

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority
Board Action/Information Summary**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Information	MEAD Number:	Resolution: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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PURPOSE

To present the Board of Directors with the staff report on the public hearings and to request action on the fare proposal.

DESCRIPTION

Six public hearings were conducted between November 13 – 15, 2007 to solicit and obtain public comment on proposed fare increase for Metrobus, Metrorail and parking. The majority of those who testified were against any change to Metrobus, Metrorail fares and parking charges.

IMPACT ON FUNDING

Cost containment actions and increases in state and local government subsidy assistance will still leave a FY09 budget gap of about \$109 million. The proposed adjustments to fares and parking charges would begin on or about January 6, 2008, before the beginning of FY09, and the additional revenue would be reserved for use until July 2008. Collecting revenue over 18 months will moderate the magnitude of the fare changes as well as the financial impact on rail and bus customers.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors take action on the fare proposal.

PRESENTED & ADOPTED:

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF FARE INCREASES

PROPOSED
RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) provides Metrobus, Metrorail and MetroAccess services to the residents of the region; and

WHEREAS, These systems combine to provide about 1.3 million passenger trips daily; and

WHEREAS, The Washington metropolitan region has come to rely on the services of the Metrorail, Metrobus, and MetroAccess systems to provide safe and reliable service to respond to the mobility and accessibility travel needs of the region for work and discretionary activities; and

WHEREAS, The cost of Metrobus, Metrorail and MetroAccess services are funded in part by passenger revenues and in part by subsidies provided by the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, local jurisdictions in Virginia and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The General Manager's estimated FY09 operating budget for Metrobus, Metrorail and MetroAccess currently includes a \$109 million shortfall; and

WHEREAS, The General Manager has recommended that the budget shortfall be addressed through state and local government subsidy increases of 6.5 percent, and passenger revenue increases; and

WHEREAS, On October 25, 2007, in accordance with Section 62 of the WMATA Compact, the Board of Directors, authorized public hearings on a proposed fare increase; and

WHEREAS, Six public hearings were conducted between November 13–15, 2007, to solicit public comment on the proposed fare increase; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors has considered the comments of the public as detailed in the Staff Report; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors approves increases to the Metrobus, Metrorail and parking fees to begin on or about January 6, 2008, as detailed in Attachment (A), with the understanding that the increase for parking fees collected through meters will be implemented incrementally as the appropriate equipment is installed; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors authorizes the distribution of up to 50,000 SmarTrip® cards to local social services agencies in the compact jurisdictions to distribute to their clients on a one-time, limited-offer basis, to be funded through the existing reserve for the purchase of SmarTrip® cards; and be it further

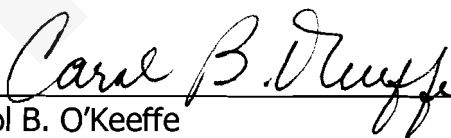
RESOLVED, That the extension on the Metrobus transfer period from two to three hours will be implemented only when transfers are eliminated except for SmarTrip® usage only; and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager to increase Reserved parking spaces by up to 25% of total spaces at any Metrorail station at the General Manger's discretion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors directs staff to amend the WMATA Tariff on Metro Operations and the Subcontracting and Special Transit Service Tariff accordingly to implement this Resolution; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



Carol B. O'Keeffe
General Counsel

ATTACHMENT (A)

FARE ADJUSTMENTS FOR METRORAIL, METROBUS AND METROACCESS AND CHANGES IN PARKING RATES AND FEES

I. METRORAIL

1. Metrorail Peak Fare Changes:
 - a. Increase the base boarding charge, which covers the first 3 composite miles by \$0.30 from \$1.35 to \$1.65.
 - b. Increase the peak period mileage charge, covering travel over 3 composite miles and up to 6 composite miles by \$0.05/composite mile from \$0.22/composite mile to \$0.27/composite mile.
 - c. Increase the peak period mileage charge, covering travel over 6 composite miles by \$0.045/composite mile from \$0.195/composite mile to \$0.24/composite mile.
 - d. Increase the maximum peak period fare by \$0.80 from \$3.90 to \$4.70.
 - e. Maintain the charge for Senior/Disabled trips at one-half the regular fare.
2. Metrorail Off-Peak Fare Changes:
 - a. No changes to Metrorail off-peak fares.

II. METROBUS

1. Metrobus Fare Changes:
 - a. Increase the cash boarding charge by \$0.10, from \$1.25 to \$1.35 all day. The boarding charge for fares paid by SmarTrip® remains at \$1.25.
2. Metrobus Express Service Fare Changes:
 - a. Increase the cash boarding charge by \$0.10 from \$3.00 to \$3.10. The boarding charge for fares paid by SmarTrip® remains at \$3.00.
3. Increase all special Metrobus fares by \$0.25.
4. The Senior and Disabled fare on Metrobus will not increase.

III. METRORAIL/METROBUS TRANSFERS

1. After a one-year transition, the Rail-to-Bus discount will be valid for fares paid by SmarTrip® only, and
2. After a one-year transition, the free Bus-to-Bus transfer will be valid for fares paid by SmarTrip®, only.

IV. METROACCESS

1. No changes to MetroAccess fares.
2. No changes to MetroAccess supplemental zone fares.

V. FARE MEDIA - PASSES

1. Changes to Metrorail Fare Media:
 - a. Increase the price of the Metrorail One Day Pass from \$6.50 to \$7.80.
 - b. Increase the price of the Metrorail Weekly Short Trip Pass from \$22.00 to \$26.40.
 - c. Increase the price of the Metrorail Weekly Fast Pass from \$32.50 to \$39.00.
 - d. Increase the price of the Metrorail SmartStudent Pass from \$22.00 to \$26.00.
 - e. Increase the price of the Metrorail Transit Link Card on MARC and VRE from \$65.00 to \$80.00.
 - f. Increase the price of the Metrorail Transit Line Card on MTA from \$110.00 to \$135.00.
 - g. Increase the price of the charge of DC Student fare cards from \$6.50 for 10 trips to \$8.00 for 10 trips.
 - h. Eliminate the Metro Passport.
2. Changes to Metrobus Fare Media:
 - a. The price of the Metrobus weekly flash pass remains the same.
 - b. The price of DC student tokens remains the same.
 - c. The price of the weekly Senior Flash Pass remains the same.
 - d. The price of the weekly Disabled Flash Pass remains the same.
 - e. Eliminate the Regional Metrobus One Day Pass.
 - f. Eliminate regular Metrobus tokens.

VI. PARKING

1. Changes to Daily Parking Rates:
 - a. Increase daily base parking rates by \$1.15 at Metro parking facilities.
 - b. Increase the New Carrollton County Garage base-parking fee to \$70.00 per month and increase the surcharge fee to \$15.00 per month.

- c. Increase the rate for Metro parking meters to \$1.00 for 60 minutes.
 - d. Eliminate the special \$25.00 Redskins game day parking fee at Morgan Blvd. and Largo Town Center Metrorail stations.
2. Changes to Monthly Reserved Parking Rates:
- a. Increase the monthly parking rate for reserved parking by \$10.00 from \$45.00 per month to \$55.00 per month.

VII. CONTRACT AND CHARTER RATES

1. Increase Metrobus Contract and Charter rates by 20 percent.