

September General Meeting – 2024/09/21 13:07 CDT – Transcript

Attendees

Brooklynn Nguyen, Chris Wyatt, Curtis Green, Dallas Area Transit Alliance, Dallas Area Transit Alliance's Presentation, Hexel Colorado, Kaden Reese Martin, Qui Le

Transcript

Chris Wyatt: Squash levels.

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Chris Wyatt: Not.

Hexel Colorado: All right, gavel and Here's the.

Hexel Colorado: Okay. Hello. Hi.

Hexel Colorado: Okay.

Hexel Colorado: All Welcome everyone. We're gonna get started today. You have a couple exciting things. We have a dart representative to talk about some very cool and exciting things they're trying to do. So, that'll be a fun break from the bad news, I guess going on with the budget cuts and everything It'll be really nice to hear what they have planned. We've also got.

Hexel Colorado: Some information about the state legislation. We're going to be talking a lot about that today and looking for help for everyone. We're going to try to contact our state reps and we are going to also decide some key positions within data who's Running. Our different committees. So

Hexel Colorado: What's that? I think I will just talk about.

Hexel Colorado: I don't know how to ation. okay, so I didn't actually want to do this, but unfortunately, we have to

Hexel Colorado: waste our time with this, so

Hexel Colorado: I don't know. Am I screen sharing?

Hexel Colorado: Okay, actually, so we're gonna go do that dance. Instead of this everyone?

Hexel Colorado: I didn't know I Sounds more fun. Yeah, okay.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah. Okay.

Hexel Colorado: For those not in the loop darts trying to pass their budget right now. and their budget.

Hexel Colorado: Their budgets going up by 1.3% because sales, tax revenue is up, but that's not really that much because of inflation, And not only that, but they're going to paratransit contracts shot way up. So Dart actually may have had to Cut service to get by. Thankfully they didn't know they found a budget that They were able to make room in their budget to not cut any servants and...

Chris Wyatt: Okay.

Hexel Colorado: staff did a good job as far as I can tell. And Yeah, they managed to increase their operating budget by 5.5% despite an overall budget increase of only 1.3. so, This is very, very good. However, this budget that DART staff came up with, they don't actually have the votes for on the dark board.

Hexel Colorado: Because people in the dark board, there's some who start to exercise fiscal restraint. This budget already exercises, fiscal or strength. So There's just people who want dark to spend less money than they're actually able to on services. So we want to show up to the next board meeting, which is Tuesday and show support for this budget. We want to show support for the budget that increases the operating spending by 5%. Other board members are saying, we should increase it by three percent or four percent instead, trying to lower the operating budget increase. But all of those require some sort of compromise on security spending or service spending some bus routes might get cut. It really depends on what level they go for, but the only budget that doesn't have sacrifice anything and actually

Hexel Colorado: Make start better, is this 5% increase. So we are Planning to attend the DART board meeting on September 24th. It's at 6 pm. That QR code is just a Google Calendar link. So for those who like Google Calendar, please go ahead and scan it and

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Hexel Colorado: I think that's probably all. I had time to discuss for this. So I'll just leave this up for a second. And maybe answer any questions. Anyone has real quick. Okay. Phyllis

Hexel Colorado: I forgot to explain this. So, these are the ones who are against it, who we think we can flip. There's others who are against the budget and there's no point talking to them. Probably these are the four ones. So Market, Enoch and Mark, Abraham are in Garland, and floor Hernandez, and Rodney Slasher of Dallas. So, I'm curious I posted an email template on Reddit. How many of you sent an email using that template and on Groupme?

Hexel Colorado: Okay, decent amount.

Hexel Colorado: Yes. It's on discord.

Chris Wyatt: The squad.

Hexel Colorado: it will be Thank you for your suggestion.

Hexel Colorado: in the event that I'll forward, these people use budget is expected. I think we only need two of them to flip.

Chris Wyatt:

Hexel Colorado: All the way in the back.

Hexel Colorado: yeah, that. So we're going to advocate for the On September 24th. 6 pm. So I think that's all the time I have. For this. I think. Phyllis, you're up next.

Hexel Colorado: So there's going to be a lot of media here. be cool to have a lot of people but Yeah, if everyone in this room's room speaker occupy hours of their time. Speaking in favor the budget, it'd be great. But Okay. You can start walking up Alliance of last question. So yeah, come on up Phyllis Otis. What's your question?

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, I'll dm you.

Hexel Colorado: I just wanted to briefly mention that at the state of the agency that took place of just a few weeks ago, on a Friday Nadine, made a very big, Splash about this group. And she even had a slide about it.

Hexel Colorado: So I want you to know that they're taking it very seriously, as a very important part of thought going forward. So I wanted everybody to know this

Hexel Colorado: and for those who don't know, Phyllis is talking about the CEO of Dark Nadine, Lee, Yeah.

Hexel Colorado: So just quickly introduce we have a representative from Dart here, he's going to talk about some of the brighter expansions in A session afterwards. So please give a warm welcome to Ernie Martinez.

Hexel Colorado: Okay, in terms. So Ernie Martinez. I'm in the Darks Capital planning department. Previously in my previous life I was working on rail projects there they're at Dart and in the last handful years I've started working on bus quarter improvements a couple years ago, dark. Initiator established mobility program initiatives and those are shown up on those hexagons there. You can see fair Operating facility service expansion. My focus is on corridor improvements. So that's what I'll be speaking about to today and addressing any questions pertaining to that also from Start Robert a last name again, areas in the back of the room. He's Thank you, Robert Sullivan. he and I will both feel questions me on the court order. Improvements in him on, if you want future speakers to

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Hexel Colorado: If you want some of those other issues.

Chris Wyatt: E. Parts.

Hexel Colorado: so the program when it was kicked off a couple years ago, was intended To take bus court, improvements on the roadways primarily, that would improve Speeds and reliability. Both of those are an issue. Also to improve safety,...

Chris Wyatt: yes, just

Hexel Colorado: and to increase access and connectivity, and I'll go into some of those in just a little bit. We This. Program seems to be the work efforts that we go through fall into three different phases. We've completed phase one which is primarily a planning phase. And just what we did Finish that up. At the end of last year, we did a high level assessment of all

Hexel Colorado: routes that we were studying your most likely aware that we have in the neighborhood of 90 Bus. Couldn't do all 90 of them because we only have limited amount of funds that we can spend each year. So our focus was on the highest frequency service routes and you'll see a map of them just a bit. So we focused on those 21 routes and I'll Second major effort. And that is the one that we're in right now is where we take the recommendations out of phase one. Spend dive a little deeper into the recommendations that come out of it and add or remove some of the tools that we're suggested and all tools are in just a sec. But we also in Phase two will be developing cost estimates so that we can meet with folks in our grants group and they can seek funding for some of these higher dollar or ticket item projects.

Hexel Colorado: and in the third phases, when we actually designed final design and implement the projects, So a little more about phase one, get a little more detail about what I'm describing here. The first step was where we established which of the approximately 90 routes. We were going to focus on there's 21 high frequency service routes and I'll share a map with you here in just a sec of those. We then established evaluation criteria and the methodology about which we would evaluate those routes and not just the entire route but because it could be that we were going to make improvements just on an intersection or on a half a mile segment, we subdivided those when you're 21 routes into Actually 246 seconds. and those are both north south. So a

Hexel Colorado: That is something like a 10 mile route that subdivide into five seconds ends up being 246 because the operating conditions might be different in both directions. so we did that and we then got the score from that assessment that we went through. We ordered them in terms of the score. So that's sort of a ranking. Then we also worked with our operators, met with them, and we share with them. The information they told us about what Some of their

Hexel Colorado: Observations have been they suggested some tools that they thought might work specific locations. And I wasn't sure what to expect because I'd never worked with our operators before and the previous work that I've done. But I was really pleased with what we got out of it, because we had a team of bus corps improvement experts, but what they were able to do the opera general, they were supplement things that maybe don't show up on a map because They experience occurred a certain time of the day and only certain vehicles are causing a particularly issue. So, good stuff came out of phase one and the final result of that was we ended up with, in the neighborhood of 243 cools that were recommended many project elements to 243. these are the 21 routes that are referenced and I'm gonna get my show of hands.

