

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 5, 2021

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **DART D2 Alignment and Resolution Updates**

Over the past few months, City and DART staff has been working diligently to prepare a resolution of support to DART for its future application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to secure up to \$800 million in Core Capacity grant funding for DART's proposed D2 Subway line in Downtown Dallas from the existing Victory Station on the west side of Downtown to the proposed Live Oak Station near the Deep Ellum neighborhood.

The City Council initially passed a resolution in September 2017 (Resolution No. 17-1426) to support a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) alignment for D2, and DART proceeded to design a modified alignment generally consistent with the approved LPA. DART has completed a 30% design effort for the alignment, prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision in coordination with FTA, and is seeking City Council support to add the alignment to the DART Service Plan and advance it through the FTA process. DART has recently presented an update on the D2 Subway project to City Council Committees on three separate occasions, to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on November 16, 2020 and January 19, 2021, and to the Economic Development Committee on March 1, 2021.

During the latter two committee meetings, there were discussions about a larger vision of integrating the future efforts of the I-30 and IH-345 improvements into Downtown and the role D2 could play in this larger vision. The larger vision would allow the different partnering entities of TxDOT, NCTCOG, DART and the City of Dallas to minimize right-of-way needed for future projects, eliminate throw-away construction activities, lessen disruption to properties while providing better access to the CBD and Deep Ellum areas, improve economic development opportunities, and enhance street-grid systems while integrating technology to the mobility systems.

The discussions for the D2 alignment also touched on the concerns of the Deep Ellum neighborhood and the constraints D2 may present while re-designing the IH-345 in the future. DART staff has agreed to work with the other partners and stakeholders to address the concerns raised as DART proceeds with advancing the project with FTA into the next phase of the FTA process to remain eligible for the Core Capacity grant. DART staff, in coordination with City, NCTCOG and TxDOT staff, has also agreed to brief the City Council periodically on the progress of the project.

Meeting with the FTA:

At the request of the City and NCTCOG staff, a team from DART, NCTCOG and the City met with the FTA Region 6 Administrator and Deputy Administrator on March 2, 2021 to discuss the grant application timelines and the requirement of a resolution of support as part of the application documents. The FTA pointed out that for the D2 project to be considered for the call of the next Core Capacity grant recommendations in the federal FY2023 budget, the D2 application will have to be submitted to the FTA in August 2021. DART will need to prepare the environmental and financial documents for submittal starting in March 2021 to meet the deadline. A resolution of

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support from the City Council will have to be part of the time-sensitive submittal and will be requested at the City Council's March 24, 2021 meeting. If a timely support resolution is not received, delays of the document submittals will occur and will cause the project to be delayed to a future funding cycle by the FTA and will result in the project missing the window to remain eligible under the Core Capacity grant program. The project could potentially continue under a different funding program called New Starts, but that program is oversubscribed, and the project would have to qualify under different criteria.

Next Steps

DART and City staff is preparing a resolution of support for the March 24, 2021 City Council meeting. The resolution will include the general support for the D2 alignment with the understanding and commitment that DART, TxDOT, NCTCOG and the City work together and with other stakeholders to address the concerns raised and ensure all projects are integrated into the vision for Downtown. The resolution will also commit DART and City staff to brief the City Council periodically on the progress of the D2 project and the larger vision.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at majed.al-ghafry@dallascityhall.com, or Ghassan Khankarli, Interim Director of the Department of Transportation, at Ghassan.khankarli@dallascityhall.com.



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