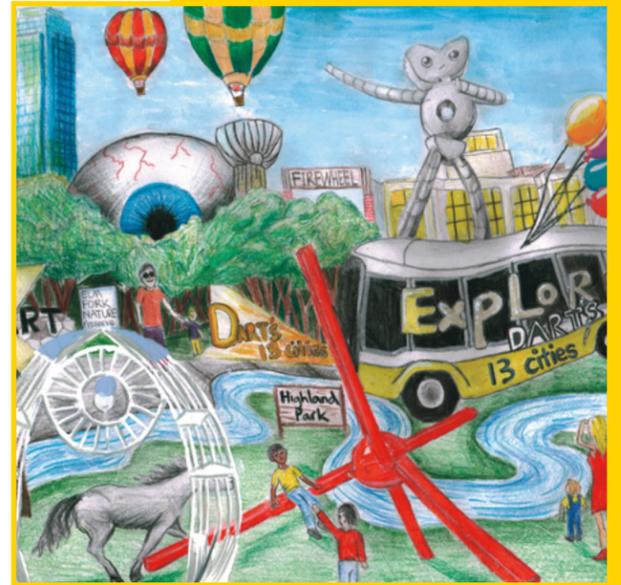
DART also stresses safety, so students learn about safety measures around active rail lines and those under construction from trained and certified safety instructors on staff.



The DART Student Art Contest allows for a variety of creative work, but also adheres to these specific guidelines including:

- Each poster must visually illustrate the year's theme.
- Designs must be original work created by the student. Limit one entry per student. No group entries are allowed.
- Contestants must include the words of the theme somewhere in their submission. In addition, entries must incorporate DART into their design in some way. Examples could include using the DART logo, a DART vehicle, a DART facility, and/or the word "DART" in their artwork.
- Entries must measure 11" high x 17" wide, and designs should be laid out horizontally. Students may use multiple colors of their choice. Entries should be submitted on heavy paper such as a poster, tag, or illustration board.
- Media may include crayons, paint, markers, colored pencils, and digital art.

DART wishes to thank our 2024 valued partners once again for helping us promote the use of public transportation though the annual student art contest. Your generosity has made this outreach event possible.



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Vehicle & Segment Testing

Silver Line Makes Debut on Local Tracks, Official Testing Set for Late Summer between Richardson and Plano

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) is proud to announce that its Silver Line trains are running on local tracks for the first time.

DART worked with Trinity Metro, its partner on the Trinity Railway Express (TRE), to secure track availability to exercise the vehicles and test train operators and vehicle systems. The Silver Line trains have been running full routes, following the same travel path as the TRE, from 10 am to 6 pm with brief stops at each of its stations since May 5.

“It’s exciting for everyone associated with this project because this means we’re that much closer to opening for revenue service and having passengers on these new trains,” said Anthony Fuller, vice president of Silver Line maintenance and operation. “The goal is to operate these vehicles and ensure that all the systems are operating as they should while running, stopping and starting on the tracks. Much like a new car before it’s put it on the lot, we want to make sure that everything is ready to go starting Day One for our customers.”

The Silver Line trains will run on the TRE service route every Sunday since there is no regular TRE service on that day of the week. This will only be a test run; no passengers will be allowed to board the Silver Line trains at any of the TRE stations.



DART is more than 60% complete with the Silver Line project overall and will begin to fully test the trains in segments on the Silver Line tracks later this summer. Segmented testing, which describes testing of the train and operating systems on a specific segment of the track on the project, is set to begin in late July or early August on the segment that runs between the Shiloh Road Station in Plano and University of Texas at Dallas Station in Richardson.

Testing will continue in the fall between the Knoll Trail Station in Dallas and Terminal B Station at DFW Airport. Segmented testing will wrap up in early 2025 with Silver Line trains running between the UT Dallas and Knoll Trail stations.

Segmented testing is necessary to ensure each portion of track along the alignment functions as needed and the vehicle responds accordingly. End-to-end testing of the entire Silver Line corridor is planned for summer of 2025.

Designed by Swiss manufacturer Stadler and assembled in Salt Lake City, the Silver Line vehicles are powered by electric diesel multiple-unit-powered (DMU) engines that meet strict EPA standards. With seating for over 230 passengers and updated amenities like multidirectional seats, overhead storage and internal CCTV cameras, the trains resemble Trinity Metro’s TexRail vehicles, and will provide a quiet ride with passenger safety and comfort.

The DART Silver Line is a 26-mile commuter rail that traverses seven North Texas cities (Grapevine, Coppell, Dallas, Carrollton, Addison, Richardson, Plano) between DFW Airport and Shiloh Road in Plano. The regional rail alignment crosses three counties (Collin, Dallas, Tarrant) and will provide service to improve mobility and accessibility across the northern portion of the DART service area. DART Silver Line revenue service is scheduled to begin in late 2025 to early-2026.



➤ Aerial Work Stands Out as Bridges, Beams & Platforms Get Set



A mandatory overnight closure of the Dallas North Tollway during the first weekend in May allowed construction crews to finish concrete work on the new pedestrian and rail bridges that are part of the DART Silver Line Regional Rail project.

The closure, a joint agreement between DART and the North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA) forced traffic onto the frontage roads from 10 p.m., May 3, to 5 a.m., May 4, as Archer Western Herzog (AWH), the project's design-build contractor, set concrete decks for the rail bridge, which will carry the Silver Line trains over the tollway, and the pedestrian bridge to the north (near Arapaho Road) that will connect Addison and Dallas as part of a regional hike and bike trail that follows the Silver Line alignment.

The work was done overnight to ensure the safety of the traveling public and work crews, while limiting the impact on DNT traffic. The pedestrian bridge is scheduled to open later this year, providing direct access from Dallas to Addison over the DNT.

Early morning work was also necessary to install beams at the existing DART Green Line light-rail aerial station. The work took place June 7, at the end of the Green Line operations for the day. The work was necessary for a platform extension that will connect the current light-rail station to the new Silver Line Station in downtown Carrollton.

Power to the station was shut down around 1:50 a.m. and construction crews worked quickly to raise, place, and install the beams on the aerial platform. Once the beams were set, power was restored at 3:30 a.m. allowing the operations team to prepare for the next round of revenue service.

AWH crews have worked day and night to establish a functioning base for what will become the platform for the new Red and Orange Line aerial light-rail station in Plano. Members of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently got a first-hand look at the construction progress, checking the track and future elevator shafts while seeing how close the station will be to the Silver Line's 12th Street Station in Plano. Both stations are being constructed at the same time as part of the project.

