

Sasaki Associates Inc.

In 1988, Sasaki Associates was commissioned to design the Transitway Mall for Dallas's central business district, a 1.2-mile path that would accommodate a light rail system for DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit). Facing a public that was

skeptical about mass transit, DART officials took the unusual step of having an urban design/landscape/architecture firm, rather than an engineer, lead the design process. Working with the client and many user groups, Sasaki conceived

Dart CBD Transit Mall Dallas, Texas

the mall as a "Ramblas of the Southwest," referring to Barcelona's famous linear park. The 1.2-mile corridor includes four stations and is unified by street trees, distinctive streetscape treatments, and a public arts program. The light rail

lines extend many miles into the outer city and suburbs. Since its completion in 1996, the Mall has grown from accommodating 1.4 million passengers initially to 17.5 million in 2005. Its landscape accoutrements are now firmly part of the city's character.

And it is providing a real transportation alternative to those in the Dallas region looking for a more sustainable way of living.



Above: Light rail train at St. Paul stop.

Right: Aerial view.

Opposite top left: Evening at St. Paul station.

Opposite top right: Map of DART routes.

Opposite: Akard stop along Transitway Mall.

Photography: Craig Kuhner, Greg Hursley (right).

