Why isn't Mesquite in DART?

Fall of 1981
Mesquite, 20 other cities, and the Dallas County Commissioners Court join together in the DART planning effort.

Initial service plans call for Mesquite to receive bus service by 1986 and rail service by 2010. Financial commitment is 1 cent of sales tax = $17 million per year

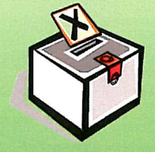
January 20, 1987
Council conducts a public hearing on transit. The majority of citizens speak out against joining DART.

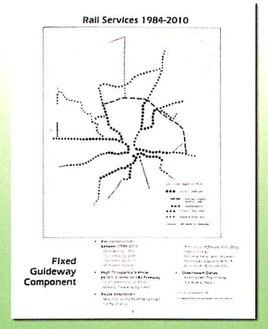
As of September 30, 2010
4B has funded $49 million for transportation, $9 million for public safety, and $41 million for parks and recreation.

1980 1990 2000 2010

August 13, 1983
The DART referendum is held. 14 of 21 cities vote for DART.

DART fails by 21 votes in Mesquite: 2192 FOR and 2213 AGAINST





September 12, 1983
City Council discusses conducting another vote because of the small margin, but decides 6-1 against a second vote.

1991
Citizens vote and approve using 1/2 cent of sales tax to reduce property tax by 10 cents per $100 valuation.

1999
Citizens vote on 4B sales tax election and support 1/2 cent for public safety, transportation, and parks & recreation

Today
City cannot afford full DART membership without replacing $17 million in sales tax revenue anually with higher property tax, other taxes, or significantly cutting services.

MESQUITE TEXAS
Real. Texas. Service.