



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Mike Land, City Manager

Date: June 13, 2017

Reference: Consider a Resolution supporting the DART Board redesign realignment of the Cotton Belt Rail Line, Cypress Waters/North Lake extension

2030: Special Place To Live- Goal 5: Easy access to Dallas-Fort Worth Region, Objective 1 – Participate in regional rail service to Dallas-Fort Worth, Objective 2- Maintain and enhance accessibility to DFW Airport, Objective 5 – Develop regional connections for Coppel residents and employees of Coppel businesses.

General Information:

The City of Coppel is not a member of DART. This resolution does not state or contemplate at any time the City becoming a member of DART. While the City is not a member of DART, the City is impacted by the development of the Cotton Belt corridor. As such, both DART and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) have asked for the City's input in the development of the plans for the corridor.

The Cotton Belt Rail Line will connect the DFW Airport to the cities of Dallas, Carrollton, Addison, Richardson and Plan. Along that rout, only the City of Coppel is not a member of DART. Since the City of Coppel is not a member of DART, the City has not made any financial contributions through the collection of a one-cent sales tax since DART's inception in 1983.

This past year saw the advancement of the Cotton Belt regional rail service from its potential construction and activation well beyond the year 2030 in the regional mobility plan, to actual approval, funding and scheduling for service by the DART Board beginning in 2022.

Introduction:

Within the City of Coppel's Vision 2030 plan, under the strategy of Special Place to Live, several of the Goals support the City's active participation in regional mobility. Specifically Goal 5 states "Easy access to Dallas-Fort Worth Region" with the following objectives; Objective 1 – Participate in regional rail service to Dallas-Fort Worth, Objective 2- Maintain and enhance accessibility to DFW Airport, and Objective 5 – Develop regional connections for Coppel residents and employees of Coppel businesses.

While the City of Coppel is not a member of DART, DART and the North Central Texas Council of Governments have been seeking and receiving the City of Coppel's input once the project was fast tracked. Staff has attended several meetings with DART and the NCTCOG, receiving updates and providing community feedback.

As part of this process the City has hosted two community meetings to receive input from the citizens of Coppel. In addition to being public meetings, all residents living within 800 feet of the existing rail line received individual invitations to attend the meeting. DART has hosted multiple public meetings in their member cities, and a smaller group meeting with residents and staff in the Cypress Waters development.

As the project's managers prepare their final submission documents for funding and grants, the North Central Texas Council of Governments and DART have requested a formal resolution from the City Council regarding the Cotton Belt rail service and specifically the realignment of the line through Cypress Waters/North Lake development.

Analysis:

Since the announcement that the Cotton Belt commuter rail service became a priority by the DART Board and is now planned to be in service by 2022, the City of Coppel has been working with DART through the NCTCOG. NCTCOG is assisting the City of Coppel and DFW Airport in this process because neither is a member of DART.

As part of the planning process the City of Coppel has been working with the developers of the Cypress Waters project located in the City of Dallas to realign a significant amount of the corridor to the south of its existing location between Moore Rd. and S. Coppel through the Cypress Waters/North Lake property.

Several design considerations will be considered with this realignment including but not limited to sound attenuation solutions, quiet zones for streets with rail crossings, at grade crossings for the rail as it crosses E. Belt Line and Southwestern and a bridge structure for the rail over S. Belt Line.

At this point in the process the City is being requested by the NCTCOG to state its position in support of the southern realignment through the attached Resolution

Legal Review:

The City's legal counsel prepared the Resolution.

Fiscal Impact:

This resolution does not commit any financial resources by the City to DART. Any future financial commitment to this project will be for quiet zones, sound attenuation solutions, and possible property dedication for rail right-of-way where these items may be needed or required and are located within the City of Coppell or property owned by the City of Coppell.

Recommendation:

The City Manager's Office recommends Council approve the Resolution in support of the southern realignment of the Cotton Belt rail service line between Moore Rd. and S. Coppell.