

# T Transportation Committee

**Meeting date: August 25, 2008**

**For Metropolitan Council: August 27, 2008**

<b>ADVISORY INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	August 25, 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 Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, Metro Transit, (651) 602-1942 Edwin D. Petrie, Director, Finance Metro Transit, (612) 349-7624 Adam Harrington, Senior Mgr Ops Planning, Metro Transit (612) 349-7797
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Northstar Project Office, Metro Transit

## **Proposed Action/Motion**

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes a series of public hearings on recommended Northstar Commuter Rail fares.

## **Background**

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.
- Target date for implementation of a potential fare adjustment with opening of Northstar Commuter Rail in late 2009.

To meet these objectives the following schedule is proposed:

- Aug 2008: Met Council Tran Committee approval for public hearing dates/locations
- Sept 2008: Met Council Tran Committee approval of fare set for public hearing
- Oct-Nov 2008: Three Hearings in the Northstar Corridor
  - Downtown Minneapolis
  - Anoka
  - Elk River/Big Lake
- Dec 2008: Met Council/NCDA approve fares

Recommended fare structure will be presented at September meeting.

## **Rationale**

The new fare set will better reflect the user value of longer distance and higher quality of service than express bus.

## **Funding**

Setting fares in 2008 is essential for developing new fare software, media, administration procedures, promotion and future operational budget preparation.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

None known.

## **Public Hearings To Consider Adjustments To Regional Transit Fares**

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### **Wednesday, October 15: Noon -- 1:00 p.m.**

Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Room  
300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis  
Served by Routes 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 25, 675

### **Wednesday, October 15: 6:30 p.m. -- 7:30 p.m.**

Anoka County Government Center  
Board Room 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2100 Third Ave, Anoka  
Served by Transit Routes 766, 805, 850, 852

### **Thursday, October 23: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Sherburne County Government Center  
Board Room  
13880 US Hwy 10  
13880 Business Center Drive  
Elk River, MN

### **Public comment period**

**Oct 1 – 5:00pm Nov 1, 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**
- TTY **651.291.0904**
- Fax 651.602.1464