

DART Taxicab Voucher Program Launches in Fairview

In response to the discontinuation of Texoma Area Paratransit System (TAPS) service in Collin County, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) temporarily offered similar transit service to eligible Fairview residents through September 30, 2016, due in part to a grant by Toyota.

Fairview will transition to a DART taxicab voucher program called Collin County Rides on October 3, 2016. Through this new program, Fairview is removing transportation barriers and providing enhanced mobility solutions for qualifying residents. Collin County Rides is an innovative taxi subsidized service available to those 65 years of age or older and/or people living with a disability in Fairview, Allen and Wylie. **Unlike the previous temporary bus service, this service will allow these residents the opportunity to travel anywhere within Collin County for any reason, including connecting to the DART service area.** The only limitation is the amount of funds on the taxi debit card.

However, similar to the previous system, all trips, including return trips, must be scheduled up to two service days in advance; same day scheduling of trips is not permitted. Additionally, the service is only available weekdays from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. with trip reservations assistance available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registered participants will receive a taxi debit card from DART. Participants can store \$5 to \$50 on the card and will receive a taxi subsidy based on how much they contribute. For example, if the registered participant uploads \$50 to the card, their taxi subsidy will be \$150, for a total taxicab debit card of \$200. The value on the taxi debit card cannot exceed \$200 at any time. Additional guests are allowed to accompany registered users for an additional \$2 per guest, which must be paid in cash or credit card rather than with the voucher card.

Residents need to register in order to participate in Collin County Rides. Registration will be available after Oct. 3. Residents who have participated in the temporary DART Collin County Service will be grandfathered into the new program. Residents can call 214-828-6717 to determine eligibility or visit DART.org/ccr for more information.