

DART Withdrawal Election

January 13, 2026
City Council Work Session



ADDISON

Discussion Purpose



- Councilmembers Darren Gardner and Howard Freed requested a Work Session item regarding allowing Addison residents to vote on whether the Town should remain in or withdraw from DART.

Background



- Addison has been a member city of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) **since its creation in 1983 and contributes a one-cent sales and use tax to DART.**
 - From 1984 to 2025, Addison has contributed over \$400.5 million to DART.
 - Last year, in FY2025, Addison contributed \$17.6 million to DART.
 - Town's contribution is greater than service value received.
- Five cities (Plano, Highland Park, University Park, Farmers Branch, and Irving) have called elections in May 2026 to consider leaving DART.
 - If those elections are successful, the remaining costs and certain service reductions would be borne by the remaining cities.

- Addison Transit Center:
 - Served by 12 bus routes.
 - 1,800 boardings each weekday.
 - 50,000+ boardings monthly.
 - Includes bus transfers at the Transit Center.
 - 300 parking spots for park and ride usage.
- Commuter Rail:
 - Silver Line
 - Opened October 2025
 - 26-mile commuter rail line connecting multiple cities with access to DFW airport.
- Cotton Belt Trail:
 - First Section to open - Addison Rd. to Spectrum, *April 2026*
 - Second Section to open - Wheeler Bridge (from Surveyor to Addison Rd.), *March 2027*
 - Third Section to open - Surveyor to Marsh, *Spring 2027*
 - Entire trail to be open by *mid-2027*

DART – Ongoing Conversations



- **General Mobility Program (GMP)**
 - The program would reallocate \$2.93 million to Addison this year.
 - The proposed agreement requires reimbursement of any funds to DART if future legislation passes that results in the redirection or reduction of any portion of DART's voter approved one-cent sales tax.
 - Effectively, binding future Councils and any policy or advocacy actions indefinitely.
 - **At a meeting on December 30th, DART stated they understood our concerns and would revise the ILA to alleviate them.**
- **Addison GoLink Zone:**
 - On-demand service using a variety of vehicles and providers, offering curb-to-curb service within a designated zone.
 - Portions of Addison are in parts of surrounding Go Link Zones.
 - **Beginning April 2026 all of Addison will be part of a GoLink Zone.**
 - Only available within Addison city limits.
 - No additional cost to the Town of Addison; funded in DART's FY2026 budget.
- **Potential Circulator:**
 - Fixed-route shuttle to serve the Quorum corridor between Keller Springs and Belt Line to Village on the Parkway.
 - Funding for 50% of circulator costs in DART's FY2026 budget.
 - Annual cost of approx. \$1,675,000 (*based on information from 12-10-25 meeting with DART*):
 - \$837,000 Addison
 - \$837,000 DART
 - No commitment from Addison has been made at this point. We can consider moving forward with this option or evaluating alternatives.

Calling an Election to Withdraw



- Per State law (Chapter 452-Subchapter Q of the Texas Transportation Code), **a Member City has the right to withdraw from DART, but only once every six years.**
 - 2026 is an eligible “out” year for DART member cities.
- Member cities may consider adding the question of DART withdrawal to the voters in 2026.
 - For the May 2026 election, a city must pass an ordinance calling for a withdrawal election by February 13, 2026.
 - Once a city passes the ordinance, the Secretary of State, Comptroller, and DART must be immediately notified (certified mail sent the next day).
 - A city that has passed an ordinance to call a withdrawal election may choose to rescind it any time before 45 days before the election.
 - If a withdrawal election is successful, all DART service stops the day after.

Withdrawal Obligation



- Prior withdrawal information provided by DART for all Member Cities for FY2024.

Projected Financial Obligations of DART Service Area Cities

Estimated Values as of September 30, 2024

Service Area City	Allocation Percentage (1)		General Obligations	Specific Obligations*	Less: Assets	Net Obligation**	FY 2024 Sales Tax Receipts (2)	Repayment (In Years) (3)
	General Obligation	Assets						
Addison	0.66%	1.53%	\$64,715,448	\$1,381,452	(\$11,409,237)	\$54,687,663	\$16,721,354	3.0

- Town staff used the latest financial information provided by DART's 06/30/2025 interim financial reports to replicate DART's calculation provided in the previous slide for FY2024.
- Based on this calculation from DART and latest financial information, staff preliminarily estimates that Addison would repay its portion and withdrawal obligation in 2.88 years.**

Member City	Allocation %	General Obligation	Specific Obligation	Less: Assets	Net Obligation	FY 2025 Sales Tax Receipts	Repayment (In Years)
Addison	0.67%	58,645,878	5,989,440	(13,871,959)	50,763,359	17,634,389	2.88

Questions