



**Dallas County**  
**BRIEFING / COURT ORDER**  
**Commissioners Court - May 16 2023**

- ☐ Resolution
- ☒ Solicitation/Contract
- ☐ Executive Session
- ☐ Addendum

**Dallas County's Support of DART's Cotton Belt Trail Transportation Alternatives  
(TA) Set-Aside Application (R&B District 2)**

**Briefing Date:** May 16 2023  
**Funding Source:** Fund 196.8110.90002  
**Originating Department:** Public Works  
**Prepared by:** Jurmerline Randle, MCIP Financial Coordinator  
**Recommended by:** Alberta Blair, Director of Public Works

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Dallas County participates in and promotes multimodal forms of transportation throughout the County. This includes support for both a regional rail and trail alignment along the Cotton Belt corridor spanning across the northern part of Dallas County located in Commissioner District 2. As such, Dallas County is participating on the local match for the critical sections of trail within Dallas County along the Cotton Belt Trail corridor, which is identified in the attached map. Dallas County is also committed to partnering with the agencies and cities involved in the project to help ensure success.

In 2018, the Dallas County Commissioners Court approved funding from the TAPP programs for a partnership with North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), DART, the Town of Addison, and the cities of Carrollton, Dallas, and Coppell related to construction of the Cotton Belt rail between the DFW Airport and Plano.

The original plan envisioned in 2018 was for DART to construct the entire trail concurrently with the Silver Line Commuter Rail project. Based on the engineering completed to date, and the significant increases in construction costs since the planning level opinions of construction costs were completed nearly 5 years ago, there is a delta in funding needed for DART to construct the Cotton Belt Trail. NCTCOG and DART have identified prioritized sections of the trail for initial construction, primarily "critical" bridge locations that must be completed before the Silver Line rail begins operations due to significant challenges that would make it difficult, if not impossible, to construct the bridges after the rail is operational. DART will be submitting applications to the TxDOT Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects (due in June 2023) to fund additional sections of the Trail. This State grant application requires a 20% local match. The sections of the trail proposed for this grant application will connect the high priority bridge sections of the Cotton Belt Trail. The request by the Town of Addison to shift funding from the western side of town to the area east of Midway Road will allow for a prioritized section of trail to be implemented, linking with the Midway Road trail bridge (funded by the RTC), the Addison Center Rail Station, and extend eastward to the trail bridge at DNT, which will soon start construction by DART's Silver Line Rail contractor.

**OPERATIONAL IMPACT:**

The County funding commitment is to be reserved until the other agencies have coordinated, authorized, and prepared the agreement for County execution.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The total estimated construction cost for the critical trail segments of the Cotton Belt Trail TA Set-Aside grant request is \$52.7 Million. This includes a grant request of \$30 Million in TA Set-Aside funding and other local and regional funds totaling \$22.7 Million. Dallas County Commissioner District 2 will provide participation towards the Project in the amount of \$1,670,283.00.

Dallas County has additional funding allocated to the Cotton Belt Trail that will be utilized on future phases of the trail that are not included in this grant.

**LEGAL IMPACT:**

Once NCTCOG has completed drafting the agreement, then the District Attorney's Office, Civil Division, will be involved in the review of the agreement from NCTCOG to facilitate Dallas County funding participation.

NCTCOG will have a separate agreement with DART to facilitate the funding transfer since DART will be the implementing agency.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE:**

The deadline for the TxDOT Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program Call for Projects grant application is June 5, 2023. The award is expected to be announced in October of 2023. The Dallas County agreement with NCTCOG is anticipated in the FY 2024.

**SBE PARTICIPATION:**

This project will be managed by other agencies.

**MISSION, VISION, VALUE COMPLIANCE:**

Dallas County partners with cities to implement transportation projects, which is consistent with Dallas County's Mission, Vision, and Value Compliance in that Dallas County is a proactive regional partner, Dallas County is the destination of choice for businesses and residents, and to improve people's lives.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the County Judge to affirm that Dallas County supports DART on their Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside application request to TxDOT's 2023 Call for Projects for the funding of the Cotton Belt Trail project and authorize the County Judge to sign the attached letter of support, which is addressed to TxDOT's TA Program Manager. Dallas County Commissioner District 2 commits funding in the amount of One Million Six Hundred Seventy Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,670,283.00) towards the local match participation for this grant request.

**OTHER:**

N/A

**MOTION:**

**On a motion made by TBD, and seconded by TBD, the following order will be voted on by the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, State of Texas:**

**Be it resolved and ordered that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby Authorize the County Judge to affirm that Dallas County supports DART on their**

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside application request to TxDOT's 2023 Call for Projects for the funding of the Cotton Belt Trail project and authorize the County Judge to sign the attached letter of support, which is addressed to TxDOT's TA Program Manager. Dallas County Commissioner District 2 commits funding in the amount of One Million Six Hundred Seventy Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,670,283.00) towards the local match participation for this grant request.

**CONTRACT DETAILS:**

**Contract Title:**

**Description:**

**Transaction Type:**

**Contract Number:**

**Total Cost:**

**Start Date:**

**Expiration Date:**

**Vendor:**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[ID 1812 Cotton Belt Trail Support Letter NCTCOG v2 updated](#)  
[2023-ta-call-for-projects-workshop-slides](#)



## **COURT ORDER 2023-0614**

### **Dallas County's Support of DART's Cotton Belt Trail Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Application (R&B District 2)**

On a motion made by Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia, and seconded by Commissioner Andrew Sommerman, the following order was passed and adopted by the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, State of Texas:

BRIEFING DATE: May 16, 2023

FUNDING SOURCE: Fund 196.8110.90002

Be it resolved and ordered that the Dallas County Commissioners Court does hereby Authorize the County Judge to affirm that Dallas County supports DART on their Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside application request to TxDOT's 2023 Call for Projects for the funding of the Cotton Belt Trail project and authorize the County Judge to sign the attached letter of support, which is addressed to TxDOT's TA Program Manager. Dallas County Commissioner District 2 commits funding in the amount of One Million Six Hundred Seventy Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars and Zero Cents (\$1,670,283.00) towards the local match participation for this grant request.

Done in open Court May 16, 2023 by the following vote:

IN FAVOR:	County Judge Clay Jenkins, Commissioner John Wiley Price, Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia, and Commissioner Andrew Sommerman
OPPOSED:	None
ABSTAINED:	None
ABSENT:	Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel

Recommended by: Alberta Blair

Originating Department: Public Works



**Dallas County  
Public Works**

May 16, 2023

Mr. Noah Heath  
TxDOT – PTD  
TA Program Manager

Dear Mr. Heath:

Dallas County 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, and 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.

Dallas County fully supports the 2023 TxDOT TA application submitted by Dallas Area Rapid Transit and asks you to select this important project. Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

  
Clay Jenkins  
Dallas County Judge