

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. DART sound wall presentation - DART
3. Overview of segments and voting
4. Voting history, selections, outcome
5. City Recommendation – Majed Al-Ghafry & Gus Khankarli
6. Councilmember considerations
7. Next Door, green wall
8. Green wall responses
9. Decision process
10. Questions/Input

# DART QUARTERLY CALL ABOUT SOUND WALLS (11/26/20)

- You may have noticed there were LOTS of different colors and finishes selected. There are sample boards that you can view at Campbell Green Rec Center. The problem is the areas were broken up into too small of a zone for vote tabulation. In some cases, there was only one vote to determine, and less than half of the eligible voters actually cast their vote, leaving DART to make a default decision in some areas.
- Results for color: 12 segments chose natural, 7 segments chose tan, and one segment chose gray. This translated to 74 people voting for natural, 59 for tan, and 1 for gray.
- Results for finish, there were 7 segments that chose rolled ashlar, 6 that chose plain flat, 4 that chose bush hammer, and 3 that selected rolled drystack. This translated to 57 people who choose rolled ashlar, 35 plain flat, 24 bush hammer, and 18 rolled drystack.
- The issue is there are too many different colors and finishes and it would look terrible for our area. After speaking with Councilmember Kleinman and City of Dallas staff, we are going to request a unified approach to the walls.

# SOUND WALLS ON COTTON BELT/SILVER LINE (1/4/21)

DART spent a year and a half hosting meetings and sending out ballots to ask residents who are directly along the Cotton Belt/Silver Line what color and finish they would like to see for the sound wall. DART gave a presentation on the results, also making clear their intention to NOT aggregate the results, but to have each segment with a different color and finish. **Based on the voting, that means there would be 21 different color/finish combinations between group 1 and group 4, representing the area from Knoll Trail to Waterview.** That is a lot of colors and finishes within a close proximity.

Here is a wrap up of the voting:

Color: Natural - 12 segments selected this color, representing 74 votes

Color: Tan - 7 segments selected this color, representing 59 votes

Color: Grey - 1 segment selected this color, representing 1 vote

Finish: Rolled Ashlar - 7 segments selected this finish, representing 57 votes

Finish: Plain Flat - 6 segments selected this finish, representing 35 votes

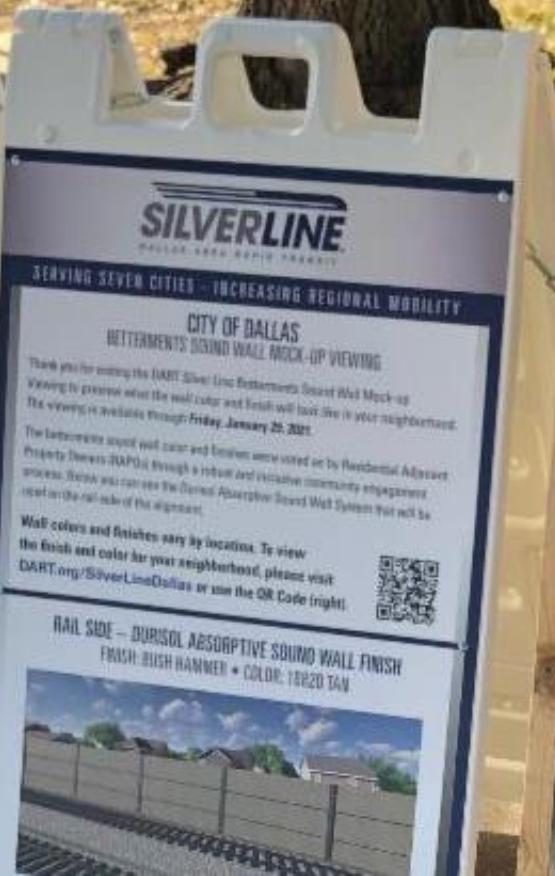
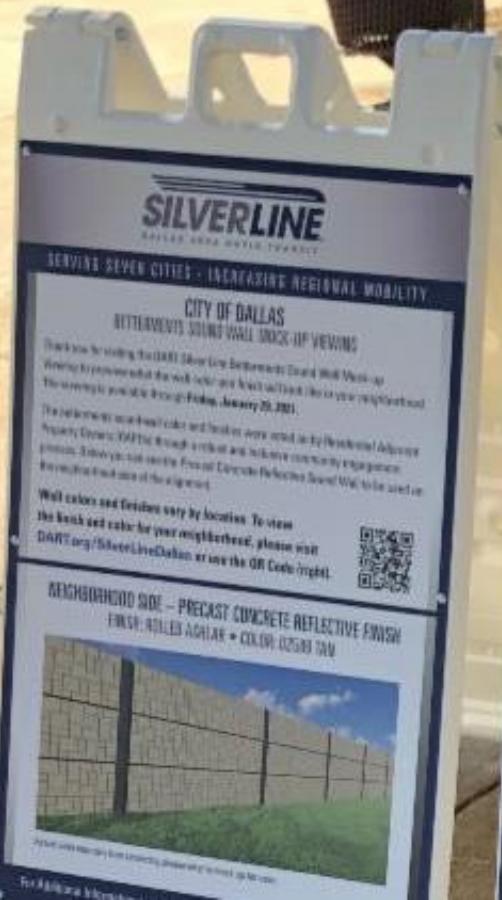
Finish: Bush Hammer - 4 segments selected this finish, representing 24 votes

