



Contact
Gunnar Olson
Public Information Officer
Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority
golson@ridedart.com
515.283.5008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, July 18, 2011

Entirely Redesigned Transit System Proposed In DART Forward 2035 Recommendations Released Today

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority today releases the DART Forward 2035 Recommendations, which propose an entirely redesigned transit system for Greater Des Moines to better serve the growing population throughout the region.

The recommendations call for streamlining and improving frequency on many of the bus routes already in place today as part of the core network. New routes have been added in areas, while some existing routes have been identified for restricting or discontinuation. New services being proposed for the next 10 years include suburban circulators in West Des Moines and Ankeny, high-frequency service along University and Ingersoll avenues between downtown Des Moines and 42nd Street, expanded Express routes, more service to and between major retail centers, and eventual cross-town service connecting the east and west sides of the metro area without being routed through downtown. Five corridors have been identified for possible enhanced transit services. In addition, the recommendations identify possible expansions in service beyond year 2020, such as Express service to cities on the outermost perimeter of the metro area, as well as to and from Ames.

“This is what we have been steadily working toward since we created DART out of the MTA in 2006,” said Angela Connolly, Polk County Supervisor and Chair of the DART Commission. “We wanted to turn the city bus agency into a truly regional transit system. These transitions take time, of course. In the past five years we have taken thousands of steps – some small, some giant – to position the agency for smart, sustained expansion to meet the increasing demands of a growing, thriving metro. Today, we are pleased to be presenting the public with a bold proposal for transforming transit as we know it.”

DART wants the public to review the recommendations and give their feedback before a DART Forward 2035 Transit Services Plan is finalized this fall. Nine public meetings have been scheduled throughout the metro this week (the schedule is below). In addition, the recommendations are available for review online at www.ridedart.com/dart-forward-2035.cfm.

The DART Forward 2035 Recommendations were developed with input from more than 1,300 members of the public through their participation in an online survey and four public meetings in April. The public made clear that they want more investment in public transit. They identified three priorities: They want service in more places, with more frequency and faster travel times.

The DART Forward 2035 Recommendations also take into account the four guiding principles that the DART Commission adopted in May. The Commission directed staff and the consulting team to develop a plan that builds a network based on market demand, to refocus the service network to generate the best possible return on investment, to enhance customer service, and to build financial sustainability.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Each of the nine public meetings will each include a presentation about the recommendations, followed by a question-and-answer session with DART staff and the consulting team with Transportation Management & Design.

MONDAY, JULY 18

- 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., East Side Library, 2559 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines
- 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Kirkendall Public Library, 1210 NW Prairie Ridge Drive, Ankeny

TUESDAY, JULY 19

- 3 p.m. – 5 p.m., Des Moines Central Library, 1000 Grand Avenue, Des Moines
- 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., Des Moines South Side Library, 1111 Porter Avenue, Des Moines

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

- 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., Northside Senior Center, Park Fair Mall, 100 East Euclid Avenue, Suite 107, Des Moines
- 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Merle Hay Mall, 3850 Merle Hay Road, Northside Meeting Room, Des Moines

THURSDAY, JULY 21

- 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., Des Moines Central Library, 1000 Grand Avenue, Des Moines
- 5 p.m. – 6 :30 p.m., West Des Moines Community Center, South Dining Room, 217 5th Street, West Des Moines
- 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Urbandale Public Library, 3520 86th Street, Urbandale

Language and transportation services are available at meetings upon request. For requests, please call DART Schedule Information at 515.281.8100.

Public comments can also be made by email to dartforward2035@ridedart.com, by fax at 515.283.8135, or by mail at the following address:

**Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority
Attn: DART Forward 2035
1100 DART Way
Des Moines, IA 50309**

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 our website at www.ridedart.com or call 515.283.8100.