



May 1, 2023

Mr. Noah Heath
TxDOT – PTN
TA Program Manager

Dear Mr. Heath:

KDC is pleased to support the 2023 Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation Alternatives (TA) application submitted by Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) for the Cotton Belt / Silver Line Rail Trail.

This project will improve safe walking, bicycling, and transit access to DART's Silver Line Light Rail, which is currently under construction. The project partners include the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Dallas County, the Cities of Dallas, Richardson, Plano, and the Town of Addison. The project will construct approximately 4.7 miles of a 26-mile trail system, including Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant neighborhood connections, primarily within the existing DART right-of-way of the Silver Line. This "rail-with-trail" project will create a true multi-modal experience.

This project aims to provide safe access at various rail and roadway crossings and reduce barriers to the walking and bicycling public. The trail will also support economic development and opportunities in the booming North Texas region on the DART rail system. Local, regional, and state tourism opportunities will showcase all modes of transportation and connect to large employers, and residential and retail areas.

Dallas County is classified as being in nonattainment for ozone by the Environmental Protection Agency. This transportation alternatives project will increase bicycle and pedestrian access to transit, thus helping to improve our air quality, mitigating climate change impacts experienced by vulnerable populations, and connect the public to more opportunities. This request for TA funding is consistent with local and regional plans to support and emphasize the need for improving access to sustainable and affordable transportation options.

Again, KDC fully supports the 2023 TxDOT TA application submitted by Dallas Area Rapid Transit and would ask you to select this important project. Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walter J. Mountford", written over a blue circular stamp.

Walter J. Mountford
Executive Vice President