



## Contact

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## DART seeks community input on transit services

*Input will be used to develop a new long-term public transit plan for central Iowa*

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is inviting central Iowans to help shape how public transit should adapt to meet the evolving transportation needs of residents now and into the future. DART is seeking feedback on current services and ideas to maximize future services. This input will be used by DART to develop recommendations for potential future service changes or enhancements, which DART will share with the public for feedback this fall.

“When it comes to city and transit planning, this is one of the most important parts of the process — sharing goals, exchanging ideas and receiving feedback from those we are here to serve,” said Luis Montoya, DART Chief Planning Officer. “That’s why we are conducting eight virtual events, launching a survey and engaging as many people as possible to be part of the input process throughout this month.”

Montoya also shared that a [special page \(ridedart.com/plan\)](https://ridedart.com/plan) on DART’s website has been set up to share the schedule of events, the survey, and support for those who may need an interpreter or additional assistance to participate.

DART has not had an adopted long-range plan since 2011 but has continued to seek community input on its services over the last five years. The input received has led to more bus shelters, earlier weekday service, more midday service, new or revised bus routes, and more frequent service on DART’s busiest routes.

“We recognize that even though we have been implementing, testing and exploring innovations to better serve our riders, there are still transportation gaps and challenges keeping people from getting where they want, and need, to be,” said DART CEO Elizabeth Presutti. “Thankfully with continued technology advancements, new mobility options and a growing understanding of public transit as a key social and economic equalizer, we may be in a position to do even more to enrich lives, connect communities, and expand opportunities.”

The DART Board of Commissioners established these four goals for DART’s new long-term plan:

- Optimizing DART’s existing service;
- Identifying how to meet evolving transportation needs of the region;
- Evaluating innovative service models that embrace advancements in technology; and,
- Developing a long-term vision for DART to serve the central Iowa region into the future.

For more information about the Transit Optimization Study, the schedule of virtual events, and/or filling out a survey, please go to [ridedart.com/plan](https://ridedart.com/plan).

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority (DART) is the public transportation provider in and around Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services that connects thousands of people every day to jobs, school, medical appointments, entertainment and more. For more information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit the website at [ridedart.com](http://ridedart.com) or call 515-283-8100.

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