

Regional Cotton Belt Veloweb Trail: Design Funding

October 2020 Online Input Opportunity



**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**

Background

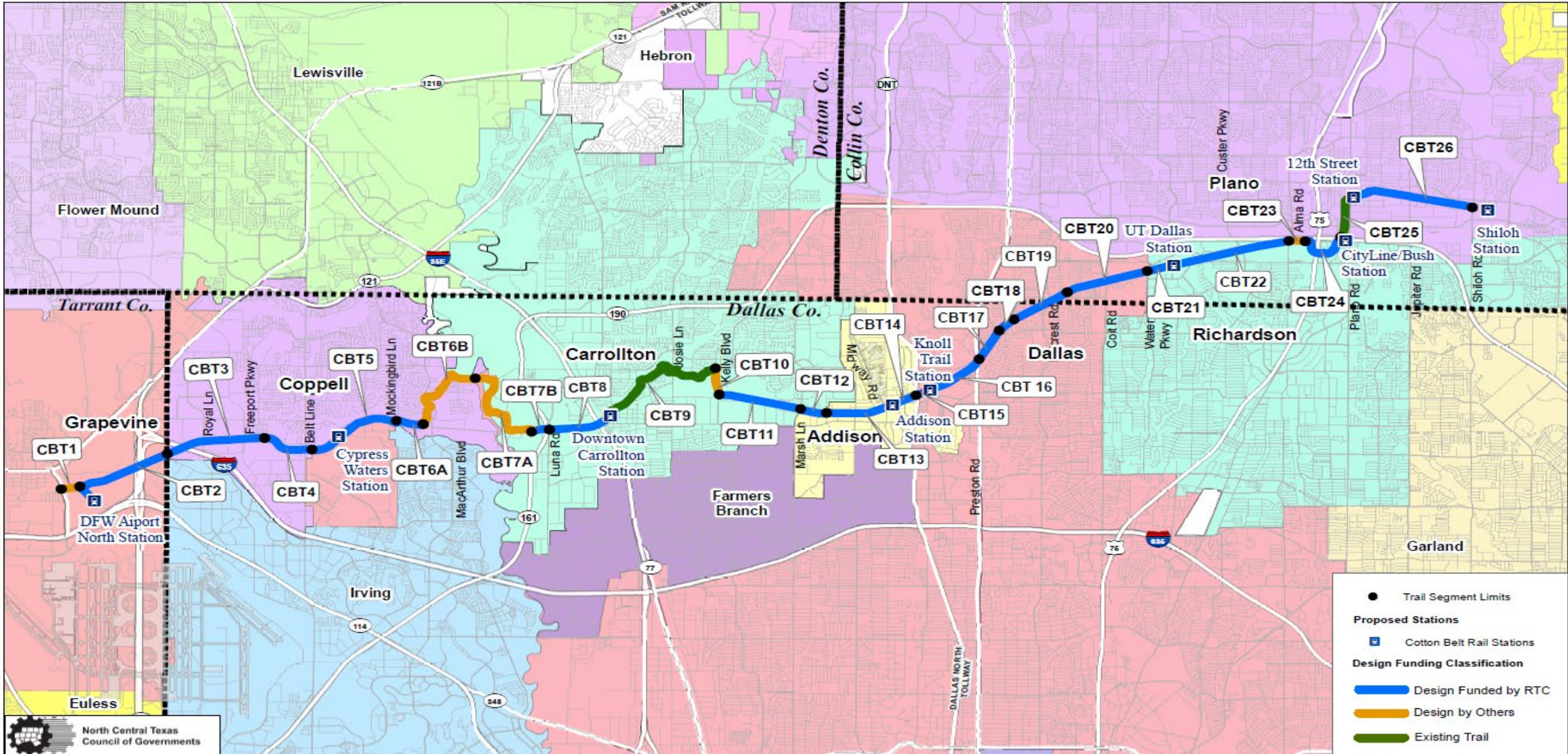
- In 2018, the RTC approved funding for design and construction of the Cotton Belt trail “critical” sections.
- Proposed trail design and construction costs as part of the Silver Line rail design/build process provided by the rail contractor are higher than anticipated.

Solution

- New approach proposed to minimize current high costs and expedite construction with two contractors.
- Increase RTC funding to complete 100% design to minimize risk. One designer for all parts of the rail and trail.
- Proceed with construction of strategic critical sections with current DART contractor – the crossing of the Dallas North Tollway (Contractor 1, Archer Western Herzog).
- Proceed with construction of strategic critical sections with a second contractor – critical sections (Contractor 2). Contractor 2 will have lower prices because they will have more experience as a “trail” contractor.
- DART will procure the second contractor within 6-9 months. They will build in various constrained locations before the trains are operable. Costs more in line with industry standards will allow DART to build the project cheaper and will allow public funds to go further. Construction will follow the agreed upon design crossings.



Exhibit 1 Cotton Belt Regional Veloweb Trail: DFW Airport to Plano Trail Design Funding



RTC Action

- Design of 100% of the entire trail:
 - Increase RTC award of \$8.2M to \$14.9M
 - Increase use of Regional Transportation Development Credits (TDC) to 3.0 million in lieu of local match
- Construction of strategic critical trail bridge sections will be done with two DART contractors.
- Fund additional safety walls near school locations for \$245K STBG funds. RTC Transportation Development Credits will be used for match.
- Assemble inventory for locations for second DART contractor.
- Administratively amending the TIP/STIP and amending other planning/administrative documents to incorporate these changes.

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