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## Mesquite keeps focus on proposed transit switch



By Ray Leszcynski  
rleszcynski@dallasnews.com  
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Mesquite officials on Monday marched closer to a new public transportation deal with STAR Transit without mention of [recent overtures from Dallas Area Rapid Transit](#).

The council is scheduled to decide at its June 16 meeting whether Mesquite will become the third southeast Dallas County city, and the largest, [to contract with STAR](#) — rolling its own paratransit services in with a connector line from Hanby Stadium to Dallas' Lawnview rail station that currently operates on a deal with DART.

Assistant City Manager Jerry Dittman filled council in on negotiations since the two May public hearings on the STAR proposal. In reaction to residents' pushback over price, he said, the transit authority has agreed to charge the same \$1 that Mesquite's paratransit charges for out of town trips for three months. Then, prices would go to \$3.

Another provision added to the contract, Dittman said, would return the city's fleet to the city should either take the 120-day "out clause" in the deal, which otherwise will run through December 2017.

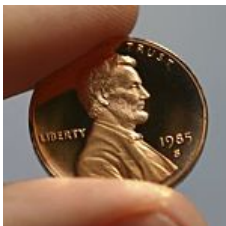
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