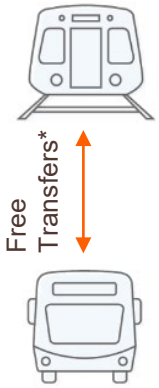
FY2028 Fare Strategy and Fare Concepts

Riders' Advisory Council
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
November 4, 2026

Metro Fares: FY2027



FY2027	Fare	Reduced Fare[1]
Rail Regular	$2.25 to $6.75	$1.10 to $3.35
Mileage charge: After first 3 miles, $0.45 per mile		
Rail Late Night[2] and Weekend	$2.25 to $2.50	$1.10 to $1.25
Regular Bus	$2.25	$1.10

Express Bus Fare	$4.80 ($2.40 Reduced)
Metro Access Fare	$4.50 per trip (twice the base fare)[3]
Abilities-Ride Fee	$3.00 per trip
Parking Rates	$3.00 to $5.20[4]



* Transfer credit is equivalent to the base rail/regular bus fare
[1] 50% discount for senior, disabled, and Metro Lift customers
[2] Late night fares apply after 9:30pm
[3] Metro Access trips based on equivalent regional operator routes may result in lower fares
[4] Rates include jurisdictional surcharges

Fare Strategy

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Issues for consideration in strategy development

How should Metro position the Smart Trip and Tap. Ride. Go. **fare collection platforms**?

How can the region increase **bus fare payment compliance**?

When should Metro **stop accepting cash**?

How can the region integrate fare payment with **regional rail and commuter buses** and other transport operators (bikes, tolls, parking)?

Should Metro introduce **fare-capping** and if so, what type?

How can Metro encourage more **employers to subsidize trips**?

How can Metro develop **partnerships and joint ticketing** for events?

Metro Fare Strategy Framework

Modern Payment System

- **Continue modernization to a modular fare system** to support regionalization, with capabilities for concession fares, third-party integration (e.g., special event tickets), and digital-first fare media

- **Develop and implement fare inspection systemwide by eliminating bus cash payments**, enabling more effective and efficient fare enforcement, especially on ungated bus system, and realize operational efficiencies in cash collection

One Regional Fare System

- **Integrate fare policy across modes and operators** with customers experiencing transit as one system – integrated transfers, passes, and discount programs, including seamless youth travel

- **Metro provides regional fare payment technology and infrastructure**, maximizing efficiency and integration (e.g., provide fare targets/ fare gates and processing for MARC, VRE, Purple Line, and systems for regional bus operators)

Employer-Paid Transit

- **Work with employers to expand the number of people receiving paid workplace transit benefits,** currently uncommon for non-federal employees; leverages the opportunity for employers to offer tax-free unlimited transit to employees with development of new unlimited employer pass offering and pricing model; benefitting ridership, revenue stability, and transaction efficiency

FY2028 Fare Concepts

Fare policy is shaped by customer feedback, ridership and revenue, and Metro's leadership

July 2023:
Last Metro fare restructuring

Major fare restructuring: eliminated peak fares, aligned bus & rail base fare, and launched Metro Lift

July 2024:
Last Metro fare increase

Fares increased by 12.5% across the board on Metro Bus, Metro Rail, and Metro Access

2025 & 2026:
Metro Budget Updates

Metro budget presentations discuss fare increase and fare strategy changes expected in FY2028

October 2026:
Preview of GM Proposed Budget

Preview of GM/CEO proposed budget, incorporating feedback and adjustments from Board discussion of fares

We are here

December 2026:
Proposed Budget Published

General Manager publishes FY2028 GM/CEO proposed budget, including proposed FY2028 fare changes; Board adopts updated fare strategy

February - April 2027
Budget Adoption Process

Board discussions, hearings, and adoption of FY2028 budget, includes fare changes

Note: Estimated revenue and ridership change from fare increase varies depending on baseline revenue forecast.

FY2028 Fare Concepts

Inflation-Based Increase

+11.1% Increase

Revenue: **+$40 to $45 million**
Trips: **-8 million**

$2.50 - $7.50

from $2.25 - $6.75

Applies to all fares, passes, U-Pass, Metro Access fare cap, and Abilities Ride fee

+

Utilization-Based Parking Pricing Structure

For **park-and-ride** customers:

Revenue: **+$0 million**
Trips: **+1.1 million**

$3 at 23 low-usage lots
$5 at 14 medium-usage lots
$7 at 3 high-usage lots

Metro Lift Eligibility Expansion

Add Medicaid, TANF, and WIC enrollment.
Current program is SNAP-only.

