

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Plano City Council Calls Special Session About Future of DART

PLANO, Texas — The Plano City Council will hold a special session on Wednesday, November 5, at 5 p.m. to consider whether to call a special election on the city's future with DART. If the council votes to move forward, Plano voters would decide next year whether to withdraw from DART in favor of alternative transit solutions or remain with the agency.

"Plano is committed to ensuring safe, reliable mobility options that serve the best interests of our residents," said Mayor Muns. "We want our council and community to feel empowered to choose what transportation options work best for us."

For years, the City of Plano has worked to hold DART accountable for the hundreds of millions of tax dollars contributed by our residents. An independent study conducted by EY Associates revealed a clear disparity in spending: in 2023, Plano taxpayers contributed \$109 million to DART, while only \$44 million was spent within our city.

Despite Plano's repeated efforts to address this imbalance, DART has maintained that it requires every dollar it receives. The City also recently learned DART awarded more than \$800,000 in executive bonuses last year.

Given these circumstances, city leaders believe it is time to ask residents directly: should DART continue to operate in the City of Plano?

Regardless of the outcome, Plano remains committed to providing accessible transportation for all residents, including people with disabilities, seniors and individuals who rely on public transportation. Funding is already set aside to implement a fast, efficient Microtransit solution tailored to the community's needs.

"As Plano continues to grow, our community's needs are evolving," said City Manager Mark Israelson. "We need transit solutions that evolve with us to provide flexible and responsive options for everyone who lives and works in Plano."

For more information about Plano's journey with DART, please visit our website at plano.gov/transit.

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About Plano

Plano, Texas, is located north of Dallas and is the largest city in Collin County, with a population of more than 294,000 (as of January 2024.) *Livability* and *SmartAsset* recently named Plano as one of the “Best Places to Live in Texas” and “Where Americans are Happiest.” Plano has also been repeatedly ranked as one of America's safest cities. The City offers nationally-recognized schools, award-winning parks, sustainability initiatives, and a wide variety of multi-cultural neighborhoods that appeal to its diverse and highly educated workforce. In the business sector, Plano is home to over 72 Forbes Global 2000 companies and headquarters or regional operations of major corporations, such as Toyota Motor North America, Capital One Finance, JPMorgan Chase, Boeing Global Services, Fannie Mae, FedEx, JC Penney, Upbound Group, Inc., Cinemark Holdings, and Samsung. The dynamic community features excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping and entertainment venues, a lively historic downtown district, and active local arts scene. Excellent travel access by air, public transit, and major highways makes Plano one of the best places to live, visit, and do business.