Hexel Colorado: who is not familiar with the routes that you see up there or some of them. Most of you bus riders. So again, these are the highest frequency that we have in our system. these were the frequencies from 2020 When we started the effort, And there have been a few changes one in particular courses the number 22 where we've got 10 minutes, service on one section of that route. But anyway, those are those of them. And that's what we started off with a couple. Years ago. And so this was the data that we started to collect for the evaluation of the routes, and then the segments within the routes.

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Hexel Colorado: So that in the event, we desire to have a single route that we improve from one end to the other. and maybe there are three that warrant that type of treatment, but we only have funding for one. There are individual segments along some of the other routes that we can improve that still benefit the

overall order. So again Here's some of the data that we collected won't go into detail about all of it. But essentially it was either bus performance Ridership. Related. And then there are a few other categories, like, Crash data population, employment and just a name, a few others. So there was really two steps in this in phase one. One was where you evaluate the routes and the segments, you score them and then you rank them. so now you've got a ranking of which ones you should. Address.

Hexel Colorado: Initially and the second part of that was then window in on those high ranking segments and determine what improvements you actually should recommend for those. So that was the result of that effort. that I showed you the data. This is actually what was used. We

Hexel Colorado: And what was and you'll see some scores here in a little bit. But these with it, the criteria. And as a technical person myself, I initially was focused on the transit performance and transit. Ridership elements was thinking that would be a hundred percent but wiser, heads prevailed and suggested actually include that they accident data and population employment density. As well to round out the criteria. So, again, I've got just imagine, we're scoring all the routes, but we're also scoring segments within the routes. And here are the results Of just the routes. And I don't know, some of these may surprise for me, I was surprised that the number five love field shuttle would rank as the actual

Hexel Colorado: Top of the list of route that could benefit from improvement from one into the other. But what may be a parent to use, it is a short route and it had an advantage that if it did. On those two segments, it would win out because of a route. If you're familiar with the Westmoreland, it may have four of the seven segments. Might do really well but the other three As you're going over a bridge, through an industrial area, where there are a few stops you impediments could bring the score down so I realize why Love Field would have done so well.

Hexel Colorado: I'll share with you information about the segments in just a little bit, the segment scores. So one of the thoughts is if we can take and maybe by show of hands anyone familiar with the term bus rapid transit vrt. Wow it's okay so There are two categories of the BRT federal funding program. One is fixed Guideway Vrt, which is a higher in the Cadillac of the Brts and the ones that come to mind that in a recent past I looked at Projects that were in the FDA pipeline and one that jumped out at me was a Houston project which was in the neighborhood. in excess of a billion, maybe a two billion and it's a fairly lengthy route and it's great separated, from what I can tell from one end to the other. So, it's very expensive. And by the way, it's airing want to say greater than 10,000 riders per day or what, it's projected to carry that many,

Hexel Colorado: the great at our highest frequency routes that we measured are in the neighborhood of 3,000 So what might be more appropriate, not what don't want to rule out fixed guideway but what might be more appropriate is quarter base where the threshold for that is 3,000. But since in the last cancel of months, FDA is looking at 1500 given that throughout the country, Ridership has gone down since covi What else to say about that? So there might be a handful of these routes Off to the right up to the left. that we will take through a process and determine which ones of these are the most competitive for federal funding. And you notice we've taken out the

Hexel Colorado: The Love Field shuttle because again A was really short and very few opportunities to increase the speed on a route. That's only eight minutes long. So here are just some of the elements that could be included in a BRT project whereas we might have in the neighborhood of 30 to 50 Bus stops Throughout that route. We will most likely focus improvements on a handful of stops, which will become

stations where there is a lot of boarding and lighting activity. then we notice there are about 25 traffic signals along the number 57, for example, and we're looking to do is work with the city of Dallas to

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Hexel Colorado: Implement some transit signal priority, every one of those two really benefit the speeds and reliability. So those are just a few so much. And too much time on BRT. I mentioned that gments is another half. They're actually four subcategories of core improvements. This is one and the other is the here, visually the results of the segment evaluation and only thing I want to point out is that Wherever you see red, those are the ly, Those are the ones that were determined to have the greater need. And again, High, ridership and more delay. And you can see that In and around the medical district. Parkland station. This is downtown.

Hexel Colorado: This is the South Garland Transfer Center. they're actually pretty routes until With some Again, We want to make improvements and then it is a parkland station. in the number. 27 Show up as requiring or needing some attention and these are some statistics, may interest you that the Highest scoring segment was in downtown, we realized that was most likely going to occur because we got the slowest speeds, downtown, high ridership. So we intentionally focused on Those segments of the rats that were outside of downtown. Recognizing that We would address those in Phase Two and I'll show you how we're going to do that. But What else to say here? Yep, 40% fifth of the highest scoring segments were in downtown. So, in this second phase we actually have a

Hexel Colorado: Team that's working on evaluating, which of the eight to ten court routes roads, downtown deserve the greatest attention and I think we don't even need to look at a map. If you're familiar with the service, that element commerce or the one and two one, a one B. but then, we're looking at some of the other nature facilities there.

Hexel Colorado: I think that's all I want to say. About the exercise that we've gone through. Seems like I've left a lot of good information out in phase one. I think I mentioned 243 Many project elements we've gone through in phase two, we've reconfirmed we windowed in on those improvements. Spend a little more time on them and added more. What I would refer to as pedestrian improvements. Whereas the initial phase was focused on the roadway improvements like traffic signals whether in Established bus only lanes, a few jump lanes. This second phase, we've actually added.

Hexel Colorado: What is that 130 tools majority? I would say 80% of them relate to bus, Stop consolidation. Maybe that's been in the news in the last six months. Or so, we're working with City of Dallas where they've noticed, there are some pedestrian auto collisions and unsafe conditions. So we're looking to Eliminate stops where maybe we have low boarding and lighting numbers and it's an unsafe condition. So that will also in turn improve speeds through that second. So there's Bus Stop Consolidation. We've also been working with the city's sidewalk master plan, looking for gaps, along these routes, wherever there's missing sidewalks. So that's those that in ADA compliance is comprised about 80% of our 130 new tools. The other is we've added tsp along the grounds.

Hexel Colorado: I'm sorry, transit signal priority. We had a good number of in Phase, One recommendations that we've got a good number on somewhere around so that they make up maybe 10% of the new 130. Schools, I didn't mention it, but we established a toolbox of 17 different tools that we would apply here. That seemed appropriate. And those were at the high end is a dedicated bus lane, huge jump, lane transit signal priority. Some of the Others are. Maybe tweaking a traffic Incorporating a left,

turn signal Maybe one doesn't exist to help us get through civilized intersection. I've seen you for a while. I just want to get through the briefing, I'll feel the question.

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Hexel Colorado: Excuse me.

Hexel Colorado: The Earth when what was he basically, but he's asking is about BRT Greek. That's when we give a blame to a bus and then eventually city officials like let's turn this back. So, he's wondering how we would prevent that. Yeah, so, in fact, we're going through an exercise right now. we're collecting data on it where we're looking at it downtown. In particular, we have a greater opportunity to make the case is we're looking at peak hour, for example, so many, three or four travel lanes on elm and commerce, it varies by segment and you've got maybe 900, whatever, a number of automobiles. And if you Multiply that times the number the auto occupancy. so, you've got a number

Hexel Colorado: Of people in automobiles, traveling through Eleanor Commerce, The Cisco with Elm and then you've got a bus and the bus is, carrying over. Hoping is a quarter of all the people traveling through there, so that we can make a case. Look, we are actually carrying 30% of the people traveling. Westbound on elm. So that's We just made the case for allowing us to maintain the bustling that exists there. Although There are a lot of folks who violate that, you see folks, parking. Kiss and Loading and unloading uber Garbage pickup. so that's the case we're making. that's my case. Other folks feel strongly enough to say that

Hexel Colorado: because we've got so much service downtown that we can just in a qualitative way express that we deserve the line. Yes, sir.

