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DART calls Arlington pilot bus service a success



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The \$700,000-per-year pilot Arlington bus service is considered a success so far, DART and Arlington officials said.

Metro ArlingtonXpress, known as MAX, made its debut in August.

In the past 10 months, ridership has had its ups and downs. There were 303 average trips per weekday in April, followed by a drop to 252 in May. The highest ridership day was two weeks ago, when 438 people rode a bus on June 18. Officials are shooting for 500 trips a day.

The \$5-per-ride pilot program is planned for two years under a partnership between Dallas Area Rapid Transit and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority. There are three stops along the “express bus” route, which links the Trinity Railway Express CentrePort station near Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, the entertainment district on Collins Street and the University of Texas at Arlington.

“Generally we’re pleased with how the service has developed,” said DART spokesman Morgan Lyons, who says the transit agency believes the MAX also is contributing to “an uptick” in TRE ridership. “One of the end points is CentrePort station, so there are a lot of people living in Arlington who work in downtown Dallas or downtown Fort Worth, or they work or go to school at UT Southwestern.”

The addition of the Collins Street stop in November has been important, Lyons said.

The Arlington City Council received a MAX update last week, along with a ridership survey showing who rides MAX and where. An overwhelming number of riders are between 18 and 34.

“Data has shown a mix of riders using the service, including commuters, students, recreational riders and travelers heading to the airport,” the report said.

A ridership survey shows users would like more stops, more frequent service and Saturday service. On riders’ wish lists: The Parks at Arlington, AT&T Stadium and Globe Life Park.

But there are no plans to extend service until the end of the pilot, and for now, no plan to extend the MAX past the pilot.

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