

# 2045

## Transit System Plan

### Shaping DART's New Mobility Future

SEPTEMBER 2021 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | DRAFT FOR PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDER REVIEW



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Since DART's founding in 1983, we have maintained a focus on serving the public with mobility options that connect people, communities, and destinations across North Texas.**

Every day, each member of our agency works to deliver a transit system that is affordable, reliable, and safe so quality of life is improved and our local economies thrive. Our mission has always been clear, but our challenges have never been more pressing. Now, more than ever, DART must adapt the agency and our services to meet the changing needs of our riders and rapidly changing technology, acting with boldness to ensure a resilient, equitable, and innovative transit system as we move into the future. The 2045 Transit System Plan (TSP) is a forward-thinking plan that identifies opportunities and a framework to develop and advance targeted programs and initiatives that will propel us forward. It includes actions to support the outcomes and desired future, as identified by feedback from riders and stakeholders.

Most of the original transit system envisioned in the 1983 Service Plan is now built or planned to be in operation soon. Since the last Transit System Plan, DART, the region, transit industry, and world have been through tremendous changes that have yielded significant opportunities and challenges.

» The North Texas region is continuing to grow exponentially and will have added nearly 4 million new residents and approximately 2.2 million jobs by the year 2045. In the DART Service Area alone, the population will increase by 26%, and jobs are projected to increase 41%. Transit plays an essential role in further strengthening the region's competitiveness to attract businesses and connect communities as the region accommodates future growth.

- » Two capital projects have advanced significantly since the last plan, the D2 Subway and the Silver Line. These projects, along with the Red/Blue line platform extensions, will add new connections and system capacity while supporting transit-oriented development.
- » Bus fleet upgrades to compressed natural gas (CNG), integrated electronic fare payment and processing systems, and many other initiatives have guided the agency to where we are today and have helped set the stage for the DARTzoom bus network redesign launch in January 2022.
- » The last decade has also brought about significant changes in technology to improve and enhance public transit and transportation in general. The introduction of shared mobility services, transportation network companies (i.e. Uber, Lyft), and microtransit services (DART GoLink) are reimagining expectations and needs for how transit service is delivered.
- » DART expected to serve almost 71 million riders in FY2020. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, many transit agencies across the nation, including DART, saw steep declines in ridership. While 90% of pre-pandemic service levels were restored in October 2020, DART is gradually working to build back from the impacts and grow ridership and revenue.

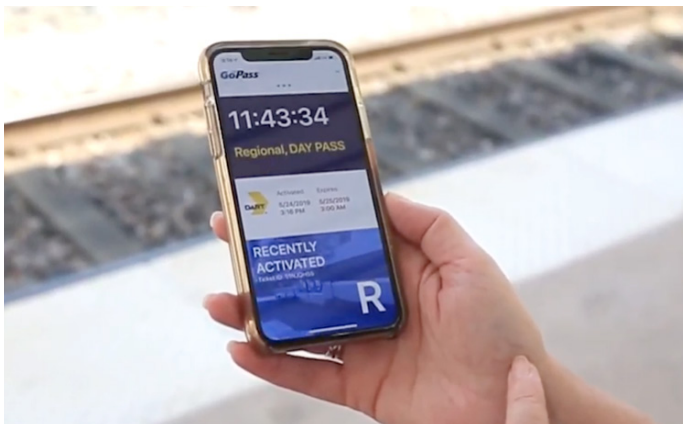
The 2045 Transit System Plan takes into consideration the evolving landscape, including the changes noted above. DART will use the plan to position itself to meet the demands of regional growth, keep pace with the changes in the transit industry, and power through the recovery phase of the pandemic.

## THE 2045 PLAN FRAMEWORK

The Plan is organized around three sections: Our System, Our Opportunity, and Our Guide. Our System highlights what we do and how it's changing, the evolution of our system, who we serve, and future outlook on mobility trends and conditions. Our Opportunity shows how we're preparing for our future mobility by focusing on opportunities under five themes and a set of associated goals. The final section, Our Guide, documents how we'll implement our future system by outlining a set of actions for each goal, including timeframes and responsibilities.

## OUR SYSTEM

The DART system has developed significantly over the decades to serve our growing region. Since opening in 1996, the light rail system has undergone substantial expansion and today stands as the most extensive light rail system in the nation, with 93 miles and 65 stations. Several bus service enhancements have also been made over the last few years to better serve riders through more direct service, the creation of core frequent routes, additional off-peak service, and more shuttles and on-demand transit through our GoLink service. Through the DARTzoom bus network redesign initiative, DART has reimaged its entire bus network and is launching the plan in January 2022 with a focus on increased frequency, less travel time, improved service and better access. To further meet the changing needs of customers and provide them with enhanced customer information to support their mobility decisions, the GoPass® app has been instrumental in making DART a true mobility integrator.



