

T Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 25, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: June 24, 2008

Subject: Approval of Public Hearing Content for Potential Fare Adjustments

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council approve information scheduled to be presented at public hearings for the purpose of public comment and input prior to adoption of any required regional fare adjustments.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

This item was presented by Ed Petrie, Director of Finance Metro Transit and Gerri Sutton, Assistant Director MTS. Discussion followed and questions about the fare increases and options were asked and answered. Motion by Leppik, seconded by Meeks and passed.

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 23, 2008

For Metropolitan Council: June 25, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	June 13, 2008
Subject:	Approval of Public Hearing Content for Potential Fare Adjustments
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Public Accountability Policy 2-1, Public Hearings Procedure 2-1b; Transit Fare Policy Changes 3-2-6, Implementing Procedure 3-2-6a
Staff Prepared/Presented:	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
Division/Department:	Metro Transit, Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council approve information scheduled to be presented at public hearings for the purpose of public comment and input prior to adoption of any required regional fare adjustments.

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.
- Staff has developed a combination of measured and balanced adjustments for revenue enhancements, to address this shortfall with the minimum of possible impacts to the riding public and the region as a whole.
- Council policy as well as state and federal guidelines require public hearings for the purpose of input prior to implementation of any significant fare adjustment by the public transit system. The dates and locations of these hearings, and other channels for public input, have already been approved by the Metropolitan Council in order to expedite the timing of any necessary actions that may be ultimately adopted.
- With the public hearings scheduled for July 7-15, 2008, a completed package of potential changes subject to public input must be available no later than July 25, 2008. The public comment period remains open until 10 days after the final hearing, at which time staff will assess the input and bring modifications to the proposals back to the Council for final consideration in August 2008.
- Summaries of the potential changes will be presented to the Transportation Committee in August 2008 prior to presentation to the Council for final consideration.
- Phased approach for implementation of a potential fare adjustment. Phase 1 is October 1, 2008 and Phase 2 is during calendar year 2009.

Rationale

The presentation of this material at public hearings for public comments and input will assist in the process to bring forward regional fare adjustments to aid in balancing the Metropolitan Transportation Division’s projected SFY 2009 budget 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/Meetings To Consider Adjustments To Regional Transit Fares

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- 1:00p.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@metc.state.mn.us
- Comment Line **651.602.1500**
- Telephone 651.602.1140
- TTY **651.291.0904**
- Fax 651.602.1464

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, July 14: 5:30– 6:30p.m.

Eden Prairie City Hall, Heritage Room
8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie

Tuesday, July 15: 5:30 – 6:30p.m.

Seward Square Apts. Community Room
2121 South 9th, Minneapolis

Regional Fare Adjustment Proposal
Recommendation of the Regional Fare Committee
To be implemented October 1, 2008

Cash Fare Increases:	Current		Proposed
Local Off-Peak	\$ 1.50		\$ 1.75
Local Peak	\$ 2.00		\$ 2.25
Express Off-Peak	\$ 2.00		\$ 2.25
Express Peak	\$ 2.75		\$ 3.00
Senior, Youth, Medicare Fares (Off Peak)	\$ 0.50		\$ 0.75
Limited Mobility (All Times)	\$ 0.50		\$ 0.75
Downtown Zone (All Times)	\$ 0.50		\$ 0.50
Dial-a-Ride – Implement Jan. 1, 2009	\$ 0 - 2.00		\$ 2.25
Metro Mobility demand-response:			
Off-Peak	\$ 2.50		\$ 3.00
Peak	\$ 3.50		\$ 4.00
<i>TransitWorks!</i> Fare Discount:			
Stored Value Cards	5%		0
31-Day Pass	10%		0
Transfers and transfer policy			No Change
31-Day Pass			
Local Off-Peak	\$ 50.00		\$ 59.00
Local Peak	\$ 76.00		\$ 85.00
Limited Mobility	\$ 21.00		\$ 31.50
Express			
Off-Peak	\$ 76.00		\$ 85.00
Peak	\$ 104.00		\$ 113.50
Stored Value Cards - Magnetic	Card	Value	Bonus
	\$ 10.00	\$ 11.00	10%
	\$ 20.00	\$ 22.00	10%
	\$ 40.00	\$ 44.00	10%
Stored Value Cards - GoTo	10% bonus with cards \$10.00 or greater in value		

6-Hour Pass - Off Peak	Current	Proposed
Adult	\$ 3.00	\$ 3.50
Youth/Senior/Mobility	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.50
6-Hour Pass - Peak		
Adult	\$ 3.50	\$ 4.00
Youth/Senior/Mobility	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00
Young Adult 10 Ride Farecards	\$ 11.50	\$ 13.50
One Ride Tickets	\$ 1.75	\$ 2.00
Tokens	\$ 67.50 /bag 50	\$ 78.75/bag 50
Rush Hours: Monday – Friday	Current	Proposed
	6:00 – 9:00a.m.	5:30 – 9:00a.m.
	3:00 – 6:30p.m.	3:00 – 6:30p.m.

Phase 2:

Up to an additional \$0.50 increase to all regional fare categories (i.e. Regular Route, Metro Mobility, Senior, Youth, Medicare, Limited Mobility, Downtown Zone, Dial-a-Ride), or a subset of those fare categories including distance based fares during calendar year 2009.