

## Northstar Commuter Rail Fare and Tokens Temporary Fare Change



Transportation Committee  
June 11, 2012

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## Background

- July/August 2009 Council established permanent and introductory fares
- October 2010 Council approved permanent fare set
- Consideration of economic conditions and desire to attract riders

### Ridership

- 2010 – 710,426
- 2011 – 703,427
- 2012 Forecast - 688,200 (7.25% below budget)

## Today

### Current Surveys Prime Decision To Not Ride Train

- Level of service
- Current fare structure

### Recommended Temporary Fare Change

- Reflects current travel market conditions for commuter is value of long-distance service
- Balances impacts on fare revenue and recovery

## Current Fare Structure

One-way fares to/from downtown Minneapolis	Weekday (Rush Hour)	Weekend (Non-Rush Hours)	
	All customers except persons with disabilities	Adults	Seniors (65+), Youth (6-12) and Medicare card holders. Valid at all times for persons with disabilities.
Big Lake	\$7.00	\$5.25	\$1.75
Elk River	\$5.50	\$4.00	\$1.25
Anoka	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Coon Rapids-Riverdale	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Fridley	\$3.25	\$2.50	\$0.75
Station-to-Station	\$3.25	\$2.50	\$0.75

## Proposed Temporary Fare Change (August 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013)

One-way fares to/from downtown Minneapolis	Weekday (Rush Hour)	Weekend (Non-Rush Hours)	
	All customers except persons with disabilities	Adults	Seniors (65+), Youth (6-12) and Medicare card holders. Valid at all times for persons with disabilities.
Big Lake	\$6.00	\$5.25	\$1.75
Elk River	\$4.50	\$4.00	\$1.25
Ramsey	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$1.00
Anoka	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Coon Rapids-Riverdale	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Fridley	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$0.75
Station-to-Station	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$0.75

## Impacts of Temporary Fare Change (August 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013)

	2012 Forecast April YTD	Annualized Temporary Fare 0% Growth	Annualized Temporary Fare 3% Growth	Annualized Temporary Fare 5% Growth	Annualized Temporary Fare 10% Growth
Passengers	688,200	688,200	708,900	722,600	757,100
Average Fare per Passenger	\$3.85	\$3.22	\$3.22	\$3.22	\$3.22
Cost per Passenger	\$24.00	\$24.00	\$23.29	\$22.84	\$21.79
% Reduction over 0% Growth			2.9%	4.8%	9.2%
Subsidy per Passenger	\$20.12	\$20.75	\$20.04	\$19.59	\$18.55
% Reduction over 0% Growth			3.4%	5.6%	10.6%

## Tokens Today

- Sold to social service organizations
- Annual sales \$1.2M, over 850,000 tokens
- Top 2011 token purchases: Sharing & Caring Hands, St. Stephens Human Services
- Sold for \$1.58 for local off-peak fare value of \$1.75
- Local peak requires 2 tokens causing
  - Customer confusion
  - Fare disputes with operators

## Tokens Temporary Fare Change (August 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013)

- Token valid for both local peak and off-peak fares at price of \$1.75
- Improve customer convenience
- Reduce operator fare disputes
- Over 92% support from survey organizations purchasing tokens
- Cost will be approximately \$52k, covered by cost savings

## Recommendation

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve a temporary fare change for Northstar Commuter Rail as set forth in the preceding tables, effective for the period of August 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013.
- Approve a temporary fare change for Tokens where a single token will be valid for both local peak and off-peak fares for up to a value of \$2.25 with the token price set at \$1.75.

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