## OUR OPPORTUNITY

The 2045 TSP looks beyond day-to-day operations and focuses on opportunities that leverage our already extensive transit system through strategic improvements and investments to create a more accessible, sustainable, and resilient system. The 2045 Transit System Plan opportunities are built around five key themes with associated goals and actions:

### *Rider Experience*

Focus on access, safety/security, customer information, and system enhancements to improve rider experience

### *Mobility and Innovation*

Advance mobility through innovation, technology, and customer initiatives

### *Service and Expansion*

Target service improvements and system expansion to support an equitable and sustainable network

### *Land Use and Economic Development*

Integrate land use and transit planning to grow ridership and create transit-oriented development (TOD)

### *Collaboration*

Collaborate with public and private partners on transit supportive programs, policies, and projects

**All of these themes will guide our work in shaping a mobility future that continuously strives to incorporate innovation, better integrates transit-supportive land use and transportation planning, prioritizes service and system enhancements, and drives customer-focused programs to benefit our existing and future riders.**



## OUR GUIDE

Every plan needs a guide to support implementation. The goals and actions strive to improve transit for today's customers as well as attract future riders. Working closely with our Service Area cities and agency partners, we will ensure our efforts are coordinated to support mutually beneficial outcomes. Each theme includes a set of goals and associated matrix of actions along with defined timeframes so that our customers, stakeholders, and the public can understand the "what", "who" and "when" of moving these goals forward.

While preparing for near-term conditions with specific improvements and services is important, planning for long-term conditions that are less clear, or even unknown, requires that DART continue to innovate and adapt. Remaining flexible and forward-looking with policy updates and targeted pilot programs will allow DART to test emerging technology and adjust over time to changing conditions. This approach will not only help DART navigate the future but will help ensure that the agency stays relevant for future generations.

While the 2045 Transit System Plan was written to guide DART's priorities and actions over the long-term, reporting on goals and actions will be ongoing and more frequent to track progress and make adjustments as conditions change. Continuous engagement and strong partnerships will be essential at all levels, from our federal and regional partners to our Service Area cities, the private sector, and most importantly, our riders.

**As we reflect on where we are and where we are headed, shaping DART's new mobility future has never been more important.**

*Let's go.*



# DART 2045 Transit System Plan

The 2045 Transit System Plan is shaping DART's new mobility future through strategic improvements and investments to create a more accessible, sustainable, and reliable system. The System Plan Map illustrates our committed transit network. The five plan themes on this map highlight key goals that will guide enhancements to our system in the future.

## Rider Experience

Focus on access, safety/security, customer information, and system enhancements to improve rider experience

- Enhance pedestrian access to transit
- Expand bus stop amenities
- Strengthen safety and security
- Timely communications to riders

