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\$2.1 Million Grant for New Buses Benefits DART Customers

Public transit users in Greater Des Moines will have six brand new buses to take their trips on, thanks to a \$2.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation announced this week by Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa.

“Providing Iowa with the resources to improve and strengthen its transportation infrastructure keeps Iowa thriving,” said Harkin, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. “It boosts the local economy by creating jobs and easing Iowans’ ability to get to employment opportunities around the state. I congratulate DART on this funding and I look forward to the improvements it will generate.”

The six new buses will be ordered soon and delivered to the Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority in approximately 18 months. They will replace six buses that, at 13 and 14 years old, are the oldest in DART’s fleet of 113 full-sized buses. The average age of DART’s full-sized buses is less than seven years old.

“On behalf of DART and the thousands of Iowans who use public transit in Greater Des Moines each day, I would like to thank Senator Harkin, Congressman Leonard Boswell and the Iowa Congressional delegation for all of their support of public transit,” said Angela Connolly, Polk County Supervisor and Chair of the DART Commission. “Replacing DART’s buses as they age allows us to continue to deliver clean, affordable and reliable transportation. The public relies on it and the local economy thrives on it.”

The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority is the public transportation provider that serves Polk County. DART operates a family of transportation services that makes getting around the Greater Des Moines area easier and more convenient. For more information about DART services, schedules, route changes, or directions to the nearest DART stop, visit our website at www.ridedart.com or call 515.283.8100.

“Replacing buses as they age is the bread and butter of running an efficient and reliable transit system,” DART General Manager Elizabeth Presutti said. “Our customers expect clean, affordable and reliable transportation from DART. This grant helps DART to continue to deliver that service to the thousands of transit users in Greater Des Moines who use the bus each day.”