Hexel Colorado: Sure, A couple things we can do. One is I would guess that. If you're from out of town, you have been here for maybe 20 plus years. But if you're from out of town, you may not be aware that. It's even a bustling because the markings on the roadway have faded, some of the signs don't even exist. And so what we would do is one of a few things is paint, the lanes red for example and then we would contract with a towing companies so that if someone actually stops their vehicle for an extended period of time, we've got them and that's probably only going to occur once or twice before they get the message so those are a couple things that we're looking to do. Obviously this would require the approval like City of Dallas.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, so transit signal priority, that's going to have red lights, maybe turn green for us. Get through signals faster. It's a primary goal set to just decrease the lay, make it more reliable or it's at all. So are you aiming to make the bus get through? It's right. That's a good question, and

Hexel Colorado: so, As an example, you're traveling down a route and it's got let's say 20 signals and you're on time, maybe even we'll just say on time not ahead of schedule but you're on time and you're approaching a red like we could give you a extend the green If you're say, for example, why is about Red, you can extend it. four or five seconds to allow the bus to go through, but if the bus is going to have to slow down or stop completely because it shouldn't

Hexel Colorado: Ever get ahead of schedule, then we would not take advantage of that ability. At that point, we would wait till the bus was running behind and then moving forward because again, why waste green time on for the cross streets? You don't actually even need it at that point, but once we've gone

through this several times there will be an opportunity then to tighten the schedule, especially on a quarter. And I'll just keep referring to the number. 57, where you have in excess of 20 signals, there may be an opportunity where then after we realize that hey, we've done such a good job with these signals that we actually need to tighten the schedule of maybe shave off. Five, 10 minutes from one into the other.

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Hexel Colorado: Right.

Hexel Colorado: So, I didn't touch on it. That was the fifth of Five elements. I only think I only went through. Three but brand identity is up is another and If you travel around the country, you probably seen some major cities, you probably seen some cities that have some special treatment on a particular order and they have a different vehicle for example, the love feels shuttle and then others where we wrap some of our buses, we would do something like that or we have a special buses for that particular route that allow for as an example and not suggesting, this is what would occur but we have morning from front and back from the front and the back and that would be coupled with a station, where you prepay, and you don't have to slow walk through the bus. We've got a string of 10 people they already just comes in, they don't have to show roof because they've already show. Excuse me.

Hexel Colorado: We got some water actually already paid before they even get to the bus. So it could improve that with the TSP. Transit signal priority could really shave off some time on a quarter the Westmoreland run? would you mind you feel in the questions for me. I don't want because they're quite a few out there. Don't you John back and then, okay.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, the base of Sure, and I started off with the goals and objectives and speed and reliability where? I know that we've had an issue with on-time performance or at least that's what I hear from our service planners, in some cases, on some particular routes. We're really not doing well, and on time performance. And as far as I can tell, this is the first time Dart has embarked on making these types of improvements that could actually affect bus speeds. I didn't mention another one but it's going back to your question. Connor and comment was a Q jump lane where you have a situation where you've got it, six lane divided, roadway arterial, and

Hexel Colorado: There's a queue of maybe 15 cars in one direction but there's what looks to be a right turn lane, The bus could maneuver into that right? Turn lane and get the green signal ahead of the automobiles so that can leapfrog around the buses, hope that was clear. But the initially, it could be an entire route that we improve where we could shave off 15 minutes or it could be like a bottle neck. Segment of a route where there is around the medical district area where maybe all you really need is a Q jump length to bypass the queue. So it's not a specific minute

Hexel Colorado: Five minutes or bus. it's whatever we can improve at do a spot improvement or if an entire route could benefit from treatment than it, they won't be that. I didn't mention I guess not sure how to go. Back. I tried that and it didn't work, but there's another type of improvement I mentioned.

Hexel Colorado: Entire length of the bus. I'm gonna go back to The college map that I am.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, this was perfectly So I mentioned the downtown corridors, I mentioned the entire routes and the segments. The other is where we would look at locations around the South Garland Transit Center around the Southwest Medical District. A parkland station where we don't need to look at a

particular segment, maybe. This intersection is the one that requires attention, it doesn't just benefit the number 57, it benefits like 10 rounds because they all happen to go there. And there's a greater benefit from looking at them in that respect. So looking at any and all and actually, these probably have the

Hexel Colorado: probability of probably reducing more. Rider Delay. Because you're affecting so many buses. not even just and it won't be just the high frequency routes, it'll be a number of other categories of us is including Medical district, shuttles that wrote and in and around there. So again not a particular number that we're targeting. Just can we get these routes on time eliminate the delay and then over time if we're successful at that I work with our schedulers. Then they look we're doing great now we can actually Ramp it up and take off five or ten minutes off of a particular route. I think and this is probably so many questions who only have time for one more, the candy you've got it and waiting while auction the auctioneers, yeah, five dollar.

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Hexel Colorado: Value.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah. Yeah, we got it. We know. All Okay. as you know,

Hexel Colorado: it's like,

Hexel Colorado: Through.

Hexel Colorado: A great. Yeah. Just for those online. Someone brought up that. Was asking, I guess or saying that Dart should have a physical barrier protecting the bustling. So cars, can't drive into it. so you may remember that a few minutes ago, I mentioned that we didn't want to rule out the fixed, guideway We're not carrying 10,000 writers on any one of our routes so if it increases then makes it easier to make a case more that. But yeah, we're certainly hidden for the Shooting for the stars and yes, that same way, okay.

Hexel Colorado: Kaden's, question was the last question, that's what we have to, we're being strict on time after last meeting. So we can go over in this room. You take money for certain amount of time, we have

Hexel Colorado: Someone asks, if there's a way to contact, that. believe I dress up here but I will give it to you. Now I'll just speak Slowly, he will type it in the group chat. Okay.

Hexel Colorado: Okay, we have a representative from Dallas Bike Coalition here.

Hexel Colorado: Really kind of slide deck, but he's gonna get

Hexel Colorado: All right.

Hexel Colorado: Which is made a quick one. You look at I Thank you. it's just about we

Hexel Colorado: Okay Appreciate it. Hey, yeah, so I see that. I have 10 minutes here, I'm not gonna use anywhere near that long. My name is Garrett, I'm with a Dallas bicycle coalition. I'm here for a few reasons. I am personally, a member of data as well, but I'm a board member of the Dallas Last Week coalition as many of bikes work a lot better. When you have a dark to get around and dart. Works a lot better when you have bikes to connect the last mile. So we're super supportive of data and what we're doing here. So we have a few events, the big one. I'm gonna talk about it week without driving is a

challenge started as a national thing. It's something that we're implementing here locally along with a few partners. So I'm going to talk about that just real quick.

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Hexel Colorado: So week without driving it's what it sounds like, it's a challenge to take as few trips by car as possible. If you can go the week, literally the entire week, without driving, that's great. If you can just reduce a few of your trips and, maybe try public transit. If you are, just enthusiast and haven't actually wrote this thing yet, now is a great chance to do that. But the idea was to highlight, accessibility and how there are some people who don't have that choice, they don't have the choice to drive or not. maybe they're not able to drive because of a physical disability, maybe it's a financial thing. There's a lot of different reasons and so it's nice just to step into those shoes now and see what that's like and live that life at least for a week. So,

Hexel Colorado: September 30th through October 6 is the week without driving, so you can sign up at week without driving. that's the national campaign. And you can just kind of pick whether you're a member of a group or just individual or how you're gonna be participating. And then we want you to share your experience in social media using the hashtag week without driving. And then, of course, week without driving Dallas, please use both. And that can just be something like, a picture of yourself on the bus. It can be a picture of yourself. Loading your bike onto the front of the bus, something like that, maybe a trip, you would normally take my car, You can say, here's what it looks like, when I try to bike this, just whatever your week without driving, looks like good, bad or otherwise want you to share that.

Hexel Colorado: And then at the end of the week, October 4th there's gonna be a happy hour at Westlake Brewing selected in part because it is very easy to get there without a car, it's just in deep ellum. And Dallas Bicycle Coalition will be there better block will be there and then our other week without driving partners will be there, just to celebrate and just kind of talk about, how it went and meet other advocates, and that kind of thing. So that's gonna be Friday, October fourth, five to seven pm at Westlake Brewing, and that's in Deep Ellum. So, let's see. And our partners are, of course, data Dallas, Neighbors. For Housing, Dallas Youth Commission, DFW Urbanistas and Phoenix Mobility.

