



Nearly \$11 million of federal transit investments have made a positive impact in Denton County, one of the fastest growing U.S. counties

Denton County Transportation Authority Improvements have Made Transit Use More Convenient, Improved Air Quality and Encouraged Healthy Recreation and Transit-Oriented Development

Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) is committed to providing improved mobility solutions for Denton County, one of the nation's fastest growing counties. Thanks to federal funding, DCTA has made great strides over the past few years in improving the passenger experience, making public transit use easier, encouraging healthy recreation and future transit-oriented development, and helping improve air quality.

Transportation is the second largest source of carbon dioxide emissions, and DCTA made sustainability efforts a top priority for a new Bus Operations & Maintenance facility, which opened in February 2014. The 22,000 square foot building provides facilities for vehicle repair, maintenance, wash, fueling, parking, and bus operations; and houses six maintenance bays and administrative office space. An \$8.2 million grant from the FTA's State of the Good Repair Bus and Bus Facilities Initiative Program funded construction costs and allowed DCTA to build immediately rather than wait several years down the road.

The location itself saves almost 20,000 of fuel, while also helping improve air quality in Denton County by eliminating 217 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually through more efficient routing of vehicles.

DCTA also recognized the need to provide customers with updated passenger information services, including real-time vehicle location, predictive arrival times, innovative fare payment technology and automatic stop announcement. Federal funds, along with a local match from sales tax revenue, made this goal possible by paying for the development and testing of DCTA's new *Where's My Ride* tracking tool. Just released in January 2015, this new tool provides real-time travel information to

passengers, allowing them to obtain predictive arrival information for a Connect bus or A-train at a particular stop location via phone, online and mobile devices.

The impact? *Where's My Ride* has made riding DCTA more convenient for passengers, and provides a great option for choice riders to ride DCTA as they can now track their vehicle and no longer have to worry about how long they have to wait for their bus or train.

Federal funds are also being used in construction of the first portion of Phase Two rail trail (Lewisville Hike and Bike trail), which will encourage healthy recreation for the residents of Denton County. Expected completion of the entire Rail Trail is late 2017, which will total 22.6 miles and connect people from DCTA's Eulene Brock Downtown Denton Transit Center (DDTC) all the way to the Hebron Station in Lewisville, TX. Once complete, the DCTA Rail Trail will connect each A-train station and provide pedestrians and bicyclists a safe opportunity to travel, as well as encouraging healthy recreation and viable transportation option.

In addition, the future is bright for the DCTA Rail Trail regarding transit-oriented development. DCTA is exploring various options of housing and retail/restaurant near the trail and A-train stations that will expand mobility choices that reduce car dependence and transportation costs, and create walkable communities that accommodate more healthy and active lifestyles. None of this would be possible without federal investment.