



City of Farmers Branch, Texas
13000 William Dodson Parkway
Farmers Branch, Texas 75234

December 17, 2025

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

CC: Nadine Lee, Chief Executive Officer, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

RE: Conditions Required for Continued Participation by the City of Farmers Branch in Dallas Area Rapid Transit

Chairman Bryant and Members of the Board:

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Farmers Branch write to formally set forth the conditions under which the City would recommend continuing its participation in Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and, during good-faith negotiations, pause further action related to a potential withdrawal election.

The City of Farmers Branch has been a founding member of DART since 1983 and has consistently demonstrated leadership and good faith in supporting regional mobility, rail transit, and paratransit services. The City remains pro-transit and pro-regional connectivity. However, continued participation must be grounded in equity, safety, transparency, fiscal responsibility, and accountability to our taxpayers.

For clarity, DART must acknowledge, and this letter expressly states that the one-cent sales tax collected within the City of Farmers Branch constitutes taxpayer funds belonging to the residents and businesses of Farmers Branch. DART serves as a steward for these public funds and must deploy them to deliver demonstrable, auditable value to the communities from which they are collected.

Accordingly, the City of Farmers Branch establishes the following minimum conditions as the basis for any interlocal agreement, amended participation framework, or similar arrangement.

I. Rail Service, Station Security, and Controlled Access (Non-Negotiable)

DART shall redesign, secure, and operate the Farmers Branch rail station to function as a controlled-access facility comparable to modern subway systems. This shall include:

- A single, controlled point of entry and exit
- Fare-paid access only, with ticket validation prior to platform access
- Measures to prevent individuals from exiting trains or loitering at the station without a legitimate transit-related purpose
- Deployment of full-time sworn police officers on DART trains and at stations to enhance safety, deter crime, and restore rider confidence.
- Ongoing standards for cleanliness, maintenance, and passenger safety

All capital, operational, staffing, security, and maintenance costs associated with these requirements shall be fully funded and maintained by DART.

II. Sales Tax Return / Rate Relief and General Mobility Program

DART shall return a phased portion of the one-cent sales tax collected within Farmers Branch as a form of rate relief and local mobility reinvestment. This return shall begin at twenty-five percent (25%) in calendar year 2026 and increase annually by five percent (5%), not to exceed fifty percent (50%) by calendar year 2031.

Returned funds shall be remitted quarterly and used exclusively for transportation and mobility initiatives within Farmers Branch, including first- and last-mile connectivity, micro-transit solutions, pedestrian and bicycle access, and improvements that directly support rail service and ridership.

III. Service Rationalization

The City of Farmers Branch will decline participation in GoLink and all fixed-route bus services. DART shall remove all bus stops within Farmers Branch while continuing to provide rail and federally required paratransit services.

IV. Public Safety Partnership

DART shall provide one million dollars (\$1,000,000) annually to support the assignment of one dedicated Farmers Branch Police Officer per watch to the station area, including the DART rail station. Under this framework, responsibility for station-area law enforcement shall rest with the City, and DART shall not independently provide public safety services at the Farmers Branch station.

V. Governance Reform and Representation

DART shall formally commit to governance reform, consistent with recommendations from NCTCOG/NTC, including the adoption of a One City, One Vote model with population-based weighting. The City further seeks meaningful representation to ensure proportional accountability, transparency, and responsiveness in DART decision-making.

VI. Debt Issuance Oversight

All future debt issued by DART shall require affirmative approval by its member cities to ensure shared fiscal responsibility and transparency regarding long-term obligations.

VII. Quarterly Reporting

To support transparency and informed decision-making, the City requests that DART provide quarterly ridership data specific to Farmers Branch, including station- and route-level trends. Regular reporting will

allow the City to evaluate service effectiveness, align safety and service resources, and ensure accountability for the City's ongoing financial participation in the regional transit system.

VIII. Ridership Support, Facilities, and Parking Infrastructure

DART shall partner with the City to promote ridership by supporting advertising for City-sponsored events on DART platforms and within station areas. DART shall also address station-area infrastructure needs, including parking garage operations, access, cleanliness, security, and maintenance.

IX. Professional Conduct and Decorum

DART, its officers, employees, and agents shall refrain from making disparaging or disrespectful statements or taking any disrespectful actions toward the City of Farmers Branch, its elected officials, or staff. The City of Farmers Branch commits to the same professional standard.

X. Procedural and Systemwide Corrections

DART shall commit to reviewing and correcting procedural, operational, and policy deficiencies affecting system reliability, rider experience, safety, cleanliness, and accountability across the transit system.

Farmers Branch is not withdrawing from transit. The City seeks equity, accountability, safety, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds. These conditions constitute the minimum framework under which the City would recommend continued DART membership.

The City of Farmers Branch has been meeting with DART board members and executive staff for the past 2.5 years. Throughout this time, the City has engaged in good-faith dialogue with DART leadership and regional partners, with the shared goal of achieving meaningful, measurable improvements for riders and member cities. While these conversations have been constructive, the City believes the time is appropriate to move toward more explicit commitments, defined actions, and a timely response that reflects the urgency of these issues. Farmers Branch remains committed to regional mobility and collaboration and looks forward to tangible progress toward a transit system that is safe, accountable, and capable of serving both current and future generations. We look forward to hearing back from you.

Respectfully,



Mayor Terry Lynne
City of Farmers Branch