DART Red and Blue Line Platform Extensions

Dallas, Texas

Core Capacity Engineering (Rating Assigned November 2018)

Summary Description

Proposed Project: Light Rail Transit

48.1 Miles, 28 Stations

Core Capacity Capital Cost (\$YOE): \$128.75 Million (including \$0 in finance charges)

Section 5309 CIG Share (\$YOE): \$60.76 Million (47.2%)

Annual Operating Cost (opening year 2020): \$0.24 Million

Existing Ridership in the Corridor: 27,000 Daily Linked Trips

8,251,800 Annual Linked Trips

Existing Useable Space per Passenger: 5.7 Square Feet

Overall Project Rating: Medium-High

Project Justification Rating: Medium Local Financial Commitment Rating: High

Project Description: Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) intends to extend and modify platforms along the existing Red and Blue lines to accommodate three-car trains with level boarding. The Red and Blue lines are presently limited to two-car train lengths, since platforms at 28 of the existing stations on these lines are only long enough to accommodate two-car trains. By expanding the platforms at these stations, three-car trains can be operated system-wide, and the capacity of the Red and Blue line service significantly increased. The project does not include the purchase of railcars. DART estimates that when the project is complete, capacity in the corridor will be increased 12 percent, which exceeds the 10 percent minimum required by law for Core Capacity projects.

Project Purpose: As ridership has increased on the DART rail network, crowding issues have arisen in the downtown core during the peak period. The current operating plan represents the maximum practical operating capacity without compromising schedule reliability during the peak period. Since the track configurations into and out of the existing downtown transit mall preclude train frequency improvements, DART believes that adding cars to existing trains represents the most feasible means to improve capacity in the near term.

Project Development History, Status and Next Steps: DART selected a locally preferred alternative in July 2014, and it was adopted into the fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in November 2014. The project entered Core Capacity Project Development in December 2014. DART completed the environmental review process with receipt of a Categorical Exclusion from FTA in September 2015. After postponing entry into Engineering to refine costs further, DART entered Engineering in July 2017. DART anticipates receipt of a Full Funding Grant Agreement in early 2019, and completion of the project in 2022.

Significant Changes Since Last Evaluation (November 2017): DART engaged in significant value engineering work to refine the project scope, reducing the cost significantly versus the previous year's estimate. In addition, a comprehensive risk analysis was performed which identified additional potential project budget risks. Current figures reflect the impact of these two efforts.

Locally Proposed Financial Plan		
Source of Funds	Total Funds (\$million)	Percent of Total
Federal: Section 5309 CIG Share	\$60.76	47.2%
State: Texas Department of Transportation Mobility Fund Grant	\$60.00	46.6%
Local: DART Dedicated Sales Tax Revenues	\$5.79	4.5%
DART Platform Extensions Fund interest earnings	\$2.20	1.7%
Total:	\$128.75	100.0%

NOTE: The financial plan reflected in this table has been developed by the project sponsor and does not reflect a commitment by DOT or FTA. The sum of the figures may differ from the total as listed due to rounding.

