



# Meeting Minutes

DES MOINES AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
TRANSIT RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 25, 2023 – NOON  
Hybrid Meeting

*[The above TRAC Meeting was hybrid – in person at DART Central Station and virtual via Zoom. The Committee determined that it is convenient to offer this option to members of the Committee, staff and members of the public to accommodate for concerns related to the Covid-19 pandemic.]*

**TRAC Members Present:**

Todd Kilzer, Kaylynn Strain, Laurie Jones, David Campbell, James Hanold, MaryAnn Ryan, Brandon Paulsen, Lee Jasinski, Jeremy Guenther

**TRAC Members Absent:**

Justin Bates

**DART Staff Present:**

Catlin Curry, Erin Hockman, Jan Keeling, Sarah Welch, Lewis Lowry, Brandon Smiley, Tony Filippini, Nate Bleadorn

**ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by Brandon Paulsen at 12:00 p.m.  
Roll call was taken, and a quorum was met.

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

September minutes were approved.  
The motion was approved by Todd Kilzer and seconded by Kaylynn Strain.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Garland Armstrong: commented on the fiscal cliff.

**C. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. November Service Changes (Tony)**

Tony gave a brief update of the November service changes. Adjustments made to reflect real time scheduling.

**2. FY25 Budget & Service Planning (Erin)**

Erin updated the committee on the FY25 budget and planning.  
The commission has agreed to fund the fiscal deficit with a look to see how we can restructure routes in the suburb areas.  
Public Input meetings have been scheduled to get feedback on what changes would best serve DART and the suburban areas.  
No impact to Paratransit currently.

The city of Des Moines is looking at options:

- No change, which will lead to a \$7.7M deficit to DART.

- A 2.5% Franchise fee increase would generate \$6.5 million of the needed funds and will lower property taxes for several years. The franchise fee is a short-term solution as the property tax levy would increase and be back at the cap in about five years.

If DART reduces service: D-Line and Link will be discontinued, frequency of service would change on most routes including the elimination or reduction of some Saturday and Sunday service.

Public Input:

- Input Meeting focus will be on all DART riders and taxpayers in the city of Des Moines.
  - i. Educate about the possibility of service reductions.
  - ii. Educate public about how much taxpayers currently invest.
  - iii. How do we allocate the resources DART has?
  - iv. **Can the homeowner slide be altered to accommodate for renters who don't pay property taxes?**

#### **D. OTHER BUSINESS**

1. TRAC Vice Chair Nominations (Catlin)
2. DART Front Runner Visit
3. TRAC Testimonials

#### **E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **F. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

1. DART Commission – Noon Tuesday, November 7, 2023 – Zoom / DCS
2. TRAC – Noon Wednesday, November 29, 2023 – Zoom / DCS

#### **G. ADJOURN**

Brandon adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.  
It was moved by MaryAnn Ryan and seconded Lee Jasinski.  
The motion carried unanimously.