Finish: Rolled Drystock - 3 segments selected, representing 18 votes



After consulting with city staff and viewing sound walls in other cities, Councilmember Kleinman and I are recommending the city ask for just one color and finish for Far North Dallas. Based on the voting, the ability to remove graffiti, and existing sound walls able to be viewed in other locations, **tan rolled ashlar is our recommendation**. Below is a photo of the sample board on view at Campbell Green Rec Center.

If you feel strongly about this color and finish choice, please email either [Cara.Mendelsohn@dallascityhall.com](mailto:Cara.Mendelsohn@dallascityhall.com) or [Lee.Kleinman@dallascityhall.com](mailto:Lee.Kleinman@dallascityhall.com) with your thoughts quickly, as DART will be informed in the next week. Thank you for participating in this process.



## UPDATE (1/19/21)

**SOUND WALLS** - The discussion of the color and finish of the wall continues as we await DART's responses to several questions about options that include a "green wall," sometimes called a "living wall" as plants cover the sound wall. The information provided about availability and maintenance will be shared on a specially-called virtual town hall as soon as we get the information in writing.

## UPDATE (7/24/21)

There is an outstanding issue of the color and texture of the sound walls. DART has asked adjacent homeowners multiple times for input, but unfortunately, ended up with a system that left more than a dozen colors and textures from Preston to Waterview. Looking at the big picture, there has been strong support for just one color and texture. There has also been interest in a green wall option, but questions that deal with the specifics of the plant size, quantity, and maintenance responsibilities have not been answered, so the viability of this option is not yet fully understood.

# UPDATE (9/6/21)

**SOUND WALLS** - In late 2020, there was a discussion about the color and texture of the sound walls in Far North Dallas. Track-adjacent neighbors were invited to meetings more than two years ago, segmented by DART into many groupings, and asked to vote. The results showed many, many different colors and textures. **The entire process was flawed, meaning, there should have been a vote of all the neighbors to select one color and texture, and it should have been from a limited number of combinations.** If we proceed with the actual selections for all the different groupings, there would be a different color and texture on each side of every intersection and throughout the area. This whole process was unwise and convoluted.

Based on the feedback from most neighbors, the city can make a reasonable selection that will satisfy most people. However, there was interest in a "green wall" and a bunch of questions about the green wall specifics and maintenance were sent to DART in 2020. Recently, they provided a written answer.

