

Notice of Public Hearing Workshops

Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC) is hosting five Public Hearing Workshops to gain input and comments on proposed changes to DART Statewide Bus Services to become effective Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 – 1 PM to 3 PM

Georgetown Public Library (Meeting Room A), 123 West Pine Street, Georgetown, DE 19947

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 – 6 PM to 8 PM

Middletown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 19 West Green Street, Middletown, DE 19709

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – 6 PM to 8 PM

Newark Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 220 South Main Street, Newark, DE 19711

Thursday, February 16, 2023 – 11 AM to 1 PM

Wilmington Public Library (The Commons), 10 East 10th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Thursday, February 16, 2023 – 4 PM to 6 PM

Dover Public Library, Children's Programming Room, 35 Loockerman Plaza, Dover, DE 19901

In addition to the in-person workshops, there will be a recorded presentation (also in an accessible format) of DART's proposal that may be reviewed online beginning February 7, 2023, through the end of the comment period on February 22, 2023. Please type this URL into your browser to view:

<https://dartfirststate.com/Outreach/PublicHearings/index.shtml>

For your convenience, the summary of proposed service changes, maps and specific schedules are available online, at the reception desks of DART Administrative Offices in Wilmington, Dover, and the Lewes Transit Center, as well as the Wilmington, Newark, Middletown, Dover, and Georgetown Public Libraries. For information on an alternative format, please call (302) 760-2827.

The workshop will begin with a presentation of the proposed service changes, followed by public testimony for those interested in providing comments to the audience, and to the hearing reporter. Attendees may also provide comments privately to the hearing reporter following public testimony or during the open house. The remainder of the workshop will be an open house format, allowing attendees to view proposed schedules, interact with staff, receive clarification, and fill out comment forms.

Comments can also be submitted through email at DOTDTCWeb@delaware.gov, online comment form (through DART's website at www.DartFirstState.com/publichearing), calling 1-800-652-DART (3278), option 2, or mailing to: DART Public Hearing, 119 Lower Beech St., Wilmington, DE 19805-4440. All comments must be received by February 22, 2023.

Summary of proposed changes by County:

New Castle County

Schedule adjustments are proposed to improve on-time performance, connections, and service reliability to all routes in New Castle County on all service days including Routes 301 and 302. Please refer to the proposal for route specific details. Please refer to the proposed schedule for specific trip time changes.

Wilmington Corridors Construction – Numerous bus stops on King, Orange, 9th, and 8th Streets, will be improved as part of the “Wilmington Transit Corridors” project between March and September 2023. Please check DART’s website and posted signs for stop closures and alternative bus stop locations.

Route 2 – Select weekday and Saturday Route 2 trips would operate as the Route 35. Weekday trips would depart Wilmington Transit Center for Brandywine Town Center at 5:40 AM, 6:25 AM, and 7:05 AM, and depart Brandywine Town Center for Wilmington Transit Center at 2:34 PM, 3:14 PM, and 4:14 PM. Saturday trip times would depart Wilmington Transit Center at 6:20 AM and depart Brandywine Town Center at 3:10 PM toward Wilmington. **See map for reference.**

Route 4 – All trips would serve the new Wegman’s onsite in both directions. All trips to and from Prices Corner would be rerouted to serve Faulkland Road and State Route 141. **See map for reference.**

Route 5 – The Route 5 would use Lane C of the Wilmington Transit Center, instead of Lane B.

Route 8 – Weekday trips would be reduced to operate every 60 minutes in the AM peak hour. Mid-day service and PM rush hour would remain at 30-minute intervals. An additional early-morning trip would be added. Trip times would be coordinated to better meet Port of Wilmington work shifts and customer demand.

Route 11 – Service to Rockwood Office Park would be discontinued due to low ridership.

Routes 13 & 31 – Route 31 would be eliminated and both routes would be combined into a new Route 13 with most trips serving the Bellefonte Community. Select weekday trips would continue to operate via Philadelphia Pike skipping Bellefonte to serve Mount Pleasant High School students and faculty. Bellevue Park Corporate Center and Claymont Station would not be served. Route 61 weekday service would be improved to operate hourly connecting the Claymont Train Station with Route 13 at Philadelphia Pike. The downtown routing through Wilmington would be revised to travel along Orange to 11th, to Walnut and 16th Streets replacing portions of Route 31. Alternate bus stops would still be available on Philadelphia Pike for riders to access the Bellevue Corporate Center. All weekday rush hour trips would serve Airport Plaza. **See map for reference.**

Route 14 – The 10:55 PM weeknight trip from Miller Road Shopping Center to DHSS and the 11:50 PM trip from DHSS to Rodney Square would be discontinued due to low ridership.

