

# TEXRail calls off plans to run trains Saturday, citing shutdown



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Passengers exit the train at DFW North Station after taking the first celebratory ride of TEXRail service from North Side Station on Monday.

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## FORT WORTH

Less than 12 hours before the TEXRail commuter train service was scheduled to open to the public, officials have decided to postpone the opening indefinitely, blaming the federal shutdown.

Officials from Trinity Metro, the local transit agency that built the 27-mile line from downtown Fort Worth to DFW

Airport, had said repeatedly this week — and as recently as late Friday morning — that the line would at least partially open Saturday no matter what.

But just after 5 p.m. Friday, Trinity Metro president Paul Ballard said the decision had been made instead to postpone the opening until the entire 27-mile rail line could function.

“... (A)s of 5 p.m. We have been unable to get a decision from FRA on tomorrow’s operations and we are postponing startup until we get approval to

operate the entire TEXRail line,” Ballard said in a text message.

At issue is a small stretch of new track under Spur 280, the highway that leads from U.S. 287 and Interstate 30 to downtown Fort Worth. A new railroad interchange has been built there, but Trinity Metro hasn’t yet received permission from the Federal Railroad Administration to use the tracks. And, because of the two-week-old shutdown, Trinity Metro hasn’t received the paperwork it ex-

pected to receive from the federal agency.

As recently as 11 a.m. Friday, Trinity Metro board chairman Scott Mahaffey had said TEXRail would at the very least operate from the North Side Station to DFW Airport, even if it couldn’t use the small piece of track that wasn’t yet federally certified to get passengers into downtown Fort Worth. If TEXRail had partially opened, only the two stations in down-

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