

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 25, 2008

For Metropolitan Council: August 27, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	August 25, 2008
Subject:	Authorization for Public Hearings
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 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
Division/Department:	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 08: Met Council Tran Committee approval for public hearing dates/locations
- Sept 08: Met Council Tran Committee approval of fare set for public hearing
- Oct-Nov 08: Three Hearings in the Northstar Corridor
 - Downtown Minneapolis
 - Anoka
 - Elk River/Big Lake
- Dec 08: 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.