

City Officials Address Shortfall, Scheduling Issues with DART

City officials and DART representatives are working together to ensure the Orange Line rail extension planned to run through Irving will be built on time and within budget.

A \$900 million shortfall in funding for the project was revealed at a DART board meeting in late November. DART representatives also have indicated possible project delays that range from one to four years after the original scheduled completion date in 2011. The DART president addressed the City Council on Dec. 13.

“It is our intention to communicate to DART board members that we have a serious interest in them meeting the commitments they have made to our community for many years,” said Mayor Herbert Gears. “And that commitment is getting the rail line to Irving by 2011.”

Several developments are being planned and built around the designated rail stations, thus the Orange Line needs to be completed on time to ensure the success of these projects. The developments include a mixed use of retail, office and living space.

Several cost-cutting measures have been proposed; however, DART is still in the process of researching other options. These options will be presented at a Jan. 8 DART board meeting.

Residents are encouraged to provide input to DART officials in support of keeping the rail project on time. A personal letter can be sent, or residents can choose to use the public input form printed on Page 2 of this issue. Call (972) 721-2646 for more information.