

# Press Release

December 3, 2021

Contact: @NoBusCutsDenton on Facebook and Twitter  
E-mail: nobuscutsdenton@gmail.com



## **No Bus Cuts Denton Applauds the DCTA Board of Directors' Decision to Keep Five Denton Bus Routes, Urges the Board to Adopt Additional Provisions of the Workers' Plan for Public Transportation**

**Denton, TX, December 3, 2021** — Yesterday the DCTA Board of Directors voted not to cut five Denton Connect bus routes, which accords with one of the provisions in the No Bus Cuts Denton campaign's Workers' Plan for Public Transportation: keep the bus routes. By responding to this part of our Workers' Plan, the DCTA board has avoided the large-scale losses of both bus drivers' livelihoods and low-income residents' access to affordable transportation in Denton that would have accompanied the full list of bus cuts that the DCTA had planned. While we do applaud this particular decision by the DCTA Board of Directors, we also urge them to end the months-long crisis that has enveloped the DCTA by adopting the remaining two parts of our Workers' Plan: **cancel the contract** with Via for GoZone without disruption of service and **include the community** in a new, truly participatory process to decide the future of public transportation in Denton County.

### **CANCEL THE CONTRACT**

We **do not** call for the immediate termination of the DCTA's microtransit services that are currently branded as GoZone; it is **the contract with Via** for these services that we urge the DCTA to cancel at once — with an effective date of termination of no more than one year from the day on which the DCTA notifies Via of the cancellation. The contract with Via for GoZone should be canceled primarily because it is hazardous for our safety and damaging to our local economy. The dozens of Via vehicles that now flood our roads had racked up ten collisions and one citation from police after only six weeks in operation (per Via — the actual numbers could of course be much higher). Moreover, the contract sends \$33.5 million of our public funds to the New York City-based Via corporation instead of reinvesting our sales tax revenue into well-paid public sector jobs that strengthen our own community. We are not against all microtransit and we acknowledge the utility of microtransit services for members of our community. However, because of the problems already detailed, we can support microtransit services only if these are on a much smaller scale and have labor organized very differently than at present.

The lengthy transitional period that we call for from the notification of cancelation to the actual termination of the Via contract will allow the DCTA; its subsidiary, the North Texas Mobility Corporation (NTMC); and the bus drivers' Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1338 to carefully bring the DCTA's microtransit services and the drivers currently providing those services for Via "in-house" and into the union. This extended transitional period will allow, as well, for the upgrades to the DCTA's fleet of buses that Board Member Alison Maguire deems necessary and — most importantly — for the DCTA to implement the other remaining provision of our Workers' Plan: include the community.

## **INCLUDE THE COMMUNITY**

The failure of the DCTA to include the community in the decision-making process is the primary cause of the crisis that the DCTA faces, which now includes a boycott of GoZone by UNT students. No Bus Cuts Denton calls on the DCTA to initiate a community-based process that includes transit workers and both current and potential riders to decide the form that our public transportation system should take. This process could be facilitated by an organization like the TransitCenter foundation and would gather and respond to the criticisms that Denton County residents have of the DCTA's current microtransit (e.g., safety, pollution, poor performance) and fixed-route (e.g., lack of amenities, difficulty of physical access) offerings. Above all, our new public transportation system must be safe, accessible, environmentally responsible, and have only the drivers of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1338 behind the wheel — whether that wheel be connected to a bus, a minivan, or even an electric tram.

Again, No Bus Cuts Denton applauds the DCTA Board of Directors' decision to keep five of the Denton Connect bus routes, but we also urge them to adopt the remaining two parts of our Workers' Plan for Public Transportation: **cancel the contract** with Via for GoZone and **include the community** in the decision-making process.

## **About No Bus Cuts Denton:**

The No Bus Cuts Denton campaign comprises a committee of twenty people from ten different labor unions and opposes DCTA's plan to cut bus routes in Denton and Lewisville after December 6, 2021. The No Bus Cuts Denton petition on Change.org lists more than 900 supporters.

## Additional Information:

- No Bus Cuts Denton Change.org Petition: [www.change.org/nobuscutsdenton](http://www.change.org/nobuscutsdenton)
  - 914 supporters as of December 1, 2021.
- No Bus Cuts Denton on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NoBusCutsDenton>
- No Bus Cuts Denton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NoBusCutsDenton>
- Recent Media:
  - Grass, Justin. "Insight Denton: Who's at the helm of No Bus Cuts Denton?" *Denton Record Chronicle*, November 21, 2021. [https://dentonrc.com/news/insight\\_denton/insight-denton-whos-at-the-helm-of-no-bus-cuts-denton/article\\_a2530ccb-27fc-5dcb-af36-1a29ffe3c3c9.html](https://dentonrc.com/news/insight_denton/insight-denton-whos-at-the-helm-of-no-bus-cuts-denton/article_a2530ccb-27fc-5dcb-af36-1a29ffe3c3c9.html)
  - Reid, Marshall. "Tensions flared, brought infighting during Tuesday's Denton City Council meeting." *Denton Record Chronicle*, October 20, 2021. [https://dentonrc.com/news/denton/denton\\_city\\_council/tensions-flared-brought-infighting-during-tuesdays-denton-city-council-meeting/article\\_2c05679a-0eae-5f72-b2a2-ed83d6e46582.html](https://dentonrc.com/news/denton/denton_city_council/tensions-flared-brought-infighting-during-tuesdays-denton-city-council-meeting/article_2c05679a-0eae-5f72-b2a2-ed83d6e46582.html)
  - Grass, Justin. "DCTA CEO: Options still open for bus routes a month into GoZone launch." *Denton Record Chronicle*, October 17, 2021. [https://dentonrc.com/news/dcta/dcta-ceo-options-still-open-for-bus-routes-a-month-into-gozone-launch/article\\_cc331326-2d7f-54c1-adf8-cf3d25b15a17.html](https://dentonrc.com/news/dcta/dcta-ceo-options-still-open-for-bus-routes-a-month-into-gozone-launch/article_cc331326-2d7f-54c1-adf8-cf3d25b15a17.html).
  - Reid, Marshall. "Former mayor to retain chairmanship despite opposition." *Denton Record Chronicle*, October 12, 2021. [https://dentonrc.com/news/former-mayor-to-retain-chairmanship-despite-opposition/article\\_e8fe355d-011d-582f-bc22-6a986080a1de.html](https://dentonrc.com/news/former-mayor-to-retain-chairmanship-despite-opposition/article_e8fe355d-011d-582f-bc22-6a986080a1de.html).
  - TransitCenter. "No Go Zone: Behind the Plan to Shrink the Bus System in Denton, Texas." *TransitCenter* (blog). July 21, 2021. <https://transitcenter.org/no-go-zone-behind-the-plan-to-shrink-the-bus-system-in-denton-texas>.
  - Rivas, Lorena. "GoZone vs. Buses." Video, 2:10. September 14, 2021. <https://youtu.be/9SYCrJ3zQAo>.

**Press Contact:** [nobuscutsdenton@gmail.com](mailto:nobuscutsdenton@gmail.com); Facebook and Twitter: @nobuscutsdenton.