



Rick Stopfer
Mayor

November 25, 2025

Randall B. Bryant
Chairman, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) Board of Directors
P.O. Box 660163
Dallas, TX 75266

Dear Chairman Bryant,

The City of Irving has demonstrated longstanding leadership, commitment, and partnership in regional transit as a founding member city of DART since 1983, contributing approximately \$2 billion to ensure reliable and accessible transportation for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Between 2013 and 2023, the DFW metropolitan area grew by more than 1.3 million residents, while DART ridership declined from 71 million to 41 million users. The negative correlation between ridership and population growth highlights a disconnect between the services offered by DART and the needs of riders. Increasing ridership and aligning services with each community's priorities are critical to DART's long-term success and will encourage additional cities to join DART.

As North Texas continues to grow, it is evident that DART's original governance and funding structures were not designed to address the complexities of connecting communities with diverse transit needs. Updating DART's governance and funding is essential to ensure the healthy growth of regional transit well into the future.

The City of Irving continues to support the ongoing efforts of DART and member cities to develop a comprehensive, long-term solution that will strengthen regional connectivity while providing flexibility for each community to serve its residents effectively and efficiently.

Notwithstanding these ongoing discussions, I am prepared to recommend to the Irving City Council that the City cease its efforts to withdraw from DART if the two parties agree to the following terms under a five-year interlocal agreement (ILA):

- DART will fund and maintain bus routes 225, 255, and all existing bus routes in the City of Irving, using appropriately sized vehicles.
- DART will return 5% annually, for the five-year term of the ILA, to the City of Irving, from the one-cent sales tax collected within the City of Irving for DART. This 5% return of sales tax to



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the City of Irving is cumulative from the commencement of the ILA and will be used for micro-transit and/or other improvements supporting DART.

- Beginning in the second year of the ILA, the 5% return of the one-cent sales tax to the City of Irving from DART will be suspended for any year in which DART increases ridership by 10% over the prior year for all existing and any new rail and bus service for stops within the City of Irving. Ridership data must be confirmed by a mutually agreed upon auditor, funded by DART, using 2026 data as the baseline. DART and the City of Irving will agree upon the methodology for calculating ridership data.
- The City of Irving will decline GoLink services to avoid duplication of services.
- DART will continue to provide paratransit services.
- DART will fully fund the design, engineering, and construction of the two deferred light rail stations (Stadium Site Station and the South Las Colinas Urban Center Station) and the TRE station adjacent to the South Las Colinas Urban Center Station.
- DART will provide \$1.5 million each year to the City of Irving Urban Center Circulator.
- DART will provide and maintain fixed-route bus service to all train stations.
- DART will extend the timeline for City of Irving to enter into a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) ILA to June 30, 2026.
- The parties will meet annually in August to review General Mobility Program (GMP) activity. Amendments will require mutual approval of the parties.
- DART commits to implementation of the proposed governance structure agreed to by the NCTCOG/NTC working group, establishing a "One City, One Vote" model with population-based weighting.
- All new debt issued by DART must be approved by member cities.
- DART will assist cities in advertising all city-sponsored community events occurring within TODs and near rail stops in order to encourage ridership.

This ILA is contingent upon the DART Executive Board and the City of Irving City Council approval no later than February 13, 2026.

Sincerely,

Hon. Rick Stopfer
Mayor, City of Irving