Hexel Colorado: And then there's a few other events I wanted to talk about here. Are general meeting which is open to anybody, please bring your friends on September 25th at 7 pm, that's gonna be at Four Corners brewing and then of course we've about driving and the week without driving, happy hour that I just talked about. And then we have our social ride on October 12th, details are going to be coming soon. It's gonna start at 10 am and best way to follow, along with that stuff right now is probably just to follow. Dallas Bicycle Coalition on Instagram. Also, check out our website, Dallas Bicycle coalition.org. You can find that week without driving information there at the top right menu.

Hexel Colorado: and we also have a newsletter you can sign up for as well. Finally, by the City Hall is on October 23rd at 7:30 in the morning leaving from Pegasus Plaza. I'm pretty certain during the week, but that's just Honestly kind of a thing for the city to sort of had itself on the back but it's a good thing to attend and for us just to make a showing as advocates. And that's about all that I have. And if you're more interested in learning more about Dallas, Bicycle coalition have any questions for me, I will be here at the end of this meeting and if there's any super burning questions, one or two right now, I can answer.

Hexel Colorado: yep, Evan

Hexel Colorado: There, those

Hexel Colorado: So Bicycle coalition is Squarely on the city of Dallas. I was still encourage you to join the national event. the week without driving is a national thing. You can join the national level, Use the hashtags, There's no reason you shouldn't, there can't do that. I do know that I said You're in Fort Worth, but I know there may be some organizations that are doing it locally there, if not have to start one. I know that, The walkable Arlington group they are also, I think hosting a week without driving around sure. But there might be a few other. Local groups, I don't know about them Dallas by Coolidge is focused specifically in Dallas.

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Hexel Colorado: Here, that would be what? Was the Becc Community Design, Fort Worth is the group. We've got driving in Fort Worth. Good question. Thank you. Yep.

Hexel Colorado: I don't know. not that I'm aware of.

Hexel Colorado: So, just for the recording, remember the audience just mentioned, I guess you live in Frisco and he's wanting to start an advocacy organization. I think that's That's a great idea. And if you want to brainstorm of that, at the end of the meeting or something, feel free to talk to me. So, all right, that's all I have. Thank you guys.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah. Are you from Come on. We've got some time for you, Let's bring it back here, everyone. So we now have a representative from Jbj who is a Public relations firm who wanted to speak to us about kind of dart advocacy relation stuff like that. So let's give our attention to CC

Hexel Colorado: Thanks guys. Sorry for

Hexel Colorado: I've actually been corresponding with Connor and some nice to meet you guys in person. But yeah, so Jbj Management is a public affairs firm, and we have different services that include technology systems creations for hospitals and large development projects, like convention centers and stuff like that. But we also do government relations and public engagement. So I am the project manager on the public engagement team and so many of us at Jvj have friends at Dart. So we want to help in any way. We can figure out a way to help, defend our from possible, tax contribution cuts. So right now it's my job to build out the public engagement strategy for that and so let's see. Yeah we really want to because all of us are obviously Super Pro Transit people where Civically engaged

Hexel Colorado: But we need to get the broader community caught up on what's happening with our and how they can kind of join the movement and let their representatives know that they want to protect dart from possible funding cuts. So right now we're really just kind of like in the brainstorming phase but we've thought about going to dart stations in the cities that have passed some type of Resolution about the dark contribution.

Hexel Colorado: And collecting qualitative data surveys in those cities so that we can kind of be able to tell more of a story of what ridership looks like in those cities and use that, whenever we're going to different city halls and doing advocacy, because there's a lot of data about where people get on and get off at different stops. But there's not a lot of data about people's ethnicities, people's age people, with disability status and so we want to figure that out so we can use that in our advocacy. So we're looking at that but we're also looking to maybe create media kids of people who are more well-versed in

transportation and urbanism so that can also be used when we're doing government relations and stuff like that. So I'm gonna have my cards. If anybody has any suggestions or if you have an idea on how Jvj can kind of help out with what's going on here already, definitely, let me know I come from a

Hexel Colorado: environmentalism background, voting rights type of stuff. And this is my first time kind of dipping my toes and transportation. So I'm definitely open to suggestions, definitely have an open ear. So afterwards of, please come feel free to talk to me and share your thoughts. Thank you.

00:55:00

Hexel Colorado: Okay, perfect. Thank you. all right, let's put that agenda back up.

Hexel Colorado: So that's everything from the external organization, presentation. One more quick round of applause for everybody who can make it today. wait. We hold your applause. We got one more. Hello everyone. My name is Robert Sullivan. I'm the Dortmund community relations, RIP for Carrollton, Irving and downtown, and uptown. I would like to be a point of contact for data. I've got business cards up here and me being I've also bought prizes, I brought sunglasses, and frisbees, and pencils and maps. So, come help yourself first come first, serve, grab a business card.

Hexel Colorado: That. And I want to thank everybody for coming out and I look forward to working very closely with you. The only thing I'll add to that is, I do appreciate you coming out and speaking to the dark board. But please remember to speak to the city councils that are out there trying to cut the funding because the board itself is responding to the city un go to the city councils and say you will remember how they vote when it comes time for you to vote. Thank you.

Hexel Colorado: Okay, so that's gonna wrap up the external presentation, thanks again for everybody who could make it. So we're going to be moving into the election portion of this. And so, I think till this point, we've had an early voting period. If you have done that fantastic, you can I don't know, check discord or something, but if anybody needs to vote in person, we have a couple computers with forms. people can cast their vote. So, if you guys could do me a favor, if you need to vote in person, Line up there.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah. Hey

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, no problem. Yes, sir.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, yeah. Could we send the form out just to the group? It's Coming up. Okay, cool.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, this is her voting another thing. There's only One competitive race. And you just pull up the questions. After everyone's darker could probably be useful. Just pull up the their answers to the questions. Yeah, because there's only one right, everyone else. Okay, so if you have a chance, go ahead and use this QR code to sign in. If you need a computer, I will be right with you.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, at the top of that form, there's going to be I think a link to a PDF and that's where you can view the candidates responses but there's only one competitive race and I think he's pulling it up event planning chair, it's between

Hexel Colorado: It's not up. I'm waiting for everyone to scan. yeah.

Hexel Colorado: yeah, if you're online, you can vote.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, that's between Mary Collier. I don't know if I'm watching that and Jonathan Hoover for event planning, they both answered the question about their qualifications. So please review their qualifications before selecting because that's important.

Hexel Colorado: all right, I'm going to move it over to

Hexel Colorado: The question here? Yeah, yes, we're gonna do, we're just letting people scan the QR code, and then we're going to put it up.

Hexel Colorado: Or you can vote on a

Chris Wyatt: Can you put the QR code online around the screen share the screen?

Hexel Colorado: Okay. Everyone scan.

Chris Wyatt: No.

Hexel Colorado: All There you go.

Hexel Colorado: s*. Okay.

Hexel Colorado: We're about to share.

01:00:00

Hexel Colorado: Put in early again but yeah, rejecting peace.

Hexel Colorado: Ation.

Hexel Colorado: I'm so sorry. The phone got deactivated. We reacted. I'm so sorry.

Hexel Colorado: just, Yeah. Or not, exactly.

Hexel Colorado: There we go. Okay. Continue.

Hexel Colorado: I don't always want to make sure.

Hexel Colorado: He yeah.

Hexel Colorado: Maybe I wish you.

Hexel Colorado: All right.

Hexel Colorado: So, they're gonna hand it to you.

Hexel Colorado: Is else need to vote? Does anyone else need to vote?

Hexel Colorado: Anyone raise their hand if they still need to vote. No, okay, and the results.

Hexel Colorado: there you

Hexel Colorado: 'LI get some frisberies and pencils up here.

Hexel Colorado: We got one duplicate that I got to delete it. We have one. We have one you

Hexel Colorado: All right, Connor. Hunter.

01:05:00

Hexel Colorado: Ready to announce. Somebody. Okay.

Hexel Colorado: Xander.

