

RiverCities Transit Fare Review

Presentation to the Cowlitz Transit Authority
July 8th, 2015



Fare History

History

- * Fares have been kept low
- * Last Fare increase was 10 ¢ in 2007
- * Farebox recovery is the % of cost for each mode that is paid for by fares

2014 Farebox Recovery

- * Fixed Route 4.0%
- * Paratransit 1.2%
- * 2008 Fixed Route 7.6%

Agency Comparison- Fixed Route

	1-Way	Daily	Monthly Adult	Monthly Reduced	Monthly Student	Transfer Policy
Valley Transit	\$.50	N/A	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	One Free
Jefferson Transit	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$24.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	None
Twin Transit	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	None
Link Transit	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$22.50	\$15.00	None
RiverCities Transit	\$.60	\$1.20	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	Free for 3 hours

Agency Comparison- Paratransit

Agency	1 Way	Daily Pass	Monthly Pass	
Valley Transit	\$.75	N/A	\$12.00	Higher Cash Fare
Jefferson Transit	\$1.00	N/A	N/A	No Passes and Lower Cash Fare
Twin Transit	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$25.00	Higher Cash Fare
Link Transit	\$1.50	N/A	N/A	No Passes and Higher Cash Fares
RiverCities Transit	\$.60	\$1.20	\$5.00	

Demographic Comparison

- * We match well with comparable agencies
- * Higher % of Transit Dependent
- * Higher Weekly Wage
- * Should result in a higher level of farebox recovery
- * Fixed Route Farebox Comparison (2013 data)
 - * 7.9% average of comparable agencies
 - * 4.7% RCT
- * Paratransit Farebox Comparison (2013 data)
 - * 1.9% average of comparable agencies
 - * 1.5% RCT

Why is our recovery so low?

- * Cash Fares are 2nd lowest for an urban area
- * Monthly Pass is the lowest for an urban area
- * Our recent growth has increased some expenses
- * Inflation
- * Paratransit has some high volume users
- * Paratransit Trip-Chaining
 - * 1 User makes multiple trips in a single day
 - * 1st trip is from residence to an appointment
 - * 2nd trip is from the appointment to a store
 - * 3rd trip is to return to residence

Financial Impact of Trip Chaining

Rider 1

- * Had trips on 21 of 26 service days in June
- * 61 trips in total
- * Cost to RCT: \$1,342
- * \$5 Monthly pass
- * Subsidy of \$1,337

Rider 2

- * Had trips on 13 of 26 Service days in June
- * 24 trips in total
- * Cost to RCT: \$528
- * \$5 Monthly pass
- * Subsidy of \$523

Staff Proposal

- * A series of fare increases effective January 1st of 2016, 2017, and 2018
- * Staff will engage in a public participation process and gather feedback for an increase that would occur Jan 1st 2016
- * CTA Board approval will start the public participation process
- * CTA Board will vote on the fare increases in November 2015

Proposed Fixed Route Fares

	1-Way	Daily	Monthly Adult	Monthly Reduced	Monthly Student	Transfer Policy
RCT- Current	\$.60	\$1.20	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	Free for 3 hours
RCT- 1 Jan 2016	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$14.00	\$7.00	\$7.00	One use only
RCT- 1 Jan 2017	\$1.25	\$2.50	\$18.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	One use only
RCT- 1 Jan 2018	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	One use only
Comparable						
Valley Transit	\$.50	N/A	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	One Free
Jefferson Transit	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$24.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	None
Twin Transit	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	None
Link Transit	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$30.00	\$22.50	\$15.00	None

Proposed Paratransit Fares

Agency	1 Way	Daily Pass	Monthly Pass	ADA vs Fixed Route Fares
RCT- Current	\$.60	\$1.20	\$5.00	
RCT- 1 Jan 2016	\$1.00	N/A	N/A	
RCT- 1 Jan 2017	\$1.25	N/A	N/A	
RCT- 1 Jan 2018	\$1.50	N/A	N/A	
Comparable				
Valley Transit	\$.75	N/A	\$12.00	Higher Cash Fare
Jefferson Transit	\$1.00	N/A	N/A	No Passes & Lower Cash Fare
Twin Transit	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$25.00	Higher Pass & Cash Fare
Link Transit	\$1.50	N/A	N/A	No Passes and Higher Cash Fare

Fare Increase Impacts

Fixed Route

- * Will increase fare revenue
- * Short term leveling or slight decrease in ridership expected
- * Ridership should recover

Paratransit

- * Will increase fare revenue
- * Frequent users may limit some of their trips
- * May reduce ridership in the short term

Other Staff Proposals

- * **Introduce discounted multi-month pass for students in the summer (June-July-August for the price of 2 months)**
- * **Clarify the “student” and “reduced” passes and define who qualifies for each**

Timeline

- * July- Initial review
- * Aug- Board Recommendation
- * Nov- Public Hearing, Board Action
- * January 1st 2016- New fares enacted



Staff Recommendation

- * Select a proposed fare schedule and direct staff to begin the public review process**