## Mobility & Innovation

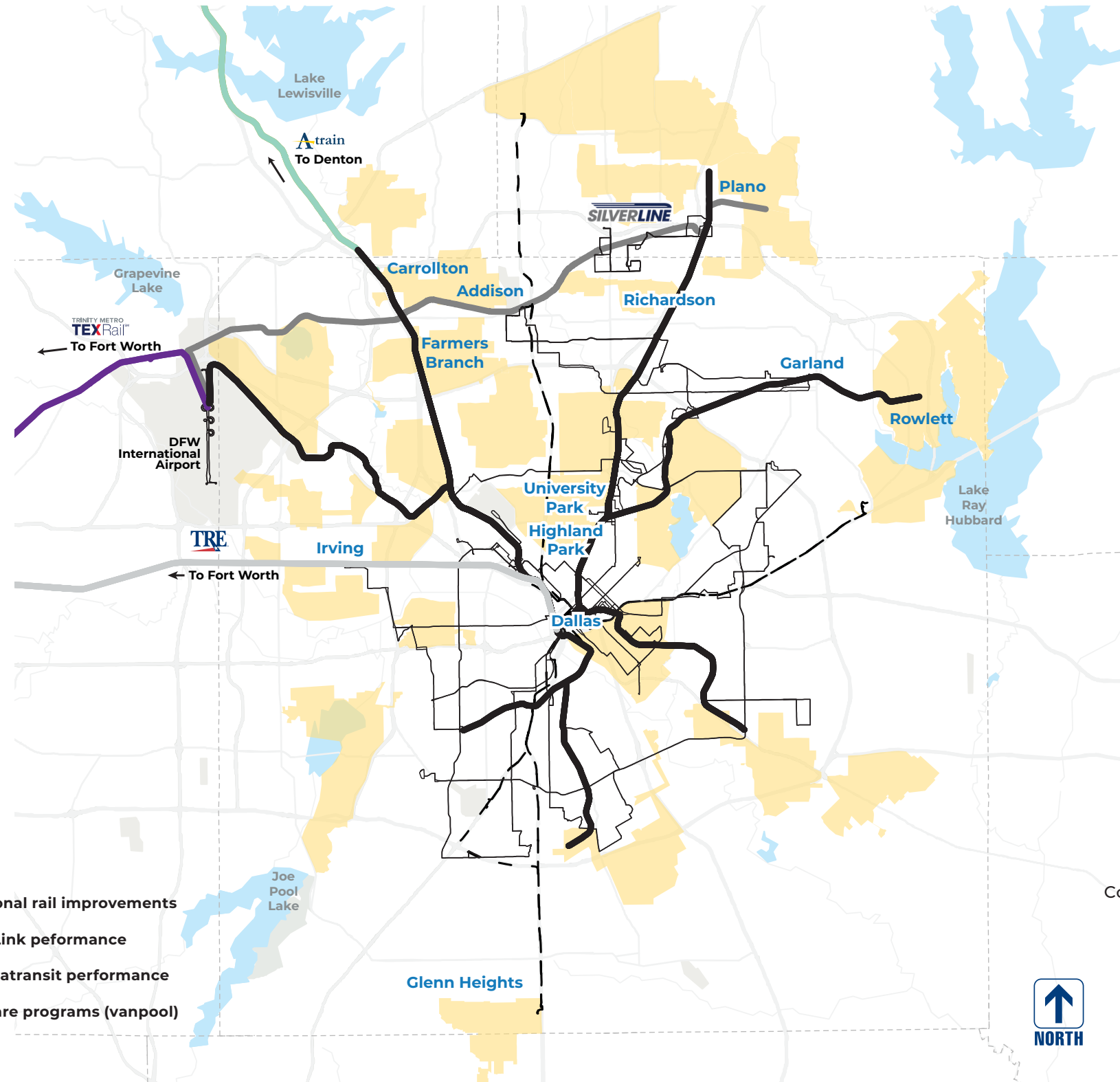
Advance mobility options through innovation, technology, and customer initiatives

- "Mobility as a Service" innovations to improve rider experience
- Advance pilot programs to test new technology
- Increase multimodal connectivity with mobility hubs
- Continue enhancing GoPass® with innovative features
- Explore fleet and facility options to support air quality and climate action goals

## Service and Expansion

Target service improvements and system expansion to support an equitable and sustainable network

- Maintain state of good repair
- Implement new bus network (DARTzoom)
- Promote transit signal priority
- Develop future bus rapid transit (BRT)
- Expand express bus network
- Enhance and optimize light rail system
- Study potential high-capacity corridors
- Explore regional rail improvements
- Evaluate GoLink performance
- Optimize paratransit performance
- Grow rideshare programs (vanpool)



## LEGEND (As of January 2022)

- LIGHT RAIL NETWORK
- CORE FREQUENT BUS NETWORK
- EXPRESS BUS
- GOLINK ZONES
- SILVER LINE REGIONAL RAIL (2024)
- TRE REGIONAL RAIL (DART/TRINITY METRO)
- A-TRAIN (DCTA)
- TEXRAIL (TRINITY METRO)

Note: Local bus network is too detailed for this map. Please visit [www.dart.org](http://www.dart.org).

## Land Use and Economic Development

Integrate land use and transit planning to grow ridership and create transit-oriented development (TOD)

- Coordinate pedestrian and non-motorized enhancements
- Increase transit ridership through coordinated land use planning and development
- Enhance value of DART property by design and accommodate future TOD
- Contribute to economic vitality and housing and employment options

## Collaboration

Collaborate with public and private partners on transit supportive programs, policies, and projects

- Advance transit supportive funding programs and policies
- Reflect DART interests in regional and state plans
- Collaborate on local plans to support transit
- Collaborate with agencies on transit access, equity, resiliency, and air quality initiatives
- Engage the public, private sector, and community organizations to support transit



For more information, please visit DART's 2045 Transit System Plan website at:  
[www.DART.org/2045](http://www.DART.org/2045)