Hexel Colorado: I just want most people go to airplanes. Are you another witness? Yes, just looks good here. Combine everyone there was one,

Hexel Colorado: I do not see it's

Hexel Colorado: All we're ready to announce the Okay, can we bring everyone back? We're ready to announce the election results.

Hexel Colorado: Okay, have your attention Fantastic. Okay, qui will be pointing up the election results. So not a lot of tightly contested races. I know we all campaign, very hard. So we'll just kind of run through all this very quickly. So from what I see,

Hexel Colorado: I'll list everything. If you guys want to clap, I don't care. Just clap at the end. So our president of data is now Connor Hula.

Hexel Colorado: is it Yeah not hula, holla.

Hexel Colorado: Vice President is yours. Truly Tyler, right?

Hexel Colorado: Alexander Dunn. And moving into our committee chairs. We have Evan Rosner as median government relationship. Congratulations

Hexel Colorado: Social media and outreach is Rohan or Rohan. Okay, Rohan.

Hexel Colorado: Policy research chair is I don't believe he's here today. Did it pronounce it right Khan. that's so much easier. Fantastic. Not here but doing a great job. Yeah man, he's crushing it. Yeah, he's too busy. He's actually saw him in the archives section of the library. He's too busy event planning chair, Mary,

Hexel Colorado: So congratulations, everyone who made it. So what's going to happen now is all these people are now Chairs etc, are the executive committee. We're going to spend some time to kind of collect ourselves. We will be working on things, like bylaws other organizational stuff together. Your input is always welcome. We will keep you as up to speed as possible as we can on everything and we will have more information for you guys soon. Right now we're thinking this will be a yearly thing whatnot and we'll just have more updates as the executive committee gets together and starts rolling out some of the more official Any questions about the elections or anybody need to come verify the results. Look at them. Yeah.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, okay, so all the new officers have hang back for a second. We'll take a group photo. Maybe even some headshots, I didn't do my hair. But other than that, so that concludes the election portion of this. that's there we go. So now let's get into the reports and housekeeping. We don't have a ton of stuff today because we kind of loaded everything with the presentation. So we'll let Connor and

whoever else is set to presents run through this real quick. Okay, so now this is the main thing I really wanted to talk about today.

Hexel Colorado: so, As right now, we are fully expecting this legislative session, which starts in January 2025, for some anti dark. Legislation to get filed, some sort of legislation that will cut darts funding by 25%.

01:10:00

Hexel Colorado: We don't know exactly what it will be yet, but

Hexel Colorado: For some background. So, there's a lot of new faces in here. So I'm just gonna bring everyone up to speed. There's been these resolutions passed by various city, councils to starts By 25% Plano, Releving Farmers Branch Carrollton, in Highland Park all voted on these resolutions to cut sales, start sales, tax funding.

Hexel Colorado: Dallas, Addison Richardson, Glenn Heights in Cockrell Hill University Park have not voted on any resolutions yet. And I don't think any of those will besides maybe university parts. So I think that the six you see here are just the ones that I've taken the anti dart stance.

Hexel Colorado: so, at first, when this is what's happening, Our group way, back in the early days before we even formed before. First meeting we just really got to stop Dallas from agreeing to this resolution and I don't know maybe Garland or Richardson one other city and then we're good because Then they don't have the votes on the Dart board since Dallas is half They control half the Dart board or a little bit over half. so, Because these cities can't cut darts funding only DART can so we just thought okay if Dallas doesn't want to do it, if Garland doesn't want to do it Richardson doesn't want to do it there's just no way they're gonna be able to cut darts funding that was probably a little too optimistic because

Hexel Colorado: We've got more information. We didn't open records request on the city of Irving. And the reason why is because all these cities passed the resolutions to cut darts funding one. After another very quickly, there is very little, deliberation about it. There was no public input. they just kind of rushed. These resolutions out the door and Pass them without really much thought. And it was suspicious, That all these cities could be so coordinated this. Yeah, so what we did, the Open Records request and what we found in that request was that they were really talking more about dark cuts with each other than they were with their own communities. They didn't actually talk to their constituents at all because we search, at least in Irving's case, all mentions of the word dart. For the past few months.

Hexel Colorado: So we saw every email, they have related to Dart and Irving was talking about this with Plano and Rowlett and Carrollton. They were all. Talking about this together. They got more feedback from each other than they ever did for any residents of their own cities, it's own issue. Yeah.

Hexel Colorado: And that open records request. We learned about some legislate that they were going to fight that they were drafting up legislation to get past the state level. So I guess, Plano does this push to try to get dark funding cut? it's not very popular in dark, it's not going to do it. So instead of just giving up on their unpopular idea, nobody wants they just go crying to the state legislature. So, this legislation was their first draft that we got a hold All it does is change the language Of the statute that So darts funded by one percent sales tax, right? The statue allows a transit authority like Dart to charge One half, three quarters, or one percent sales tax. Just cross out the 1% sales tax. That was the entire first draft.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, it'd just be illegal for DART to charge one percent sales tax. Even if that's what the residents of the community want, Doesn't matter. State would just ban it. But this is their first draft. We got this mystery document, thanks to Hexel, he posted it in the group chat so I don't actually know the person it came from Hexel, didn't name the source. So I just assumed they wanted to remain unnamed so we have no idea where this came from. But this legislation is even worse.

Hexel Colorado: So first it could start spending by 25% it then indexes their revenue growth by 2% So let's say, sales tax revenues grow by 5%. Normally darts budget would go up five percent but under this legislation, it only go up 2% and then that 3% would difference would not go to dart at all.

Hexel Colorado: I don't know. Yeah, the legislature, it probably be up to the cities.

Hexel Colorado: It would force them to refinance their debt. So, Dart issued bonds. and those bondholders purchase the bonds, under the understanding that DART had 1% sales, tax funding, And with this cut their budget, they would need to refinance their debt. getting a book their budget cut with lower their credit. Rating. So they refinance their debt and they'd have to pay more interest on it. and this would force, and this legislation is forcing them to Just put more money into debt. It's really bad. This is really, really bad. I don't even know what this looks like, but I can't imagine I don't know. they're probably just be so many bus routes cut, so many less trains. He'd probably just defer all the maintenance they could. There's just no scenario where this legislation

01:15:00

Hexel Colorado: Is a good thing. One thing that's curious about this though, is that Reappropriation of any sales tax. Now must be allocated by the voters at the general election. So one possibility is maybe just due to Texas state laws. They're hoping voter that it might be the case and I don't know. I'm not an expert. Maybe someone in the room is but it might be the case that the state actually won't cut darts finding by 25%, like they originally wanted to here but rather they can pass a lot. That lets the residents vote on a referendum to cut parts funding. If that's the case even if this passes, we might have that avenue. We really don't know what's gonna happen and I don't really want to just assume that we'll be able to stop this in an election. So we want to instead just prevent any legislation from getting past it. All right, I see questions. Brenda.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, it's a federal law. I think it's a part of the Civil Rights Act and it prevents transit agencies from disproportionately hurting communities of color and it's a equity.

Hexel Colorado: Okay, not just transit any agency Garrett.

Hexel Colorado: How are you understand?

Hexel Colorado: sorry, I interrupted you. Probably. it sounds like if they're and they would be obvious alliance. my understanding is that this likes legislation, this section of the Texas Law, only applies to Dart and Trinity Metro yeah, so now that

Hexel Colorado: Rule urban districts and metrics. And metro districts, don't get any funding. Lower 20 Metro VCA. East Ends Metro all considered Metro and the district again no help from text God a funded specifically All of those. Urban. And El Paso instructions.

Hexel Colorado: I've heard that too but I'm hearing mixed things about if this affects other transit agencies or not. Some people I've talked to say, it's only dark other states multiple. My guess is that's going to be really hard. And so we see the actual legislation get filed. But if it does affect other transit agencies, then there are potential allies. John.

Hexel Colorado: It's good. Yeah, everything. Hold on. Maybe your comment for the month. Yeah, earlier, I keep forgetting. So someone asked, "We're discussing if this legislation would only affect our for those wondering." So just a quick point you asked, "You don't know what this will look like." I know what this looks like as far as cuts go or even a revenue cap. Houston has a 1% or 1% sales tax penny, just like Dart does except at any time, the city and county and literally raid metro for 25% of that at any time, just as a fiat just happens. They're doing that right now. And what that means is that their peak frequency on their bus routes.

