



May 1, 2023

Mr. Noah Heath
TxDOT – PTN
TA Program Manager

Re: Support for TxDOT Transportation Alternative Application for Cotton Belt/Silver Line Trail

Dear Mr. Heath:

The NDCC is pleased to support the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Transportation Alternative (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 Dallas Area Rapid Transit's (DART) Silverline 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 and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) neighborhood connections will be made 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. The trail will also support economic development and opportunities in the booming North Texas region on the DART system. Local, regional, and state tourism opportunities will showcase all modes of transportation and connect to large employers, residential, and retail areas.

While the Environmental Protection Agency classifies Dallas County as being in nonattainment for ozone, this 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 connecting them 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, the NDCC supports the 2023 TxDOT TA application submitted by DART and would ask you to select this important project. Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Kitner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Kitner
Chief Operating Officer
North Dallas Chamber of Commerce