

Rowlett

News Release



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Mayors of Rowlett, Garland take behind the scenes tour of DART Blue Line construction

ROWLETT, TX – Rowlett Mayor John Harper and Garland Mayor Ron Jones were recently given an exclusive “behind the scenes” tour of the DART Blue Line construction project hosted officials from DART and the primary contractor Austin Bridge & Road.

The DART Blue Line construction from downtown Garland to downtown Rowlett began in April 2009 but much of the construction underway is off the beaten path and cannot be seen from public access locations. In order to see the progress of construction, DART provided an SUV for the dignitaries that converts to a RR track vehicle allowing the tour to follow the tracks the entire length of the project.

“This was a very eye-opening tour that allowed us to see the amazing progress being made on the Blue Line,” said Mayor Harper. “The officials from DART, ABR and the DGNO who were able to give us very detailed information, answer all of our questions and hear our concerns. There is much more going on that the public can see at this point.”

Accompanying Mayors Harper and Jones on the tour were: William M. Velasco, Chairman, DART Board of Directors, DART President/Executive Director Gary C. Thomas, Darren M. Ratajski, Austin Bridge & Road Construction Manager, Jim Andoga, President of Austin Bridge & Road, and Jim Kuntz, General Manager of Dallas, Garland and Northeastern (DGNO) Railroad.

The DART Blue Line light rail extension is a 4.5 mile, \$188 million extension from Downtown Garland Light Rail Train station to the proposed Downtown Rowlett LRT station. It is

scheduled for completion in December 2012. The project will consist of double tracks along the existing Missouri-Kansas-Texas (MKT) railroad corridor.

Pictured in the attached photo is (from left to right):

Garland Mayor Ron Jones; Rowlett Mayor John Harper; Darren Ratajski (ABR Project Manager); Gary Thomas (DART CEO); Jim Andoga (ABR President); William Velasco (DART Board Chairman).

