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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, September 29, 2011

Final DART Forward 2035 Plan Released Today Following Unanimous Approval by DART Commission

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority today releases the final DART Forward 2035 Transit Services Plan, a blueprint for redesigning the entire transit system for Greater Des Moines. The plan was approved unanimously Tuesday evening by the DART Commission.

“This is a monumental achievement in the history of public transit in Greater Des Moines,” said Angela Connolly, Polk County Supervisor and the Chair of the DART Commission. “As a region we have been working toward this day for seven years, and I couldn’t be happier to finally have a regional vision for investing in the future of public transit – one that connects communities and connects opportunities.

“In the near future, we will have more buses running in more places, more often, and more frequently. We will serve thousands more residents. We will support and stimulate the local economy by connecting people to jobs and businesses to employees. And we will build on our region’s national reputation as one of the best places to live and work in the country.”

The plan will be implemented in phases starting in 2012. New services being proposed for the next 10 years include suburban circulators in West Des Moines, Urbandale 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. There will be more Park and Ride opportunities, as well as more transfer points throughout the metro area.

The plan is laid out in detail in the Executive Summary of the Transit Services Plan, available online at www.ridedart.com/dart-forward-2035.cfm.

The DART Forward 2035 Transit Services Plan was developed with input from more than 1,500 members of the public through their participation in an online survey; hundreds of written comments, and their feedback at the 13 public meetings held this summer throughout the region.

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.