Hexel Colorado: Is going from eight minutes to 18 minutes. So yeah. That's one of many. Yeah, cuts. Dark has mentioned. If you read the media interviews, they've mentioned, most of their bus routes would just come once an hour. Or maybe 30 minutes at best. So, I'm gonna answer more questions, speak later because there'll be a better chance for that. We have a couple strategies we can do to fight this. Strategy. Number one is, find the Pro City Council members the Dart advocates who are elected. And tell them about the legislative threat.

01:20:00

Hexel Colorado: I did that to Councilman Dylan Hendrix of Garland and he responded back to me saying, we're actually going to discuss our legislative affairs later today. This is weeks ago and he said that the strategy of those opposed to Dart will be the lobby their state reps, the past state law, cutting guards, funding. He said he would be working against that with their own representatives so all I really did. Here was alert Garland of these documents and then all and then he was like, "Okay, yeah, I'm gonna alert our state reps to fight against this. That was pretty easy. Only took me five minutes. So this is one strategy. We can do this tomorrow."

Hexel Colorado: These are some people. That I've seen either on the news or talked to, or have had members talk to of our Advocacy group. To be going to be sympathetic to dark. Just, there's definitely more than who I've listed.

Hexel Colorado: But these are just some people, we might want to be in more contact with. And really express our concerns about state rep. So if there's anyone who wants to take a picture of take note of it. I'll also be posting this, but the Connor. Can I make some comments about this list? If yes. So, first of all, definitely look this list up on the groupme or, wherever on our post you comments about somebody's bullet points. So, Omar Navas is at the top of the list because he's the chair of the City of Dallas Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which basically means he's the main elected transportation guy in Dallas. So that's why he's a major person and I mentioned that because even if you're not in District 6, which is West Dallas, if you live in the city of Dallas, you're his constituent by virtue of you're talking about transportation issue, which eat the chair of

Hexel Colorado: Towards the bottomless list is the REACH Regional Transportation Council, which is actually As you can imagine as a council, those multiple people, but if you pull up the RDC members, you'll notice that it's like mayors of different cities and suburbs in DFW. So, if you're looking at this and you're like, I don't see my particular city in that list. If you pull up, if you go online and Google Regional

Transportation Council members, you'll see Mayor of Grand Prairie or Mayor of Fort Worth or mayor of, all of these cities and in DFW, North Texas. So definitely tap into that member list. Because if you don't see your representative here on this main list, you'll have someone in the RTC. Don't.

Hexel Colorado: Okay, for those and there will be a great chance to answer questions coming up in a second. And I just wanted to mention for those outside. The service area Denton Fort Worth your mayors, might be against this too. You can make the case. I live in Fort Worth and I need to transfer At the Dart system gets cut that hurts Fort Worth residence or that didn't residence. So the Denton Fort Worth people should also be talking who there City Councils. strategy number two, meet the legislature. I talked to Ann about this Garrett mentioned her earlier.

Hexel Colorado: So, there's actually ways to meet your state representatives. Here's what I understand about the process. You first have to have a constituent called a meeting. You do this by sending them an email waiting a few days and if they don't follow up you call them and you try to get a meeting schedule. The downside to all of this is that the office hours at all these State reps of the state reps have and their staff is 9am to 5 pm, which is so annoying for most of us. But you can take the meeting digitally and it should only be 20 to 30 minutes. So, if you can just find, A 20 minute period during your work day, you maybe would for a doctor's appointment or something. Definitely do that if you can, and

01:25:00

Hexel Colorado: coaching prep. So Ann offered to. Train or coach us.

Hexel Colorado: and prepare us for meeting with our state reps or their staff, and what we should say, so when it comes to actually attending meeting The person who calls the meeting has to be in their district. However, they can bring a person along who's not in the district. So you can have a meeting with a group of three. For example, two can be in the district, you can bring some other data representative, someone who knows what they're talking about. Can help you navigate the conversation.

Hexel Colorado: And at these meetings, we'd be trying to gather their stance on dart cuts. What they know about it. We doing some information recon. Find who's supportive of dark. Who's our adversaries are and who's undecided. gather intelligence persuasion is not the only goal. That's obviously a huge goal and just to get this on The goals here really is to get this on the radar of our supporters and Talk, make sure people care about it and also figure out who's against us or who's undecided really if we figure out who's undecided, then that's who we need to work hard to push. so, Strategy. Number three is to annoy them. Repetition is key. If you can just email, your state rep and maybe call them to every one to three weeks.

Hexel Colorado: Just until this legislation actually happens and fails hopefully that'll help a lot just because they keep hearing about it from a large number of people that'll be good.

Hexel Colorado: And the best part about all this is that anyone can help. So, a lot of people will ask me, you're asking people to talk to their city council member and Carrollton or whatever. Denton or I live in bikini, How can I help? as everyone has a state rep. So everyone has an opportunity to help whether you are actively meeting with him or just sending the occasional email or calling them or anywhere in between. You can help. so that's the good news about all this. I have a QR code. For those who do not know their state reps, I want you to figure that out real quick by scanning that code. And while people are scanning that R code, I'm going to answer more questions from earlier.

Hexel Colorado: Make also quit comment about this number two item on your list. So you had one, two, three, and go back. I need to keep the QR code up. But yes, the meeting one. Yeah, yeah, so on that second strategy of meeting your Between now and I'm gonna say early January. So really between now and December. Is the best time to get a meeting with your representative. Because up until November, then she moves mode, right? Some of them are trying to elect it or elected. The moment, it's kind of too late to try to get a meeting is when the next state convention starts. wait, no, no. We had the convention and I don't know what the convention is. Thank you legislative session. All right, I'm getting my big fancy political awards. Mix up when they enter session.

Hexel Colorado: Your best bet is to get a meeting with their staff, but I've tried to do it lobbying in Austin, there's no way you'd have to already be favorable with them to arrange. A meeting one session has started. So even before election or maybe even after a lecture, they finished campaigning, maybe that's a good window. So November December, but the point being that you want to start asking emailing, if you can get time. Even if it means, you have to set up a meeting, two weeks in advance, or three weeks in advance, a month in advance at least, then you're getting some time with them before the session starts in January. But I want to say, Getting time with their staff is still good. getting high Estab, is still really great. I mean, I feel like they don't even know how if you're a staff or they have such a man's influence, that it kind of low-key. But yeah, that's all I wanted to add on that point.

Hexel Colorado: Can you still have your question earlier? Yeah.

Hexel Colorado: I'd like to be able to attach those legislation you were speaking of. And I'll post it all. I was trying to figure out how to attach it. I couldn't find it in any of the chats. So okay, all I'll share this presentation. I'll upload the documents remind me to You can add me on the groupme. so has everyone who doesn't know their state rep figured it out yet? Okay.

01:30:00

Hexel Colorado: How sense in it, figure them both out that, this QR code link will tell you about

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, this applies to your state House rep and your state Senate rep. Phyllis.

Hexel Colorado: Repeat I know whom I say the rep and my say Senator, but the most likely person to help would be my state rep and she is running for a higher office and I have been trying to get in touch from months on some other issues with her office, which her office has been very, very responsive, however, for several months because of the fact, first of all, that they're not in session and secondly, that she's busy running for another office. I think this interim period before an overation of the new reps and in January is gonna be a little bit difficulty in some circumstance. Yeah, it will be. So, I mean, I have heard that some state rep searches on responsive, so if they're being unresponsive, there's not much we can do, so

Hexel Colorado: yeah, Julie Johnson. So I will say, I'll talk about your district later. no, It's good news. So what I have here is a volunteer form and what this does is you provide me your email or phone number and you tell me who your state rep is And you tell me what you're willing to do, are you willing to meet them or are you busy or don't want to do that and just want to email them? Whatever the case is, whichever strategy you want to do strategy one, which is just to email them every few weeks or call them every few weeks versus strategy too. Which is actually trying to meet them, you can register what you want to do. What you're willing to do? If you're willing to be someone who does training and coaching,

because again, a lot of us have never talked to Sarah. I'm gonna need training and coaching. I don't know what to say to my state reps. I've never done it before.

