

REIMAGINE **dart**

CREATING CONNECTIONS. BUILDING COMMUNITIES.

DART is redesigning its bus network. All DART bus routes and services could begin to change in summer 2026. Now, we're ready to share our proposed new bus network with you!

Why are we making these changes?

Greater Des Moines looks much different than when our current bus network was introduced more than 10 years ago. Our region has grown, and travel patterns have changed.

Three goals in designing a new bus network are:

- Align our services with evolving travel needs.
- Provide a level of service the region can afford in Fiscal Year 2027.
- Provide services that meet the region's priorities for transit with the funding we have.

A look at our process:

In April, we asked for your feedback on two options for designing a new DART bus network.

- **High Ridership** – Fewer bus routes running more often in the busiest areas
- **Wide Coverage** – Bus service reaches more places but runs less often

Feedback from DART riders on priorities for public transit:

47%

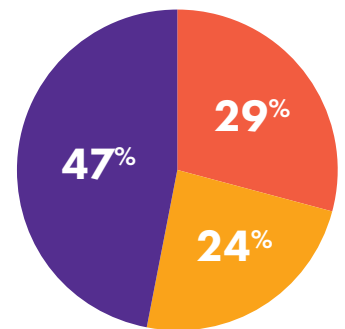
Prefer high ridership network (fewer bus routes running more often in busiest areas).

24%

Prefer coverage network (service reaches more places but runs less often).

29%

Prefer a mix of the two options.



The DART Commission gave the following direction for drafting a new bus network:

- Prioritize ridership for the region but include coverage service in some suburban areas.
- Provide 10% less service than today to limit property tax growth.

We want your feedback!

We want to hear what you like about the proposed new network and what you think we should reconsider.

Keep in mind: DART is designing new bus routes and services within a set budget, so adding service somewhere means removing service from somewhere else.

We will share your feedback with the DART Commission in October and consider it before we finalize the new network.



**Scan to Take
The Survey**

DART'S CURRENT BUS NETWORK

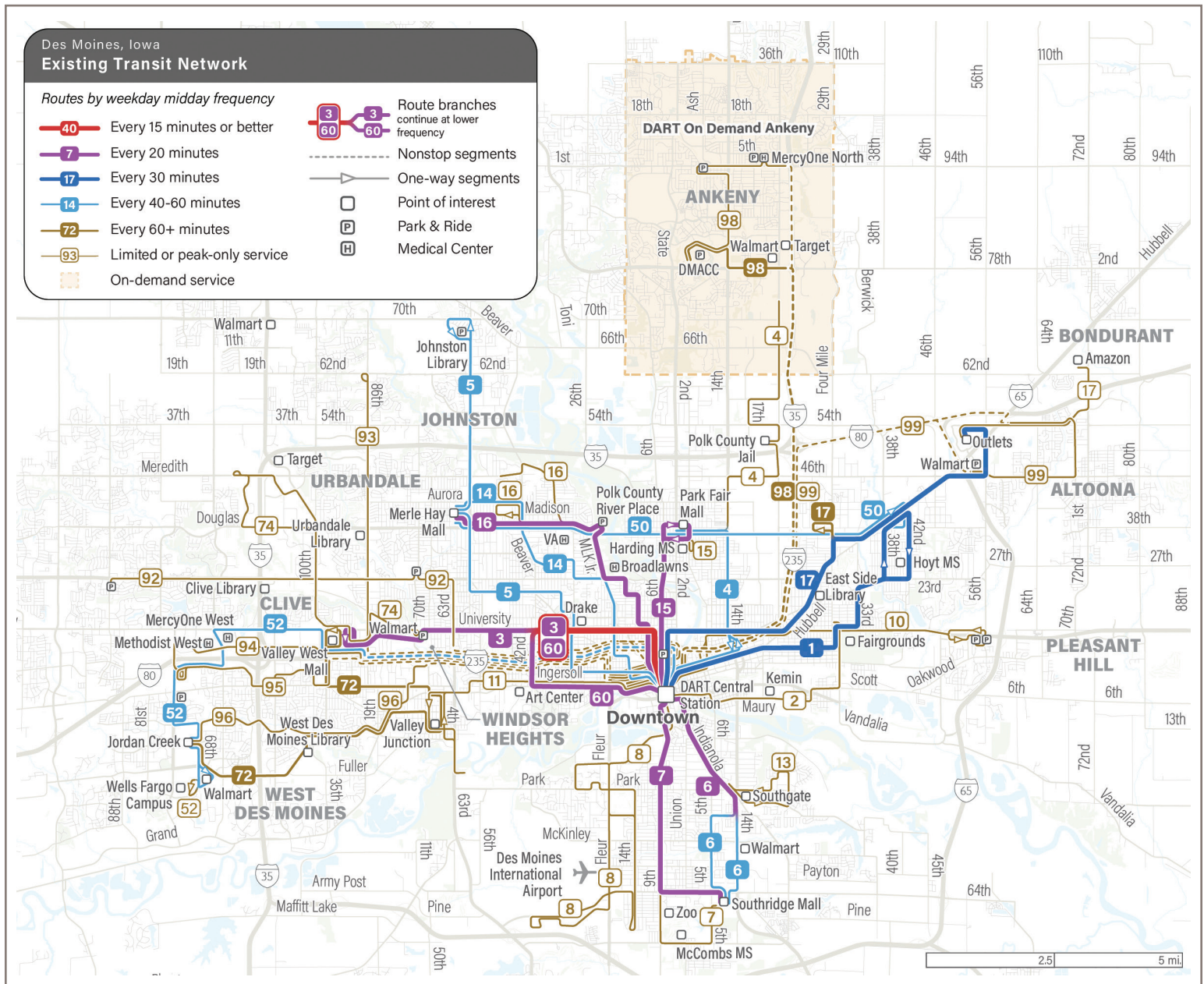
Today, DART has 27 fixed bus routes that run at different times throughout the day and week:

- 1 route runs every 15 minutes most of the day on weekdays but less often on weekends.
- 13 routes run every 20-60 minutes most of the day on weekdays and every 60-80 minutes on weekends.
- 13 routes run during morning and afternoon commutes on weekdays. *They do not run on weekends.*
- One microtransit zone operates in Ankeny on weekdays.



Travel patterns are different today

With fewer people traveling from the suburbs into downtown Des Moines for work, ridership growth has been less on our hourly and peak-only weekday routes. At the same time, demand for service during midday, night and weekend hours has increased.



DART'S PROPOSED NEW BUS NETWORK

We designed a new bus network that moves resources from peak-only services to all-day, all-week services along the busiest streets in our region.

NEW FIXED BUS ROUTES

- 4 key corridors will have service every **15 minutes** most of the day.
- 8 routes will run every **30 minutes** most of the day.
- 2 routes will run every **60 minutes** most of the day.

PARATRANSIT

The hours Paratransit is offered will change to match the updated service hours in our proposed new bus network. Our Paratransit service area is not featured in this map because we are not planning to change it at this time. Any proposed changes to the service area will be determined after the new bus network is launched.

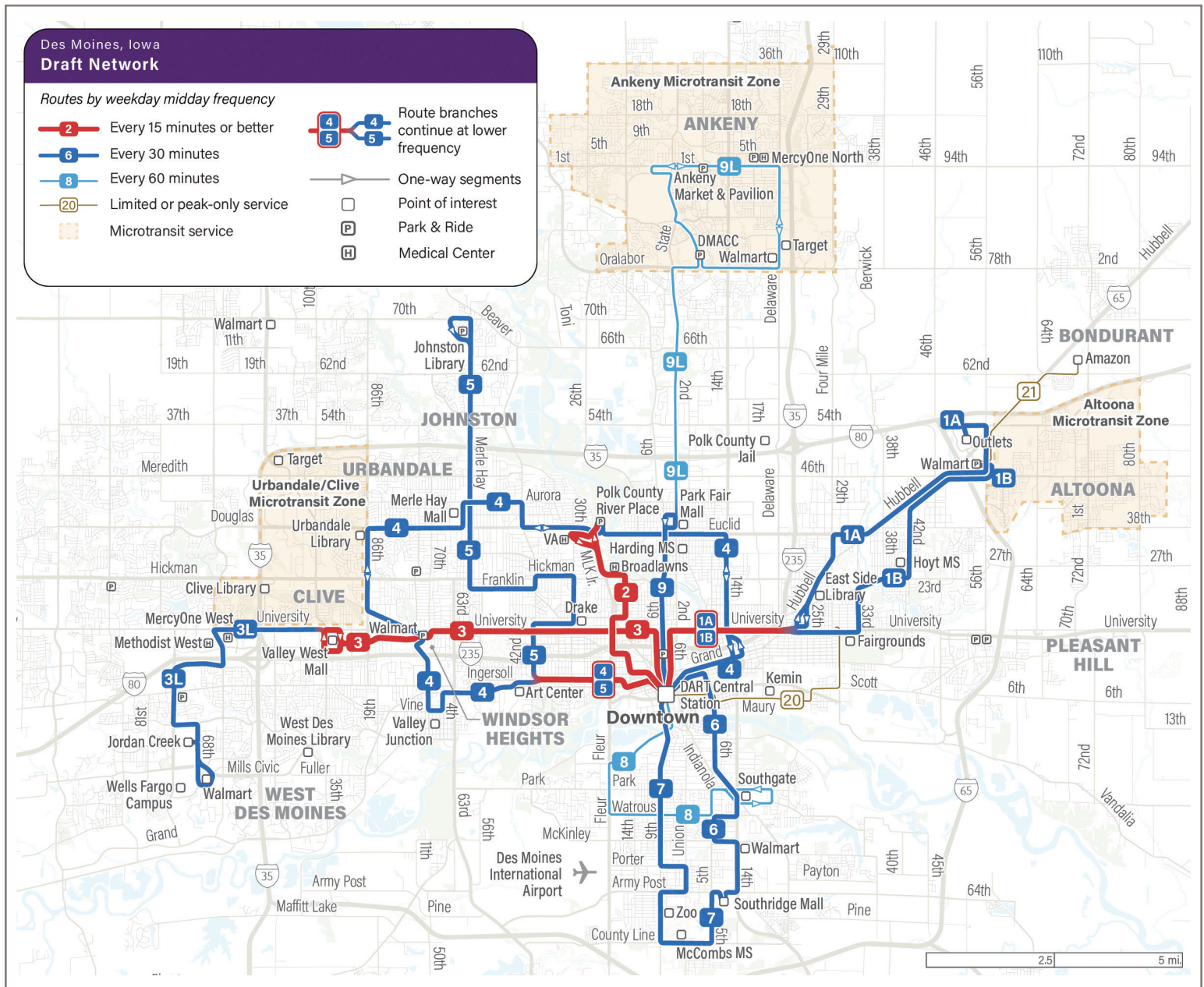
3 MICROTRANSIT ZONES

Ankeny, Altoona and Clive/Urbandale

Residents can book rides between 6 a.m. – 6 p.m. on weekdays and travel from a main street corner to one of several key destinations within the zone. Riders may have to wait up to 30 minutes, depending on availability. The proposed service is designed to efficiently serve as many trips as possible by connecting people with DART's bus routes and providing some access to transit in areas where bus routes do not operate.

Compared with DART's current network:

- **7% more** residents are near 15-minute bus service.
- **5% more** residents are near any transit service.
- **21% more** jobs are accessible within 45 minutes for the average resident compared to today.



Key Things to Know About the New Network

FEWER BUS STOPS FOR FASTER SERVICE

Bus stops are spaced farther apart – about every 3 to 4 blocks – for faster, more reliable service. Some riders may have a longer walk to reach the stop. You can see specific stop locations at reimagineDARTdsm.com.

UPDATED SERVICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Service will start an hour later and end an hour earlier on weekdays and end an hour earlier on Saturdays. This change will cut DART's total service hours during the least traveled times in order to reduce expenses to match our budget.

FASTER TRANSFERS AND TRAVEL TIMES

Bus routes will be scheduled to meet at DART Central Station and leave at the same time. This will make transferring to other routes faster and reduce travel times.

