

Press Release

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No Bus Cuts Denton Calls on Denton City Council to Appoint Alison Maguire to the DCTA Board of Directors

Denton, TX, October 19, 2021 — No Bus Cuts Denton urges the members of Denton City Council to appoint Council Member Alison Maguire as Primary Representative to the DCTA Board of Directors. Council Member Maguire is eligible for the position; familiar with the DCTA and knowledgeable in public transportation matters; and principled in her actions as a member of city council and its Mobility Committee. Additionally, Council Member Maguire is a much stronger candidate for the position of Primary Representative than is the other nominee, and her appointment would signal to the public a new openness at Denton City Council to community involvement in decision-making.

Council Member Maguire does indeed meet the eligibility criteria for the position of Primary Representative. Article III, Section 3(a) of the DCTA Bylaws states that a person must have “professional experience in the field of transportation” and reside in the territory covered by the DCTA in order to be eligible for membership on the DCTA’s Board of Directors. In this same section, “professional experience” is defined as “having significant experience [...] in the indicated field.” Council Member Maguire meets both of these criteria. She resides in Denton, and her participation as a member of both Denton City Council’s Mobility Committee and the North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Transportation Council certainly qualify as “significant experience” in the field of transportation.

Another reason why Council Member Maguire should be the Primary Representative to the DCTA Board of Directors is that she is familiar with the DCTA and knowledgeable in public transportation matters. Council Member Maguire has familiarized herself with the DCTA’s structure, policies, and operations as a member of council’s Mobility Committee — especially while crafting the resolution instructing former Mayor Chris Watts, the current Primary Representative on the DCTA board, to advocate for a six-month extension of bus services and for labor protections for bus drivers. As a member of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Transportation Council, Council Member Maguire has learned how the DCTA connects with a broader system of transportation at the regional, state, and federal levels.

Council Member Maguire should be council's Primary Representative to the DCTA board, as well, because she has demonstrated her commitment to the well-being of DCTA bus drivers and bus riders. Her insistence that worker protections and a six-month extension of bus services be included in council's resolution helped to protect bus drivers from layoffs, and also kept bus riders who do not have access to a telephone or minutes from being excluded from public transportation. Council Member Maguire's work on the resolution helped to mitigate the harm caused by the implementation of DCTA's GoZone program and increased the likelihood that decisions on the future of DCTA's fixed-route bus system would be made by a board of directors that did not include the main proponent of the GoZone plan — Chris Watts.

Council Member Maguire should be selected on the basis of not only her own merits, but also because she is clearly a much stronger candidate for the position of Primary Representative than is the other nominee. Although Council Member Jesse Davis claims in his endorsement of his nominee for the DCTA board that this person has both "professional experience" and "expertise" in "transportation," the four-page résumé submitted to council for his nominee does not contain a single reference to either experience or expertise in the field. In fact, there is stronger evidence for Council Member Davis' nominee having been chosen, instead, on the basis of the nominee's ideological alignment with (and perhaps loyalty to) Chris Watts, who had previously appointed the nominee to the board of Denton Housing Authority (2018) and nominated him for the Special Citizens Bond Advisory Committee (2019). It is therefore very possible that Chris Watts is attempting to maintain his control over the DCTA by trying to choose his successor through his proxy, Council Member Davis.

Regardless of the role that former Mayor Chris Watts may have had in the selection of Council Member Davis' nominee, it is now clear that the people of Denton will not allow Chris Watts to treat the DCTA as his personal kingdom any longer. We want to end his reign, repair the damage that he has done, and start building a public transportation system that is good for workers and the greater Denton community. No Bus Cuts Denton is confident that Council Member Alison Maguire will — as city council's Primary Representative to the DCTA Board of Directors — contribute to the democratization of decision-making for mobility in Denton.

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
 - 904 supporters as of October 18, 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. "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.
 - 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.
 - Grass, Justin. "DCTA approves GoZone launch, gives most city bus routes till December." *Denton Record Chronicle*, July 24, 2021. https://dentonrc.com/news/dcta/dcta-approves-gozone-launch-gives-most-city-bus-routes-till-december/article_9fb11a29-aa0e-5f26-8b6b-0e92a2e539ab.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>.

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