Hexel Colorado: But I'm gonna do it now. Hopefully if Bob Hall wants to talk to me, so, yeah, I want everyone to who is interested in helping with this effort that scan this QR code, and sorry for all the QR codes, and you can also type in the link if you don't like QR codes, now, continue answering questions, Garrett Yeah.

Hexel Colorado: So I'll put it on the form but I have the same kind of experience that So I'm also willing to help prevent that training, just to kind of explain what that training looks like. Is we do mock lobby meetings. So what we'll do is somebody will role play as the elected official, we'll have a meeting, we'll set it up. We'll plan the meeting and do everything as if we are meeting with the state rep or the state senator and run through that so that it builds confidence of anybody participating so we run through the entire thing. So that's what the training looks like. And then one of the thought is that

Hexel Colorado: In terms of in my past experience with legislative stuff, it was more for climate specific policy but it's going to apply here as what you have to communicate to an elected official is that they're in a better position to get reelected if they don't support a policy and so the best signal for that a very active and vocal, Small group of people continuously emailing them that is certainly better than nothing. The best thing to do is to show that a growing number of people or emailing them and having more and more people. So, in addition to us continue with staying in contact, I would just propose that. Also, there is an effort by data to continually get more and more and more people who have never emailed before. a bunch of new first time contacts, or better than a bunch of recurring contacts is what I'm trying to get across. So that's all.

Hexel Colorado: Okay and I hope those interested are still filling out this form While I answer the questions Robert I don't have a question. I have any statement or as a Department is entirely dedicated your voice. That's who's local relation with the relationship with stated alliance. It's Monday. I will tell them that they are data is looking right? Maybe even count.

01:35:00

Hexel Colorado: And I will see what they say. Okay, so I don't know if the mic picked that up, but our dark community relations. Guys, just told us that Dart is contacting your state reps and will help us.

Hexel Colorado: Got a question over here. Yeah, yeah. I'm ti So about a real quick back to what the statement with Plano bringing it up to state legislature. So they're motive is to make dark pay off their debt, so that state legislation would make them pay off so that legislation wants them to refinance their debt because Texas state law. You can't just violate a bond holders agreement, so if Plano cut their funding, They'd still have to pay the bond debt until it's gone. So, Plano wants start to be It's complicated. I'm maybe not the person to get into it but it's bad news for dark. It doesn't really make sense to me though because from what I've seen with the cuts that they're proposing, if that actually goes through, that's only gonna put dark in more debt. Yeah. They don't care.

Hexel Colorado: Only a sensible reason.

Hexel Colorado: So, I should fill out this form. If you couldn't find your state rep. Just say, you don't know who they are. I left that as an option and I will put your address in and find it for you, or someone will go through all the, I don't know.

Hexel Colorado: it's the same link that I already shared. but yes, it also does have that And really, we're gonna distribute this form far, and wide way beyond this meeting room and Garrett. You mentioned earlier, we were about getting more people to email I'm going to create email templates that people will scan the QR code and we can show them at dart stations or post them on Instagram, whatever. People will just have to replace their name and address with some blanks or some inserts and they're good to go.

Hexel Colorado: Get a question back here. Yeah, yeah, hi. So, I was wondering if that maybe is there a way we can get any state reps that we know are going to be pro with us in communication or let them know other state reps that we know because I know a bunch of people in Houston a couple leftist organizations and stuff. I was wondering if one of them tells me, Hey I talk to this person, They said we have someone in legislation in Houston who's not cool with this transit situation. They back you on this because we don't want to happen or it's happening here. We don't want to happen there. yeah, if you can make that case to organizations outside of Dallas, Fantastic. I'm all for it. Way. Hope.

Hexel Colorado: That's not it. I don't know Garrett the answer to that.

Hexel Colorado:

Hexel Colorado: Yeah.

Hexel Colorado: Probably what we're doing it here. They're about to do what we're So Garrett said it depends on the legislation and if it affects other transit agencies, it'll be easy to get groups in Houston to support us. But one less I believe start is probably Talking to all these agencies as well. So

Hexel Colorado: we're gonna work with groups like Austin Urbanist and we think in the state. He's asking if other advocacy groups and other cities. Yeah, same answer to the question. I just gave Garrett, it's just gonna depend and it's gonna depend on their interests. I don't know, I haven't done any other group outreach yet, because I'm focused on. Activism here. so,

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, super quick observation. just because legislation is filed, doesn't mean, it'll be prioritized, and I'm sure, but just for the room, like the state and the state legislature, it is a complete disaster. it is just imagine worst rush hour, traffic you've ever seen. That is what the legislation going through the legislature. Looks like most things that are filed, never actually even really get out of committee. They usually die and committee, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't be expressing this with much urgency as possible, but just know, that's what the situation is. I yeah. But Some. Yeah, it's possible but I

01:40:00

Hexel Colorado: I have some concerns because Plano what tried to get some legislation through last session that would force dark produces report about how much money they're spending in each member city. And they got it through the Senate. Died in the House committee. So it's

Hexel Colorado: It's a little too close for comfort and I know this is a bigger ask than Plaino's last legislation. and we also have some information so far and some people who are trying to Figure things out.

Hexel Colorado: so some of these are Cassandra Hernandez candidate for HD115. I believe that's Addison and she's pro dart. I've talked to her personally, Daryl Evans. I've talked to him, personally, he's running for a district and Wiley and East Plano and McKinney. Product. So, he wins his election, we have a pro dart. if these two people in their elections, Cassandra Hernandez is probably going to win her election. Daryl Evans it's like split, who knows but these people are prod John Bryant's pro dart. We've learned that from Hexel Terry Mesa kinda undecided we learned that from Brenda.

Hexel Colorado: There are some I put question marks by because people have really told me about these people Avery Bishop and Angie Chen Butner running against each other and a competitive race so figure out what their stance is. And there's so many more reps. We need to figure out matcha jeans Antidart, for So real quick I'll talk to Avery. We're friends. So I'll grill her on that. Yeah, I'm actually surprised that she hasn't said anything she follows anyways, but this other real quick comment, while we're all in this, doing that kind of homework of finding out who our rep is and getting their contact info. Pro gamer move.

Hexel Colorado: five find out. If they have a newsletter or emailing this that you can sign up for. So when you find their website see if there's a sign up and if you don't find one or it's hard to find it ask them directly maybe even in your email. Ask by the way, Do you have an email newsletter or if you happen to meet them in person or talking them on phone? Ask them to put you on there Mailing list because when they add you to the mailing list, that means you'll be in the loop of any town Hall events that they may host independently. For example, I was able to find out that, here in person that John Bryant was against cuts and pro Dart, because we went to John Bryan Town Hall because we happen to be subscribed to his newsletter. So when you find out your rap at any level, find out, if you have an email newsletter and sign up for it because that's where they'll tell you when they can meet you in person.

Hexel Colorado: All Yeah, that's a good idea, too.

Hexel Colorado: Or that follow them on some of them are better I think email is if they're on anything they're on email but some of them are also on social media so definitely look for them there. About.

Hexel Colorado: so, one thing I want to point out Are you looking at the Google Forms results? 20 of you have signed this volunteer form so far, that's awesome.

Hexel Colorado: can I use your computer to visit the Subreddit? Again, locked on library.

Hexel Colorado: So, I'm gonna look for a post here. Alright, so we had this post on Reddit and we posted this in groupme. We had these email templates and these email templates are really cool. Check this out. Okay I'm gonna click

Hexel Colorado: that's okay. You just click the link. it'll open something up. We're gonna click the link and see what happens.

Hexel Colorado: Nothing happened. Qui was right. Didn't never doubt So If you click these links and this is for the issue, actually, going to the dark board about On Tuesday, but if you click these links, it actually pulls up a templated email. Work and that talks about dark and all you have to do is change your name and address and click Send it works on your phones really Well. Yeah, guys, your phone will definitely have

a male app and you'll probably really signed in so it's definitely try it on your phone. So the main reason I bring that up. Is because we're going to do that for this house.

