

## *Federal government gives DART \$5 million to use for Orange Line*



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The U.S. government will give DART \$5 million to help finance the Orange Line rail project from Dallas to Irving and, eventually, D/FW International Airport.

The money will help DART complete the project to the airport by December 2014, and will be used to leverage a larger government-subsidized infrastructure loan that will save DART additional money in interest and other expenses.

(DART awarded a [contract this week to a firm to design](#) and build the final leg of the project. The initial segments are already underway.)

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the TIGER grants this morning, and in doing so doled out more than \$500 million in funds. The only other Texas project to receive funding is in San Antonio.

That city will get \$15 million to pay for a \$35 million transit plaza connected to a rehabilitated historic train station. The Westside Multimodal Transit Center is part of a \$205 million redevelopment effort on the west side of the city.

The TIGER grants have been awarded by LaHood and his team in three groups, and were initially a discretionary portion of the Obama Administration's 2009 stimulus plan.

In all three rounds, the Dallas-area has fared well.

Previous awards included a \$20 million payment to NTTA to help it secure its own infrastructure loan, a key component of the authority's ability to finance the State Highway 161 toll road in Dallas County and still have money left over for the Chisholm Trail Parkway in Fort Worth.

In addition, the Oak Cliff street car project received \$23 million in TIGER funds. and last year, the U.S. gave \$34 million to advance the reconstruction of Tower 55 freight hub in Fort Worth.

A total breakdown of capital grants in [2010 is available here](#), and for the first phase of the program, in 2009, [check here](#).