

# Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 14, 2008

## **ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date Prepared:** May 15, 2008

**Subject:** Authorization for Public Hearings

### **Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a series of public hearings on potential fare adjustments for transit and paratransit services operated and/or funded by the Metropolitan Council.

### **Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

After a briefing regarding the FY 2009-2011 Budget by Brian Lamb General Manager Metro Transit, Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, presented this item. Steffen expressed concern that previous Northstar startup, 35W Bridge and UPA discussions did not discuss fare increases. Steffen stated that only the facts - such as inflation, gas prices, lower projected MVST revenue should be used when addressing the public. Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer and passed.

# T Transportation Committee

Business Item

SW Item: 2008-135

Meeting date: May 12, 2008

For Metropolitan Council: May 14, 2008

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

<b>Date:</b>	May 7, 2008
<b>Subject:</b>	Authorization for Public Hearings
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Public Accountability Policy 2-1, Public Hearings Procedure 2-1b; Transit Fare Policy Changes 3-2-6, Implementing Procedure 3-2-6a
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit (612) 349-7510 Arlene McCarthy, Director – MTS, (651) 602-1754 Edwin D. Petrie, Director, Finance Metro Transit, (612) 349-7624 Gerri Sutton, Asst. Director – MTS, (651) 602-1672
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit, Metropolitan Transportation Services

### Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a series of public hearings on potential fare adjustments for transit and paratransit services operated and/or funded by the Metropolitan Council.

### Background

As a result of inflationary pressures such as escalating fuel, health insurance costs, and reductions to Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) receipts, the Metropolitan Transportation Division is facing a projected SFY 2009 deficit of nearly \$15.0M. One of the recommended solutions to solve this projected deficit is a fare adjustment.

FTA guidelines and Metropolitan Council policy require that fare adjustments be reviewed through a public hearing process prior to adoption. This authorization will set in motion the process to accomplish these hearings in a timely manner and allow sufficient time for public input, Council consideration of options, and actual implementation as soon as feasible within the constraints of resources, contracts and procedures.

The following are additional guidelines for the Public Hearing Process on Fare Adjustments:

- Public hearings are required by Federal Transit Administration guidelines and Metropolitan Council policy, prior to taking action on potential fare adjustments.
- Public hearings can begin 45 days after Council authorization.
- Public notice of the hearings will be published in the State Register and other media outlets no later than 30 days before the first public hearing.
- Comment period will remain open for 10 days following the last scheduled public hearing.
- Fare adjustment proposals will be presented to the Transportation Committee and the Council for endorsement prior to public hearings.
- Staff recommendation for final action will be presented following consideration of public input.
- Target date for implementation of a potential fare adjustment is October 1, 2008.
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### Rationale

The proposed authorization for public hearings on fare adjustments will assist in the process to bring forward a fare adjustment for balancing the Metropolitan Transportation Division projected SFY 2008-2009 deficit.

## **Funding**

The Metropolitan Council last took action to increase fares effective July 1, 2005. This action was an effort to raise revenue and also served to preserve the regular route farebox recovery rate at or above 28.5%. The fare adjustment proposal for the public hearings will take into account the effects of the July 1, 2005 fare increase and will propose fare adjustments for services operated by all regional transit providers participating in the regional fare structure.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

None known.

## Public Hearings To Consider Adjustments To Regional Transit Fares

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**Monday, July 7: 5:30 p.m. -- 6:30 p.m.**

Northtown Mall, Community Room  
398 Northtown Drive, Blaine  
Served by Regional Transit Routes 10,  
25, 805, 824, 831, 852, 854, 860

**Tuesday, July 8: 6:30 --7:30 p.m.**

Hopkins Center for the Arts  
1111 Main Street, Hopkins  
Served by Routes 12, 612

**Wednesday, July 9: Noon -- 1:00 p.m.**

Minneapolis City Hall, Room 333  
350 South Fifth Street, Minneapolis  
Served by Routes 3, 5, 7, 9, 14, 16,  
19, 22, 24, 50, 55, 94

**Wednesday, July 9 – 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

Burnsville City Hall – Chambers  
100 Civic Center Parkway, Burnsville  
Served by Routes 426 Shuttle, 465

**Thursday, July 10: 6:30 -- 7:30 p.m.**

Maplewood Community Center  
2100 White Bear Avenue, Maplewood  
Served by Routes 64, 80

**Tuesday, July 15: Noon -- 1:00 p.m.**

Metropolitan Council, Chambers  
390 Robert Street North, downtown St. Paul  
Served by Routes 16, 21, 50, 53, 54, 61, 63, 64, 65,  
68, 70, 71, 74, 94

**Public comment period May 14 – July 25, 2008.**

Members of the public can comment by contacting  
the Regional Data Center at 390 N. Robert Street,  
St. Paul 55101 or

- [data.center@metro council.org](mailto:data.center@metro council.org)
- Comment Line **651.602.1500**
- Telephone 651.602.1140
- TTY **651.291.0904**
- Fax 651.602.1464