01:45:00

Hexel Colorado: And we're gonna abuse that we might have some templates where we leave room for you to type in your own personal statement. So it's not just all spam with the same message, I don't know. We'll see. But for those We're just good. We're gonna make this easy for you. So that's another reason why you should find this volunteer form, even if you don't know your state reps, I can at the very least send out the templates for your state reps, because you're going to type your address in there and I'll know it. So I think that's everything I want to say about. Rohan as a question. So, my reps right here, both of them are seem very anti dart and very, very conservative. What's the best way That I can volunteer that I can show my support. Okay, so you're saying you have matching the most anti dark red.

Hexel Colorado: that's a good question. Strategy number three, annoy them. I want to refer. If you could talk to Evan about this, our government Relations committee head. I'm so glad I can do this now.

Hexel Colorado: this is so great. We should have done election sooner. Talk to him about it. I think he have good advice for you. I'll also add to your point. if you email your rep, you've done all the homework of finding out who they are and what the contact info is and if they say I'm against it, Knock on your next-door neighbor, and then tell them to do the same thing or just broadly. Speaking, your neighborhood, your blog, all have the same rep, so, right out the gate, you have a packet of just go and do likewise for your entire block. And if you're the first person to email them and you just get your next door neighbor,

Hexel Colorado: You've just increase your input by 100% or 200%, right. Get your sibling or your parents, or your roommates, or your whatever. Yeah, I mean, what's great about that is the people when they're counting because their staff will count. The number of emails, they receive the number of phone calls. So leave a voicemail because that's part of what, their status paid to do is actually just kind of count, We got 20 calls about this. We got 30 emails about this, what they're not counting is, they won't know if siblings all email the same household. I noticed this when we go to City Hall, and there's all these anti-housing people, I started looking at the names and I put it on a spreadsheet. I realized that a lot of them are, just husband and wife duos, but they're being counted as too. So definitely get your family involved and that'll bump up these numbers. All right, We got a question from CC.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, not really a question. I was just gonna say,

Hexel Colorado: kind of what hexel's saying. another thing that and this is outside of my role at Jbj, because I do like politics and community stuff, we can look at organizing canvases. So if you're in this district, you're in this district, or whatever, you can identify certain neighborhoods, and plan a canvas for, a mobilized group of people, to, all wear the same shirt or whatever have literature and go and knock on. Let's you with, a good amount of people, you could knock on, 200 doors in one day and kind of get that message around farther than especially because a lot of older people. still appreciate the door to door, a outreach. I guess, when it comes to political stuff and especially if they see people just mobilized for it, they're pretty likely to, support it unless they're just Super Conservative assholes. they'll probably

Hexel Colorado: Just appreciate that. You even made the attempt to do that outreach in that way. so canvases is something that could be useful to. Tyler, don't have time to talk about a canvassing effort. We

did in Rowlett. on talk about All right, I'm gonna waste more of your time then. So there's actually just me and John we went to Rowlett, I can't pull it up on here. I don't have the file. We had a QR code.

Hexel Colorado: That had one of those email templates I was talking about and we just had people at the station keep scanning that and sending emails to Relat city council. Is on a Sunday. So the least busy day and it was working pretty well.

01:50:00

Hexel Colorado: from the people in Rowlett who've been talking to their Council members reporting back the others. they're definitely caving to some pressure and relat a hundred percent. And it's not just because of that canvassing effort, that's probably only small part is probably just because a lot of people just been emailing them in General, Mary.

Hexel Colorado: As the new event planning person, please contact me if you want to organize any of these canvassing things. Yeah, contact me, tell me where you think the best places will be. I'm open to input, I've already canvassed in Carrollton. I would love to do that again. I helped with the QR code stuff in Rowlett. So please let me know. Where you want the next place I would love to do canvassing twice a month. At least that'd be great. Yeah, I'm ambitious. I know. Yeah. And the canvassing will be fun too because we'll just be talking while we do it and waiting for passengers to show up and then probably by the way with these links we created we can track the number of people who like them. So we know there's a lot of success in our template strategy, you're collecting data. Yes

Hexel Colorado: we have, 90 clicks on our. Emails to Dallas City Council, asking the support darts budget.

Hexel Colorado: yeah, what so, these templated emails are That I mean there's a lot of council members who are now in thinking about dark who aren't before in Dallas, so beautiful.

Hexel Colorado: Before 51 of you. it's probably for I'm gonna say 35 to 40 because I think D14 was the one I was using for testing. So, 10 of those are probably for testing. So, 30 to 40 of you in D14 have sent emails about darts budget, which is what we're going to the board meeting or on Tuesday. 6:00 pm.

Kaden Reese Martin: I'm just gonna time in from,...

Hexel Colorado: yeah, I think I got everything I wanted to say and...

Kaden Reese Martin: I'm on the clock, I'm on the call.

Hexel Colorado: yeah, just be prepared to click Email Links,...

Kaden Reese Martin: I'm

Hexel Colorado: maybe modify the message or type in your own paragraph and just click Send, it's going to be super Easy and then maybe call To. you can. I'm glad you're monitoring that.

Kaden Reese Martin: Called, I'm trying to get.

Hexel Colorado: I'm not okay.

Kaden Reese Martin: I'm trying in on the call. I ...

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, email and call. If you can.

Kaden Reese Martin: y'all can hear perfect.

Kaden Reese Martin: I'm just

Hexel Colorado: It's hard to call...

Hexel Colorado: because it's during work hours like everything. It's so annoying, but

Kaden Reese Martin: I'm joining in through the call that's going on right now.

Hexel Colorado: okay.

Kaden Reese Martin: It's like so I'm with you all virtually. I'm just curious what the situation like is Richardson and...

Hexel Colorado: All...

Kaden Reese Martin: Richardson and...

Hexel Colorado: So another couple things,...

Kaden Reese Martin: Denton I know we're

Hexel Colorado: this is more logistical stuff like Hexel said about state revenues letters most towns and Here have newsletters. That's how I figure out everything Madison. So go to your town's website, sign up for that as well. That will give you some heads up on what they're thinking about and two just going through this form results in being able to see what I can see. We all's privacy is important. You don't have to give your cell phone number or address if you ever want us to expunge. from what records we have just let me know that way your privacy is important, just putting that out there we do not have to have it for you guys to be useful and if you're feeling out that form, you don't even have to put it. I literally said No thanks so it's just heads up there.

Hexel Colorado: I think that's everything right but please do put it if you need to sure but have this isn't like we're not the cops. so we have two side of the coin right here? Yeah. I think we're done. Yeah, Phyllis. What's up?

Hexel Colorado: Not yet. I was asking if we that's set meeting dates, Not yet, I think as the exact community forms we'll probably try to see if we can get do every third Saturday or something, but that is to be decided. Yes.

Hexel Colorado: We have four minutes. look at the questions on is there. Anyone? Who asks questions online and everyone online? Who has a good questions? Yeah, yeah. Speak now or forever ultra? Peace.

Hexel Colorado: I mean, have they asked? Or you just wondering this is I see Okay yeah. I see one related to transit support in Denton, No idea. Yeah, I think Connor might be able to speak to that.

Chris Wyatt: Taken.

Hexel Colorado: I think at the highest level It's a supporting agency that would be affected by darts operations, so definitely speak to it. So if you're in Denton, email your city council, meet them whatever

your way of communicating, with the miss, tell them that you're concerned about dark cuts and that you're concerned that the state will take action and explain that, it affects you because you need dart as it didn't resident. You can transfer under the dart system and you're not okay with these dark cuts and this ask them, Hey, please fight this, Or please Oppose it. and also, if you're indented our team, remember, RTC Regional Transportation Council. that's like your fallback, if you don't live in Dallas or whatever, but look for Denton, member, for Regional Transportation Council. So, I think it's online Alliance PDF, just Google search RTC members, and then find whoever's underneath Benton.

01:55:00

Hexel Colorado: Any less. I think we're ready. Yeah. What kind of establish the ritual today? what's our agenda? All in favor. Okay.

Hexel Colorado: All right, I knew that the members come see me outside the door. We're going to take officer photos.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah, right.

Chris Wyatt: Yep.

Hexel Colorado: Come register to vote if you're not registered to vote, I'll take care of you right now.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah. Come see me.

Hexel Colorado: Yeah.

Meeting ended after 01:57:30 🖐️

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