Our office is in the process of setting up a virtual town hall to discuss and share the answer, get input, and ultimately, make a decision so DART can move forward with direction. The goal is to have the meeting on September 13th or 14th, but we are awaiting DART's confirmation on which staff member they will have attend the meeting. The meeting will be at 7 pm.

Please be on the lookout. A notice will be placed on NextDoor and social media and we will send it out as a special enews.

## 1. How many plants will be planted and in what size space?

Response: The number of plants, including the size of the spacing between the plants will vary based upon plant type selected by the community. Some plants require additional space based on growth rates and patterns. The planting design, including spacing, will be more defined upon completion of the landscape design, which is estimated to be 3 to 4 months after selection of the plant species. The Silver Line contractor will be required to follow the approved landscape design to ensure proper plant coverage and growth.

## 2. What is the size of the plants and trees?

Response: DART anticipates initial planting will include 5-gallon shrubs, which will vary in size based on the type of shrub. Typically, new 5-gallon shrubs are 24 to 30 inches tall when initially planted. Where the landscape design and selection include trees, the recommendation is 100-gallon, 2-inch caliper at initial planting. These trees will typically mature to a height of 12 to 15 feet tall and a 5 to 7-foot spread, dependent on the species. The planting design, including tree spacing will be more defined upon completion of the landscape design, which is estimated at 3 to 4 months after selection of tree species. The Silver Line contractor will be required to follow the approved landscape design to ensure proper plant coverage and growth.

### 3. Will DART be responsible for maintaining the vegetation and if so, on what schedule?

Response: Yes, DART is responsible for maintaining the vegetation in DART's project right-of-way and will contract for professional landscape services to maintain landscape plantings and irrigation systems on a regular maintenance schedule. The guideway is inspected on a regular basis including daily and/or weekly surveys of the rail guideway, walls, and stations. Problem areas identified during the guideway surveys will be scheduled for repair, replacement and/or replanting as needed, based on inspection reports.

- 4. What is schedule for inspecting plant material and grounds for maintenance need? Response: DART will perform daily, weekly, and monthly inspections of various areas of the Silver Line corridor. This will include the rail guideway as well as public areas (e.g., stations). Additionally, DART will maintain specialized hi-rail equipment for use by inspectors to survey hard-to-reach areas. Inspections will occur more frequently after initial planting to ensure growth and identify areas of concern early.

5. If any or all the plants die, are they responsible for replacing them? How quickly will they be replaced?

Response: Yes, DART will be responsible for any diseased, dying, or dead plantings. Typically, replacement of shrubs and small plant material will occur within 30-days of being identified and/or in accordance with landscape planting recommendations. This will ensure the best chance of survival and growth of the new plantings. Tree replacement of 2 to 4-inch caliper trees may require additional time depending on availability of the tree species and delivery schedule. DART will make every effort to ensure the successful establishment and upkeep of all landscaping.

## 6. How will the plants be watered?

Response: The landscape design recommendations include plant material native and/or adapted to Texas climate, which includes low water usage. Initial planting will include regular watering until plantings are established using an irrigation system. During the Texas summer and periods of extreme heat and drought, DART will be able to use the irrigation system to ensure plant life is maintained.

