



Addison Arbor Foundation
P.O. Box 1649
Addison, Texas 75001
www.addisonarbor.org

May 9, 2023

Mr. Noah Heath
TxDOT – PTN
TA Program Manager

Re: DART's 2023 TxDOT TA application for Cotton Belt/Silver Line Rail Trail project

Dear Mr. Heath:

The Addison Arbor Foundation fully supports Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)'s 2023 Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation Alternatives (TA) application for the Cotton Belt/Silver Line Rail Trail project.

The Cotton Belt/Silver Line Rail Trail project will improve safe walking, bicycling, and transit access to DART's Silver Line Regional Rail that 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. This project will build 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

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funding is consistent with local and regional plans to support and emphasize the need for improving access to sustainable and affordable transportation options.

Again, the Addison Arbor Foundation fully supports DART's 2023 TxDOT TA application and strongly urges you to select this important project. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Jay M. Ihrig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "I" and "H".

Jay M. Ihrig
President and Board Member