

Media Contact:
Morgan Lyons
or **Robin Stringfellow**

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DART names new chief engineer to head rail expansion



Gary Thomas, a consulting engineer who helped DART open its 20-mile Light Rail Starter System on time and under budget, has joined the agency as senior vice president of Project Management.

Thomas -- formerly program manager for Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. (LAN) -- will report directly to DART President/Executive Director Roger Snoble. In addition to managing the design and construction of light rail extensions to Richardson, Plano and Garland, Thomas will oversee design and construction of the Rowlett Transit Center and any other DART capital projects such as the completion of the new South Oak Cliff Bus Operating Facility.

"We're very fortunate to bring Gary's experience and capabilities on board during this time of intense facilities development," said Snoble. "Going back to his first DART project in 1987, he has shown the dedication and ability that matches our commitment to excellence."

An engineering and architecture graduate of Texas Tech, Thomas was with LAN for 15 years. "Being a part of the first 20 miles of the DART light rail system was exciting, and its success very fulfilling," said Thomas. "For the next 23 miles, we'll be concentrating on doing an even better job of being effective and economical."

Thomas succeeds Tom Larkin who is retiring from the position after nine years with DART. Larkin joined DART in 1989 as director of Systems Engineering and was named to his current position in early 1994. He had direct responsibility for the successful installation of DART's Light

Rail Starter System. Larkin will continue working as a consultant to DART as light rail construction projects to Richardson, Plano and Garland get underway in early 1999.

"We're very appreciative of the fine job Tom Larkin did and the example he set for all future DART capital projects," said Snoble. "We're confident that Gary Thomas will continue this tradition of quality."