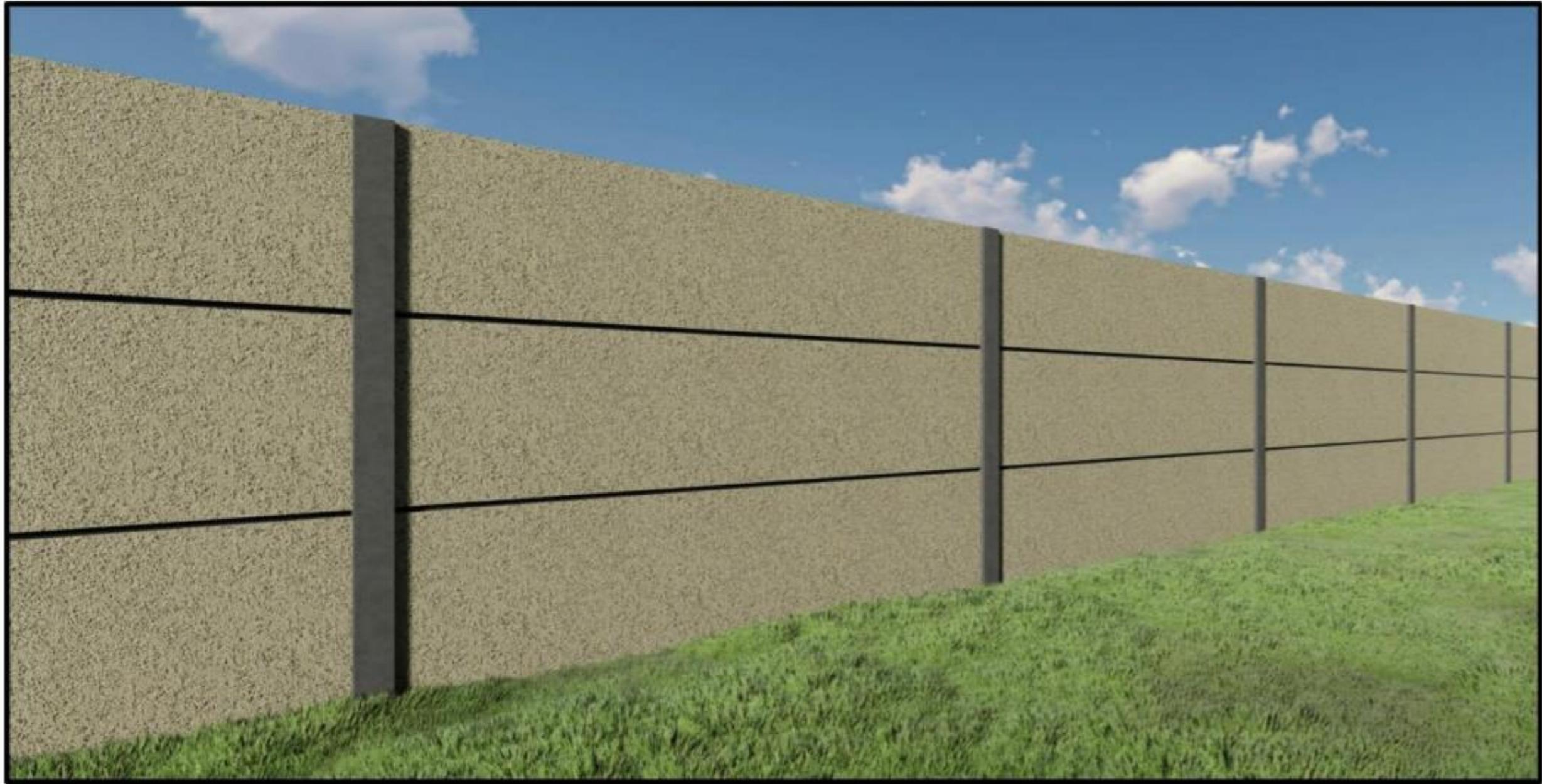
7. If it is a plant that drops leaves or berries, who is responsible for that ground maintenance? What is the schedule for that work?

Response: DART will be responsible for weekly and monthly landscape maintenance including leaf control and other droppings within the DART rail guideway and public access areas, such as stations.

# DART RECOMMENDATION

Uniform Sound Walls in North Dallas: DART recognizes that a uniform look for the sound walls throughout the North Dallas segment of the project may ensure a more consistent aesthetic across the entire corridor. Therefore, we would like to offer the recommendation for a uniform color and texture throughout this community in lieu of the “Green Wall.” The recommendation is to provide a uniform appearance using the Bush Hammer pattern finish in 1082D tan (please see the enclosed image). Please let us know if this option will be supported by your community to achieve the uniform look.

**Bush Hammer pattern finish and 1082D tan color**



# Further Input

<https://forms.gle/FLJyu9nhAJADn56Z8>