



## DART Orange Line link gives languishing Las Colinas tram a lift



2

2

0



Share

0



AA

By [MEREDITH SHAMBURGER](#)

Neighborsgo

[mshamburger@neighborsgo.com](mailto:mshamburger@neighborsgo.com)

Published: 02 March 2014 11:52 PM

Updated: 03 March 2014 08:02 AM

The connection to DART's Orange Line is drawing more riders to Las Colinas' once-struggling Area Personal Transit System.

The system, which used to carry about 500 people a week, has seen a jump to about 2,600 since DART opened its Las Colinas Urban Center station, according to Jacky Knox, who oversees the APT system.

"It's a great increase, and that's without adding new destinations," he said.

Vitali Loseu is one such passenger. The Las Colinas resident used to drive to his job in Dallas every day.

He says he's now taking the APT from the Bell Towers station to the DART rail line, which takes about five minutes. DART gets him about 15 minutes from work without driving.

"It's quite nice because there isn't really a path to walk there," he said. "This really cuts the time. It's really convenient."

The APT system is overseen by the Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District, which maintains Las Colinas' urban center, waterways, canal boats, transit system and flood control through tax revenue.

The elevated system runs on 1.5 miles of track, branching into two lines that connect opposite ends of Las Colinas along Carpenter Freeway. The tram, which operates from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, is free.

There are four stations: Urban Towers, 222 W. Las Colinas Blvd.; Bell Tower/Mandalay Canal, 217 Mandalay Canal; Tower 909, 909 Lake Carolyn Parkway, and a stop that is named after its address: 600 Las Colinas Blvd.

A connection to the DART Orange Line is available below the Tower 909 station.

The system connects several Las Colinas attractions, including the Mandalay Canal, Trevi's at the Omni Mandalay Hotel, Jinbeh Japanese Restaurant, Venetian Terrace and the Cellar Restaurant and Bar. The new Water Street development, which will have 50,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space and 340 residential units, is also building an APT station.

APT was an integral part of Las Colinas' master plan, and the district spent more than \$30 million in 1989 on it.

It carried about 500,000 passengers between 1989 and 1993, when it was shut down for budgetary reasons. It quietly reopened in 1996.

Today, Knox says the system costs \$1.4 million to maintain. He says the city's original vision for the area is coming to life now that the connection to DART is complete.

"This is the first opportunity for the APT to function as it was intended," he said.

DART opened its Urban Center Station in 2012, later finishing a connection to the APT system. Since then, APT's operating hours have increased.

Knox expects APT growth to follow other projects in the area, including the Water Street development and the Irving Entertainment Center.

The APT system is a valuable tool for marketing Las Colinas, said Rick Stopfer, chairman of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce's transportation management association and a DART board member.

“It’s an opportunity as a city to have something others cities don’t have,” he said.

## HOW TO RIDE

Trams run from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays. For on-demand service, press the button at each station. Passengers ride for free.

Did you see something wrong in this story, or something missing? Let us know.

---

## Comments

To post a comment, log into your chosen social network and then add your comment below. Your comments are subject to our [Terms of Service](#) and the privacy policy and terms of service of your social network. If you do not want to comment with a social network, please consider writing a [letter to the editor](#).