



Endi Montalvo-Martinez (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?

The franchise fee increase is a great step forward. Des Moines should explore funding strategies like development impact fees, corporate contributions and state/federal partnerships.

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?

While I support a regional model, if suburbs scale back, Des Moines must prioritize a strong city-centered system that meets residents' needs.

How would you balance those priorities?

Balancing these priorities means pursuing regional cooperation while ensuring Des Moines residents don't lose access to reliable service.