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To: [Maura Gast](#)
Subject: Dallas Secures Federal Funding For Long-Awaited Cotton Belt Trail Expansion
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Dallas Secures Federal Funding For Long-Awaited Cotton Belt Trail Expansion

The Dallas Express

[Logan Washburn - Staff Writer](#)

Jul 2, 2025



Park trail | Image by Canva

Dallas has secured \$7.5 million in federal [funding](#) to complete major segments of the Cotton Belt Trail, a 26-mile path [stretching](#) from Plano to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Council Member Cara Mendelsohn (District 12) announced the funding on July 1, citing support from the Regional Transportation Council.

This is a BIG WIN for [@CityOfDallas](#) [@DallasParkRec@Johnson4Dallas](#) and Far North Dallas residents!

Federal funds awarded by RTC to complete the final section of the Cotton Belt Trail in [#D12](#) & fund the [#MarniKanerTrail](#) extension so it connects to

[#PrestonRidgeTrail](#) &... <https://t.co/slqG9rqxio>

— Cara Mendelsohn (@caraathome) [July 1, 2025](#)

The city has secured a total of \$7.5 million in federal [funding](#) for this project, according to Fox 4 KDFW. This will fund the final segment of the Cotton Belt Trail and “the missing link” for the Marni Karner Trail, Mendelsohn said in the release.

The trail will run [alongside](#) the Dallas Area Rapid Transit’s new Silver Line commuter train, and will “ultimately” [link](#) to Tarrant County and Fort Worth.

“We were told each city along the Silver Line would have to fund its portion of the trail project, but we worked together to get funding,” Mendelsohn said in the release.

“Despite challenges with rail construction, the trail will be a treasure for residents and commuters alike,” the release [reads](#).

The expanded trail network will form a four-mile loop, dubbed the “North Dallas Triangle,” that links the Preston Ridge, Cotton Belt, and Marni Kaner Trails. The system is expected to improve access to nearby parks and trailheads, including Preston Green, Campbell Green, and the new Davenport Trailhead.

This new funding will save the city nearly \$7 million, according to Mendelsohn. She called the project “a vision years in the making.”

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