

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE January 17, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Upcoming Agenda Item #20, January 22, 2020 - Cotton Belt (Silver Line) Freight Prohibition Interlocal Agency Agreement**

On January 22, 2020, the City Council will consider approval of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) concerning the prohibition of freight services within the limits of the City of Dallas from the Dallas City Limit at the Dallas North Tollway to the Dallas City Limit west of Waterview Parkway. This memorandum provides background information on the Project and the Agreement.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

DART is currently designing and planning the construction and operation of a 26-mile rail line between Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and the City of Plano known as the Cotton Belt Project (the "Project"). The project was recently renamed as the Silver Line. The Project alignment follows the existing Cotton Belt rail line that passes through the cities of Plano, Richardson, Dallas, Addison, Coppell and Carrollton. A portion of the Project alignment that passes through the northern part of the City is an approximate three-mile section between the Dallas City Limit at the Dallas North Tollway to the Dallas City Limit west of Waterview Parkway that is in close proximity to schools, parks, and mixed-use development, and has several at-grade street crossings within the aforementioned limits as well as in the Cypress Waters Development Area.

As part of public outreach and a thorough project review, local communities provided input to DART and to the City noting their concerns about the Project's impacts. These comments were incorporated in the environmental review process which culminated in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) issuance of a Record of Decision (ROD) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to DART. The FEIS included a provision noting the Surface Transportation Board's decision approving the abandonment of freight service for 5.34 miles of the existing Cotton Belt rail line, including an approximate three-mile section of the rail line that passes through the northern part of the City of Dallas. This decision was supported by the Dallas City Council by Resolution No. 18-0488 dated March 28, 2018, whereby the City's conditional support for the project included a provision that freight service would be prohibited on the Project line between Waterview Parkway and the Dallas North Tollway.

AGREEMENT INFORMATION

This Interlocal Agreement formalizes the prohibition of freight service on the approximate three-mile section in the northern part of the City of Dallas in accordance with Resolution No. 18-0488. The Agreement includes specific terms prohibiting DART from seeking

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restoration of freight service and conveyance or assignment of rights to any third party without the express written consent of the Dallas City Council and all applicable federal agencies. Further, this Agreement will renew annually without any action from the City of Dallas or DART.

Should there be any questions or need for clarification, please let me know.



Majed Al-Ghafry, P.E.
Assistant City Manager

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim)
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Billierae Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager

Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer
Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services
M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
Laila Aleqresh, Chief Innovation Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
Directors and Assistant Directors