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**Seven Stations Open July 1**

**DART Test Trains Traveling to Richardson**

DART is beginning to test trains along a 5-mile section of its North Central light rail corridor between LBJ/Central Station and Galatyn Park Station in Richardson. Similar tests for another 4-mile section between Park Lane Station and LBJ/Central Station will begin this spring. In all, seven new stations are scheduled to open in North Dallas and Richardson July 1.

The tests, which will be conducted on an almost-daily basis, evaluate the operation of the new light rail track along the corridor. The first tests will determine if the right amount of electricity is getting to the vehicle as it travels the corridor. Electricity is transmitted to the vehicle through an overhead catenary wire from two electrical substations.

Clearance testing ensures the rail vehicles pass safely by poles, over bridges and other obstacles. Engineers also want to make sure each vehicle receives information from signaling systems along the track that helps the operator and the train control center communicate. Closer to the opening of each new line section, train operators will begin driving along it to become familiar with the route, timetable and operating characteristics of the train along the new track.

**Be Safe: Watch for Trains**

While fences restrict access to most of the rail corridor, it's important to be aware that the rail line is active, with trains traveling up to 65 miles per hour depending on their location. The six train crossings on the corridor are clearly marked with signs, red flashing lights and crossing arms that come down prior to the train's arrival at the intersection.

Pedestrians, cyclists and motorists also are urged to follow these critical safety precautions:

- Always obey traffic signs and signals.
- Never assume you have the right-of-way.
- Expect a train on the track at any time.
- Never stop or stand on train tracks.
- Cross tracks only at marked crosswalks.

In preparation for the introduction of trains to the area, DART is conducting safety education programs in schools along the corridor. Additional programs are planned through the remainder of the school year.