Route 15 – On weekdays, the 4:55 AM trip from Wilmington to Christiana Mall would not serve Twin Spans and remain on Wilmington Road due to low ridership. The 8:55 AM trip from Christiana Mall to Wilmington would not serve Creekwood Industrial Park due to low ridership. The route would begin/end on Delaware at Adams, instead of King at 8th. **See map for reference.**

Route 18 – Trips between Prices Corner and Wilmington would be rerouted to serve Barley Mill Plaza via Centerville Road and Lancaster Pike, using stops located on Lancaster Pike. Express service would be discontinued. All service would be rescheduled to operate roughly every 45 minutes. The 5:10 AM trip from Wilmington Transit Center to Foulk & Naamans Roads would be discontinued due to low ridership. A new trip would begin at Prices Corner Park & Ride at 5:30 AM and end at Foulk and Naamans Roads. **See map for reference.**

Route 20 – Service would be reduced by almost half due to low ridership, keeping limited mid-day service. Additionally, service to Chestnut Run would be discontinued due to low ridership. **See map for reference.**

Route 25 – The 11:45 PM weeknight trip from Wrangle Hill to Miller Road Shopping Center would be discontinued due to low ridership. Select weekday trips would no longer serve Amazon on Frenchtown Rd (PHL 1) or Amazon’s ILG1 facility (Tybouts Corner) due to low ridership:

Southbound to Wrangle Hill Park & Ride - Skip ILG1 at 4:33, 9:05, 9:30, 10:00, 10:37 AM; 2:05, 2:20, 6:25 PM; Skip PHL1 at 10:00 AM; 4:33, 10:40 PM

Northbound towards Miller Road Shopping Center - Skip ILG1 at 8:30, 8:54, 9:18, 10:35 AM; 12:04, 12:45 PM; Skip PHL1 at 10:35 AM; 4:25, 11:45 PM.

Route 28 – All trips from 9 AM until 4 PM would be extended from Wilmington DMV to Probation & Parole/Zenith.

- Route 33** – The route would enter Wilmington via the Delaware Avenue exit from I-95 and serve downtown before ending at Wilmington Transit Center (Lane B). All service to Fairplay Station would be discontinued. **See map for reference.**
- Route 35** – Weekday service would be reduced due to low ridership. Trips would operate from Wilmington in the AM and to Wilmington in the PM, with no weekday mid-day service. New limited Saturday service would be operated to serve Shipley Manor. CHUBB would not be served on-site, but at bus stops along Concord Pike. In downtown Wilmington, the routing to Brandywine Town Center would be changed to follow Walnut, 8th, French, and 10th Streets to match the routing on Route 2. **See map for reference.**
- Routes 37 and 47** – The Route 47 would be eliminated and combined into Route 37, with unproductive trips being discontinued. The route would begin/end on Delaware at Adams, instead of 9th at Market. Morning trips to Wilmington and evening trips to Middletown would skip Christiana Mall. The routing would be modified between North Middletown Park & Ride and Amazon, which would replace a portion of Route 63. Saturday service on the Route 37 would be introduced. **See map for reference.**
- Route 40** – The route would begin/end on 9th at Market instead of Delaware at Adams to improve schedule reliability. **See map for reference.**
- Route 42** – Due to low ridership, the 6:22 PM trip from Delaware at Adams to Peoples Plaza, and the 5:40 AM and 6:26 PM trips from Peoples Plaza would be discontinued. Service to the I-95 Service Plaza would be reduced and schedules would be revised to meet the shift times. Limited weekend service would operate coordinating with I-95 Service Plaza shift times and weekend service would not serve the DE 896/4 Park & Ride.
- Route 43, 46, and 63** – Route 46 weekday service would be extended from Glasgow to Middletown and the Odessa Park & Ride replacing Routes 43 and 63, along with portions of Route 302 between Middletown and Newark. Saturday service on Route 46 would only operate between Newark and Peoples Plaza. **See map for reference.**
- Route 44** – Service to the New Castle County Logistics Center would be discontinued.
- Route 51** – The route would begin/end on Delaware at Adams instead of King at 8th. **See map for reference.**
- Route 54** – The weekday 10:00 PM trip from Wilton to Christiana Mall and the 10:00 PM trip from Fairplay Station to Wilton would be discontinued due to low ridership.
- Route 55** – Due to low ridership, the weeknight 10:10 PM trip from Christiana Mall to Newark, and the Saturday 6:20 AM trip from Christiana Mall to Newark would be discontinued.
- Route 61** – Service to Concord Mall and Rocky Run Boulevard would be discontinued and the route would begin/end at the Brandywine Town Center Park & Ride. Service would be maintained on Concord Pike and serve the existing CHUBB bus stop, and continued service to the Market Square Shopping Center near TJ Maxx. Service would be improved to operate hourly and would continue to serve the Claymont Train Station offering better connections with Route 13 at Philadelphia Pike. The final trip leaving Claymont Train Station would be at 7:30 PM. Note: Route 61 would be rerouted to the new Claymont Train Station when opened. **See map for reference.**
- Route 64** – Weekday service would be revised to operate every 60 minutes instead of every 50 minutes. Due to low ridership, the 9:05 PM trip from Christiana Mall to Peoples Plaza would be discontinued. The 9:50 PM and 10:45 PM trips from Christiana Mall would be discontinued, and a new trip would depart Christiana Mall at 10:20 PM. The 8:59 PM trip from Peoples Plaza to Christiana Mall would be discontinued due to low ridership. On Saturdays, the following trips would be discontinued due to low ridership: 8:58 PM trip from Christiana Mall to Peoples Plaza and 8:00 PM trip from Peoples Plaza to Christiana Mall. On Sundays, the following trips would be discontinued due to low ridership: 8:30 AM trip from Christiana Mall to Peoples Plaza and 7:30 AM trip from Peoples Plaza to Christiana Mall. All Sunday trips would begin/end at Christiana Mall Target instead of the Park & Ride. **See map for reference.**

