



**DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MEETING HOSTED IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY
620 CHERRY STREET, DES MOINES IA 50309
December 5, 2023**



(Meeting was held in a hybrid format)

Commissioners/Alternates Present and Voting:

Vern Willey, Tara Cox (arrived at 12.11p.m.), Srikant Mikkilineni, Josh Mandelbaum, Andrew Borcharding, Paula Dierenfeld, Ross Grooters, Steve Van Oort, Bridget Montgomery, Russ Trimble, and Joseph Jones

Commissioners Absent:

Kelly Stearns

Other Non-Voting Present:

Todd Shafer

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Russ Trimble called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

Notice of the meeting was duly published.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Russ Trimble requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

It was moved by Bridget Montgomery and seconded by Josh Mandelbaum to approve the December 5, 2023, agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Heather Garland from Des Moines shared that the smaller buses width cause issues for riders in wheelchairs and ask when new buses are purchased in the future that DART considers this issue for patrons in mobility devices.

Thomas Washington from Des Moines had some concerns about the number of bus stops on the south side and wondered if they could be consolidated. Luis Montoya, Chief Planning Officer, was asked to follow up with Mr. Wahington after the meeting.

Garland Armstrong from Des Moines shared his disappointment that Grimes was withdrawing from DART and asked if there will be a backup plan for those in this community that rely on public transportation. Amanda Wanke, Chief Executive Officer, shared the timeline of the withdrawal and further conversations will occur as it relates to service and the City of Grimes.

Kaylynn Strain shared she served on TRAC and received some Arabic copies of the recent DART survey and placed them in her mosque for people to complete.

**DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2023**



Alec Davis from Des Moines and the Founder and Chair of Momentum DSM shared his concerns about the possible DART service cuts and future of transit in the community. When speaking to their constituents and other elected officials, he asked the DART Commission to share the importance of transit and how our communities have become exclusionary and car dependent, which makes transit so important for those that rely on it every day.

Katie Das from Des Moines and a Drake student shared that DART has afforded her mobility and connection to the Des Moines community, giving her access to places and events in the Metro. Due to the flexibility DART provides she has chosen to stay in Des Moines after graduation. She shared how important safe public transportation is to our community and encouraged future investment in transit to continue so that DART can continue the service people rely on.

Anna Snyder from Des Moines and a Drake shared her advocacy for DART, including that it keeps young people in Iowa, sharing statistics that more young people rely on transportation than they did 10 years ago. DART has provided her options and access to the community, and she believes it is essential to Des Moines, Drake, and other organizations in the metro.

Traejen Hall from Des Moines and a Drake student reminded the DART Commission that 60% of riders have no driver's license and rely on the service to go to work. DART is an investment for our area and community. Robust transportation is also an attraction for those that visit and decide to live in our communities; cutting the service will cause issues to potential residents and those that currently rely on DART services.

Dian Nustikasani from Ankeny and a professor at Drake University, teaches a sustainable transportation class. She shared the importance of DART and the access it provides, especially to those most vulnerable in the community.

TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRAC) UPDATE

Catlin Curry, Mobility Coordinator, shared that the last Transit Riders Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, November 29 and a quorum was met. Highlights from the meeting included presenting the slate of nominated and confirmed TRAC members to the committee to cast their ballot. The new Vice Chair would be announced at the December TRAC meeting. Communications Manager Sarah Welch shared an update with TRAC about the current efforts to get feedback from riders and stakeholders related to the potential service cuts and funding challenges. Opportunities for TRAC members to participate were discussed including participating in the various public meetings, completing a survey, contacting elected officials, and sharing information through social media. The recent news about the Grimes City Council voting to withdraw from DART was also shared. In addition, it was shared that surveys will be going out to DART riders, operators, and maintenance staff to get feedback on their experience with the variety of sized buses that DART is currently using in the fleet.

The next hybrid TRAC meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2023.

CONSENT ITEMS

7A – Commission Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2023

7B – Des Moines Area MPO and CIRPTA Staff Representation for DART

7C – FY 2028 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant

7D – New TRAC Members

**DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2023**



7E – October FY2024 Consolidated Financials

It was moved by Ross Grooters and seconded by Srikant Mikkilineni to approve the consent items. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

8A – FY 2025 DART Development Budget Update

Amanda Wanke, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update regarding DART's upcoming FY 2025 budget development.

8B – Operations and Maintenance Facility Update

Luis Montoya, Chief Planning Officer provided an update on progress toward designing and building a new operations and maintenance facility.

8C – February Service Change

Tony Filippini, Planning and Development Manager, and Matt Harris, Business and Community Partnerships Manager, provided an overview of the proposed new services and fixed-route changes planned for the February Service Change, which include a proposed new local route from DART Central Station serving employers along the East MLK Parkway corridor in Des Moines that would be fully funded through a new \$35,000 Unlimited Access partnership with Kemin Industries. Also included as part of the February Service Change are routine schedule adjustments and a realignment of Route 10 – East University to accommodate the upcoming closure of the Walnut Street bridge downtown.

8D - Caravan (Rideshare) Partnership with Wells Enterprise

Erin Hockman, Chief External Affairs Officer provided an update on an opportunity for Caravan (Rideshare) to help meet workforce transportation needs for Wells Enterprise located in Le Mars, Iowa.

8E – DART On Demand Update

Luis Montoya, Chief Planning Officer, provided an update on DART On Demand, including findings from two years of operating DART On Demand in Ankeny and an overview of what we have learned so far about the new River Bend and Jordan Creek pilots.

8F – Performance Report – October 2023

Due to time, Chair, Russ Trimble asked the Commission to refer to their packets to review the performance report.

DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORTS (BY EXCEPTION)

11A - Operations

None

11B – Planning

**DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 5, 2023**



None

11C - External Affairs

None

11D – Finance/IT/Procurement

None

11E – Human Resources

None

11F – Chief Executive Officer

Amanda Wanke, Chief Executive Officer, shared that the official Grimes withdrawal notice is in the Commission packet for review and the email she sent out. There are still some decisions that need to be determined regarding next steps and when the DART Commission will vote on the withdrawal. The Executive Committee will be discussing this in their December meeting so we may bring back a recommendation to the full Commission in early 2024.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Bridget Montgomery encouraged Commissioners to attend the remaining DART public input meetings.

NEXT MEETING:

Regular DART Meeting - Tuesday, January 23 – 12:00 P.M.

ADJOURN

Chair Russ Trimble adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

Chair

Clerk

Date