



May 11, 2023

Mr. Noah Heath
Transportation Alternatives Program Manager
TxDOT – Public Transportation Division
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Mr. Heath:

The City of Richardson 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.

Richardson's City Council recently adopted its first Active Transportation Plan where community input was clear that more trail connections are a high priority, especially those linking Richardson to nearby communities. This project will help respond to that need by constructing 4.7 miles of a 26-mile trail system connecting several municipalities. It will also improve safe walking, bicycling, and transit access to DART's Silver Line Light Rail which is currently under construction and includes stations in Richardson at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and at CityLine, a major transit-oriented development. The project aims to provide safe access at various rail and roadway crossings and reduce barriers to the walking and bicycling public. This "rail-with-trail" project will create a true multi-modal experience with a broad range of destinations along the path in Richardson including neighborhoods, major employers, retail, and higher education.

The trail will also support economic development and opportunities in the booming North Texas region on the DART rail system. Richardson has a strong mix of larger employers and residential and retail areas but also has more growth opportunities including additional transit-oriented development around the UTD campus and at CityLine.

Again, the City of Richardson fully supports the 2023 TxDOT TA application submitted by Dallas Area Rapid Transit and would ask you to select this important project. Cotton Belt Trail is identified on the City's Active Transportation Plan as a high priority project which we are eager to see advance toward construction. Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Don Magner
City Manager

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