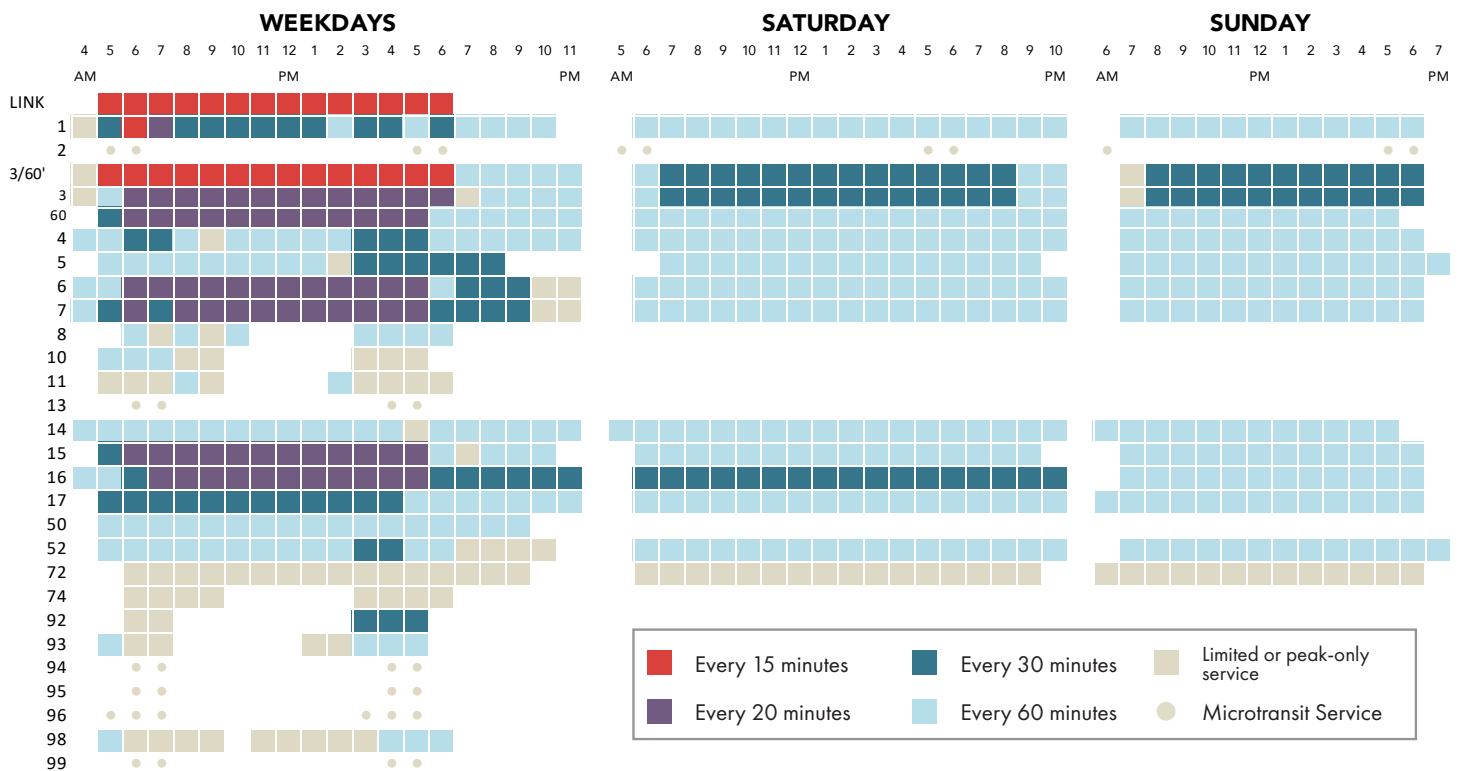
MORE FREQUENT BUS SERVICE SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

Below you can see how often buses will run in the new network compared to our current network.

How to read this chart:

- Rows represent bus routes.
- Columns represent the hours of the day.
- The color of each cell indicates how often the route will run during that hour.

How Often Buses Run Today



How Often Buses Run in Our Proposed New Network

