



Mike Simonson (At-Large Candidate)
2025 Des Moines City Council Candidate Survey

4. Transit Funding & DART

DART is redesigning its system for the first time in nearly 20 years. The City Council recently increased the franchise fee on utility bills to 7.5%, generating approximately \$6.2 million annually for transit. Beyond the franchise fee, what additional strategies should the City consider to secure long-term transit funding?

*Continue to seek private funding where business entities benefit from employee transit.
There aren't many options other than through fees and taxes.*

If some suburbs scale back their participation, should Des Moines continue pursuing a regional funding model, or focus more on building a city-centered transit system?

Continue to work with participating communities.

How would you balance those priorities?

The dollars will dictate this.