Newark Connect – A new micro-transit service would replace the City of Newark’s Unicity service, anticipated to start in July 2023.

Holiday Service would be offered on Bus Routes 2, 4, 5, 6, 13, 15, 33, 37, 40, 42, 64, and 305 for Memorial Day, Monday, May 29; Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4; and Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2023. Service would operate on a Sunday schedule, where Route 37 would operate on a Saturday schedule.

Kent County - Schedule adjustments are proposed on Routes 101, 108, and 109 to improve on-time performance, connections, and schedule reliability. Please refer to the proposed schedule for specific trip time changes.

Sussex Counties - Schedule adjustments are proposed on Routes 201, 204, 206, 212, 215, and 303 improve on-time performance, connections, and schedule reliability. Please refer to the proposal for route specific details. Please refer to the proposed schedule for specific trip time changes.

Route 201 – Year-round service frequencies would be improved to every 25 minutes.

Route 212 – All trips, both weekday and Saturday would serve Delmar.

Flex Routes 901 and 902 – DART Connect’s Georgetown/Millsboro Service would formally replace Flex Routes 901 and 902.

Intercounty - Minor schedule adjustments are proposed to improve on-time performance, connections, and schedule reliability. Please refer to the proposal for route specific details.

Route 301 – Select trips to and from the Dover DMV would be reduced due to low ridership. From Wilmington, buses would arrive at the Dover DMV at 6:53 AM, 8:08 AM and 8:48 AM. From Dover, buses would depart Dover DMV at 3:33 PM, 4:13 PM and 5:13 PM.

The following Route 301 schedule adjustments would be implemented:

- Discontinue 4:10 AM trip from Wilmington to Dover.
- Combine the 6:00 AM local and 6:10 AM Express into a 6:05 AM local trip. Considering rider concerns, the proposed 6:00 AM departure from Dover would be shifted to depart at 6:05 AM. This change would allow the trip to depart Smyrna Park & Ride at 6:44 AM and arrive in downtown Wilmington at 7:44 AM for an 8:00 AM work arrival.
- The 1:40 PM express trip would be converted into local service.
- Delaware State University and Christiana Mall would be served from Dover on the 7:20 AM and 8:30 AM departures.
- Other trip departure times may be adjusted

Route 302 – Routing would be revised to operate from North Middletown Park & Ride to the Dover Transit Center continuing to serve Smyrna. Service between Middletown and Newark would be provided by the new Route 46. **See map for reference.**

Route 303 – Service to Airpark Plaza onsite would be discontinued due to low ridership. **See map for reference.**

Route 307 – Service to the South Frederica Park and Ride would be reduced due to low ridership. From Dover, the Park & Ride would be served at 8:48 AM, 11:33 AM, and 1:48 PM. From the Lewes Transit Center, the Park & Ride would be served at 1:23 PM, 3:38 PM, and 6:23 PM.

Beach Bus - Schedule adjustments are proposed on Routes 201, 203, 204, 206, 208, 215 and 305 to improve on-time performance, connections, and schedule reliability. Beach Bus service would start Monday, May 22, 2023 through Sunday, September 10, 2023, operating daily. Please refer to the proposal for route specific details.

Route 201 – Weekday service frequencies operating Monday through Friday would increase to every 20 minutes between 7:35 AM and 10:35 AM.

Route 305 – Service to the South Frederica Park and Ride would be discontinued due to low ridership. Service would operate on weekends and holidays, beginning on Saturday, May 27, 2023, through Labor Day, Monday, September 4, 2023.