



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Mike Land, City Manager

From: Traci E. Leach, Deputy City Manager

Date: March 24, 2020

Reference: DART Silver Line Rail Update

2030: 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 Coppell residents and employees of Coppell businesses

Introduction:

The purpose of this agenda item is to allow staff an opportunity to update the City Council and the community on the DART Silver Line rail project and to also provide an opportunity for the Council to discuss several enhancement options related to the rail construction.

The staff presentation will include several components:

- Construction Update on what the community can expect to see in the next quarter or so in and near Coppell
- Updates on the betterment discussions/decisions that DART and City representatives have had with the affected residential neighborhoods
- Updated rough order of magnitude (ROM) costs for several enhancement options for Council discussion and consideration. The “menu” of potential enhancements includes bridge enhancements for the elevated bridge crossing at S. Belt Line Rd, fencing upgrades for the required security fencing at various locations throughout Coppell, landscaping, and additional quiet zones at Royal Lane and Freeport.

The project is progressing to a point where the City will be asked to make definitive decisions regarding enhancement options. In previous budget years, the Council has proactively planned for and set aside funding to accommodate improvements we anticipated may be necessary as a result of the rail construction. The total amount available for the enhancements is \$750,000. The estimated total for all enhancements exceeds the available funding, totaling approximately \$1.5 million.

Staff will be present to discuss the estimated ROM for the various enhancement components in greater detail (attached as an exhibit). Some enhancements such as the bridge enhancements will not be unfamiliar to the Council, but now have updated quantities as the design has progressed. Other improvements, such as the fencing, will be new in terms of potential costs, as we've not had ROM for this component until now.

Background:

The Silver Line will connect the DFW Airport to the cities of Dallas, Carrollton, Addison, Richardson and Plano. Along that route, only the City of Coppell is not a member of DART. In 2017, we saw the advancement of the Silver Line 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 revenue service at the end of calendar year 2022.

The discussion of potential enhancements has been on-going since at least 2017. Since that time, staff has been in consistent communication with the DART and Archer Western staff to work through details for the proposed enhancements. Should the City Council desire to move forward with any of the proposed enhancements, staff would coordinate with DART to draft an addendum to the existing Master ILA. This addendum would be brought back to the Council for consideration and approval.

Legal: None.

Fiscal Impact: At this time, there is no fiscal impact for construction, assuming that the selected enhancement options stay within the assigned amount set aside by the City Council. Maintenance of the improvements may be required via an interlocal agreement with DART for any future enhancements selected.

Recommendation: Staff is seeking direction regarding desired enhancements for the Silver Line project.