



Dallas Area Rapid Transit
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TRINITY RAILWAY EXPRESS
4801 ROCK ISLAND ROAD
IRVING, TEXAS 75061
972 / 399-1948



Ft. Worth Transportation Authority
1600 E. Lancaster Ave.
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817/215-8700

June 26, 2000

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For immediate release

**TARRANT COUNTY OFFICIALS
TOUR COMMUTER RAIL CORRIDOR**

FORT WORTH, Texas – As the Trinity Railway Express speeds toward its Tarrant County debut in September, city and business leaders from across the area today (June 26) received a construction update and a tour of the commuter rail station sites.

More than 150 city council members, chamber of commerce officials, economic development officials and business owners from 12 Tarrant County cities boarded the Trinity Railway Express at Fort Worth's Texas & Pacific Station for the trip to Union Station in downtown Dallas. The T Executive Committee hosted the tour, along with officials from the T and DART.

A Monday, later afternoon time was selected in order to demonstrate the convenience and speed of the TRE in contrast with freeway congestion during rush hour throughout the region.

“We wanted to give our partners in our member cities and the TRE participating cities an opportunity to preview what’s coming on line in September,” said Alice Holland, chair of the T Executive Committee. “In less than three months, the Trinity Railway Express will be a reality for commuters in Tarrant County. Many people have worked long and hard to see that day happen.”

Three Tarrant County stations will open Monday, Sept. 18, for commuters traveling east and west on the line. They are the Richland Hills, Hurst-Bell and CentrePort-DFW Airport stations.

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The Richland Hills Station at Handley Ederville Road and SH 121 will serve Richland Hills, Haltom City, North Richland Hills and Fort Worth. The Hurst-Bell Station, located near Highway 10 and Bell Spur east of the Bell Helicopter plant, will serve commuters in the communities of Hurst, Euless, Bedford and east Fort Worth. The CentrePort-DFW Airport Station is expected to draw riders from Euless, Colleyville, Grand Prairie, Grapevine, Arlington, Irving and far east Fort Worth.

Nine Tarrant County cities have been asked to contribute a total of \$775,000 each year for the next three years to the TRE's annual operating subsidy. The city councils in Arlington, Bedford, Colleyville, Euless, Hurst and North Richland Hills have approved the plan. The cities of Grapevine and Grand Prairie have not yet voted.

"The Trinity Railway Express is the first in a series of regional transportation solutions designed to reduce traffic congestion, clean our air and encourage economic development," said John Bartosiewicz, general manager of the T. "The cities that have joined with us understand the need to approach these problems from a regional perspective. We will all benefit when the Trinity Railway Express trains are moving across this line."

Officials from businesses located along the rail corridor see the commuter rail service as a solution to employee shortages. Companies such as American Airlines, Nokia, Bell Helicopter Textron and State Fair Foods can draw workers from across the region because of Trinity Railway Express.

"This booming economy has created a shortage of workers for many companies, and the lack of transportation is a major hurdle to overcome," Holland said. "We expect suburban residents to ride the train to jobs in the urban centers and inner city residents in Fort Worth and Dallas to use the TRE to get to good paying jobs along the rail corridor."

The construction tour also included the unveiling of the joint marketing campaign for the Trinity Railway Express by the T and DART. Billboards will go up in July and radio advertisements will soon be heard on stations across the Metroplex. An information line for those interested in ticket information and station locations has been set up at (877) 657-0146.

Celebrations to mark the start of Trinity Railway Express service in Tarrant County will be held at each of the stations on Saturday, Sept. 16. Commuter service will begin Monday, Sept. 18.

The Trinity Railway Express is a joint project of the T and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), connecting Fort Worth and Dallas with commuter rail service along a 34-mile rail line. Currently the service operates from Union Station in downtown Dallas to South Irving, with a stop in the Medical/Market area. Another station in West Irving near Esters Road is expected to come on line in late fall.

Approximately 2,600 commuters each day currently ride the TRE. The North Central Texas Council of Governments predicts as many as 11,000 people a day will use the rail line by 2010. The TRE will take about 9,000 commuter vehicles off area highways every day, the equivalent of one lane of traffic off Airport Freeway.

Service to downtown Fort Worth will begin in mid-2001 with the opening of the Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center at Ninth and Jones streets. The historic Texas & Pacific Station will open to TRE service in October 2001.



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FACTS ABOUT TRINITY RAILWAY EXPRESS IN TARRANT COUNTY

Number of stations in Tarrant County: 5

Cities where stations are located: Fort Worth
 Richland Hills

Station names and locations:

Texas & Pacific Station, 1600 Throckmorton (downtown Fort Worth)

Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center (Ninth and Jones streets, Fort Worth)

Richland Hills Station, 7225 Burns St. (Handley Ederville and State Highway 121, Richland Hills)

Hurst-Bell, 3232 Bell Spur Drive (at Trinity Boulevard, Fort Worth)

CentrePort-DFW Airport Station, 14470 Statler (southeast of Trinity Boulevard and Highway 360, Fort Worth)

Opening schedule:	Richland Hills	Sept. 18, 2000
	Hurst-Bell	Sept. 18, 2000
	CentrePort-DFW Airport	Sept. 18, 2000
	Fort Worth ITC	Mid 2001
	T&P Station	Fall 2001

Transit Agencies: Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T)
 Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

Funding Agencies: the T

DART
Federal Transit Administration
Texas Department of Transportation
Tarrant County
Federal Highway Administration

Length of rail corridor: 34 miles

Participating cities: Arlington
Bedford
Colleyville
Euless
Haltom City
Hurst
Grapevine
North Richland Hills

Grand Prairie has not yet voted on Trinity Railway Express participation

Cost to ride TRE: \$1 per zone, 3 zones along the corridor

Three zones are: Fort Worth stations to Richland Hills
Richland Hills to CentrePort-DFW Airport
CentrePort-DFW Airport to Dallas

Monthly passes: \$30 one zone
\$60 two zones
\$75 three zones

Total cost of TRE: Phase One (Dallas) \$70 million
Phase Two (Tarrant County) \$184 million