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New Officers Elected for FY 2016 DART Commission

Des Moines, IA – A new slate of officers will be welcomed into their leadership roles, and outgoing officers thanked for their service at the Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) commission’s regularly scheduled meeting July 7.

At its annual meeting last month, DART commission members voted in the following slate of officers.

- Chair – Steve Peterson, Windsor Heights City Councilman who represents Clive, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights and who replaces Steve Van Oort, a Polk County Supervisor and former Ankeny Mayor, as the commission’s chairman.
- Vice Chair – Tom Gayman, Urbandale City Councilman who represents Grimes, Johnston and Urbandale on the commission.
- Secretary/Treasurer – Bob Mahaffey, Des Moines Councilman who represents Des Moines and Pleasant Hill.

“I can’t imagine a more exciting and pivotal time for our region,” said Steve Peterson, the newly- elected chairman of the DART Authority commission. “Public Transportation is being recognized as a key variable in the equation for creating the quality of life, economic development, and mobility opportunities we want for our citizens, businesses and visitors. I look forward to building upon the success DART has had with the DART Forward 2035 Plan and the launch of real-time customer information.”

“The past few years have been truly transformative since the development of the *DART Forward 2035 Plan*,” said Steve Van Oort, who has been the Chair of the DART Commission for the past three years. “I want to commend DART’s employees, its leadership, the commission and our shared communities for making so many things possible in recent years - the new downtown DART Central Station, the implementation of multiple technology projects that provide riders with real-time arrival and departure information, and improving services while continuously working to be fiscally responsible. We have definitely moved from being in the bus business to being in the connecting business. There is still much to do, but I am most confident in our new slate of commission leaders and the talented and dedicated staff of DART.”

About DART Governance

A board of nine Commissioners governs DART, which as a tax-supported transit system is ultimately accountable to this region’s voters. The volunteer Commissioners set policy and oversee DART’s budget, leaving the planning and day-to-day operations to DART staff.

Two of the Commissioners are at-large representatives, appointed by the Polk County Supervisors. The seven remaining Commissioners represent specific districts, which are based on pairs of state house districts in Polk County; they are appointed by the mayors within that district and those appointments are approved by the City Councils within that district. Many of the Commissioners are elected officials within their district, although that is not a requirement of the position. Terms are four years.

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority is the public transportation provider that serves Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services that makes getting around the Greater Des Moines area easier and more convenient. For more information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit the website at www.ridedart.com or call 515-283-8100. The MyDART Tools, Trip Planner and RideTime Transit app are now available at www.ridedart.com.