



May 16, 2025

Mr. Noah Heath
TxDOT – PTN Director
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701 TX

Subject: Dallas Area Rapid Transit Application to the TxDOT 2025 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects for the Cotton Belt/Silver Line Rail Trail Phase 3a

Dear Mr. Heath:

Metrocrest Services, a human services non-profit, is pleased to support the application to the TxDOT 2025 Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects submitted by the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) requesting funding to construct **Phase 3a of the Cotton Belt/Silver Line Rail Trail**.

This regionally significant project will improve safe walking and bicycling access to the DART Silver Line Commuter Rail currently under construction. The project partners for Phase 3a include Dallas County, the Cities of Carrollton, Coppell and Dallas, the Town of Addison, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. This project phase will construct over four miles of a 26-mile trail system, primarily within the existing DART Silver Line rail right-of-way. This "rail-with-trail" project will create a true multi-modal experience and enhance local and regional mobility and connectivity to key destinations, public institutions, and nearby transit-oriented development.

The Phase 3a Rail Trail project is part of a "cross-state spine" designated by the Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails Study. It will significantly increase opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists to access the Silver Line commuter rail transportation by providing safe roadway crossings and direct access to three rail stations. The rail-with-trail project will connect transit with nearby residential areas, schools, large employers, retail areas, and parks, and will also support transit-oriented economic development opportunities around the DART rail system stations in the booming North Texas region.

Dallas County is classified as being in nonattainment for ozone by the Environmental Protection Agency. By improving bicycle and pedestrian access to transit, this rail-with-trail project will help improve our air quality, mitigate climate change impacts experienced by vulnerable populations, and connect the public to more opportunities.

Metrocrest Services is an advocate for projects that enhance community activity and walkability, and its subsequent impact on the overall health of a community.

Again, Metrocrest Services fully supports the application submitted by Dallas Area Rapid Transit for the Cotton Belt/Silver Line Rail Trail project. Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Eubanks", written in a cursive style.

Tracy Eubanks, CEO

Serving Carrollton, Farmers Branch, Addison, Coppell, and city of Dallas in Denton County