



Irving officials pleased with DART Orange Line test

NDN

NDN

By MEREDITH CARLTON

Staff Writer

mcarlton@dallasnews.com

Published: 09 April 2012 11:11 PM

The first segment of DART'S new Orange Line is still months away from opening, but Monday's battery of live tests was enough to excite [Irving](#) officials about the potential.

"It's a very exciting day for Irving," City Manager Tommy Gonzalez said before officials embarked on a slow-speed five-mile run from the Bachman Station to the Irving Convention Center Station.

"I think it's been a long time coming. It's a huge investment for our residents," Gonzalez said.

The first segment opens July 30, with another segment — a station near Belt Line Road — opening toward the end of the year. Plans call for the Orange Line to connect light rail to [Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport](#) by 2014.

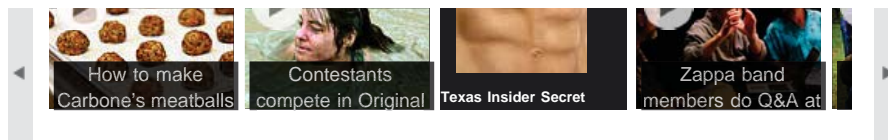
Mayor Pro Tem Rick Stopfer said there are plans for buses to carry passengers between Belt Line and the airport terminals, "so you'll actually be able to utilize it through transfers."

He expects D/FW transfer service to be available by next year.

The Orange Line will be the first light rail line through Irving and will connect North Lake College and the [University of Dallas](#) to the [DART](#) system for the first time.

The 14-mile Orange Line will bring DART's light rail network to 90 miles by 2014.

DART is also spreading east. The agency plans to open its five-mile Blue Line extension to [Rowlett](#) in December, linking Rowlett with Garland.



....