Revenue: - $0.3 million
Trips: + 1.9 million trips

+

Weekend Fares on 11 Federal Holidays

Offer weekend fares during 11 federal holidays.
Currently weekday fares during federal holidays.

Revenue: -$1.0 million
Trips: + 70,000 trips

Youth Fare Program

Offer **free-to-youth fares** for all children ages 5-18 on Metro Rail and Metro Bus

Children must be residents of District of Columbia, Maryland, or Virginia

Net Cost: **$7 million**
Trips: **+0.9 million**

Only 40% of children in the region have access to free-to-student travel on Metro Bus and Metro Rail

Children can obtain a student Smart Trip card that provides free-to-student access to…

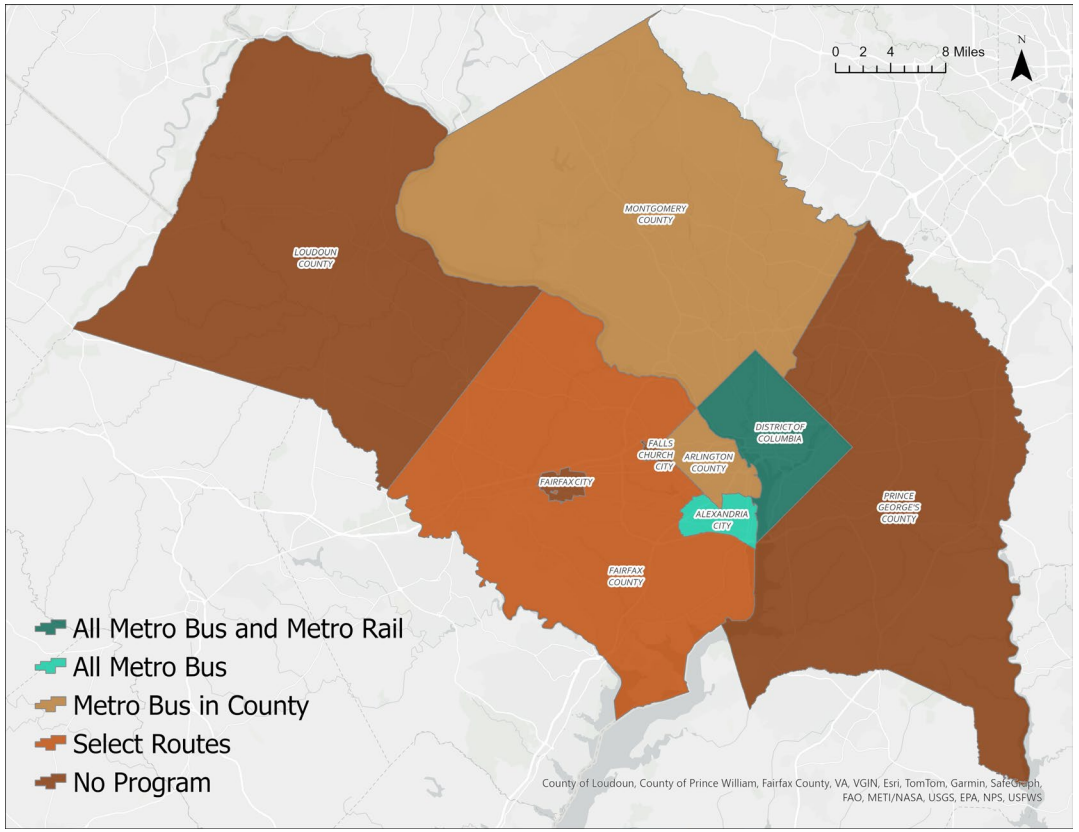
✓ **Any trip on Metro Bus and Metro Rail**
District of Columbia

Any trip on Metro Bus
City of Alexandria

Any trip on Metro Bus route in county
Arlington County, Montgomery County

School transport on select Metro Bus routes
Fairfax County

✗ **No program available**
Prince George's County, Loudoun County, City of Fairfax, City of Falls Church



Universal youth access to transit is a regional investment

What universal access could mean for youth:

Expands access to the region
Allows youth to more easily access school, after-school activities, and community centers in the region

Builds sense of autonomy and independence
Access to safe and reliable transit has been shown to increase a sense of autonomy among young people

What it could mean for the region over time:

Eases costs for families
Lowers the total household travel costs, positioning transit as a practical alternative to driving

Build next generation of transit users
Allows accompanied access to transit at an early age, building comfort and normalizing for adulthood

Peer agencies already provide free & universal access to children:

Free with no limitations:

LA Metro (Los Angeles)

Sound Transit (Seattle)

MBTA (Boston)

MTS (San Diego)

Free with some limitations:

MTA (New York)

SEPTA (Philadelphia)

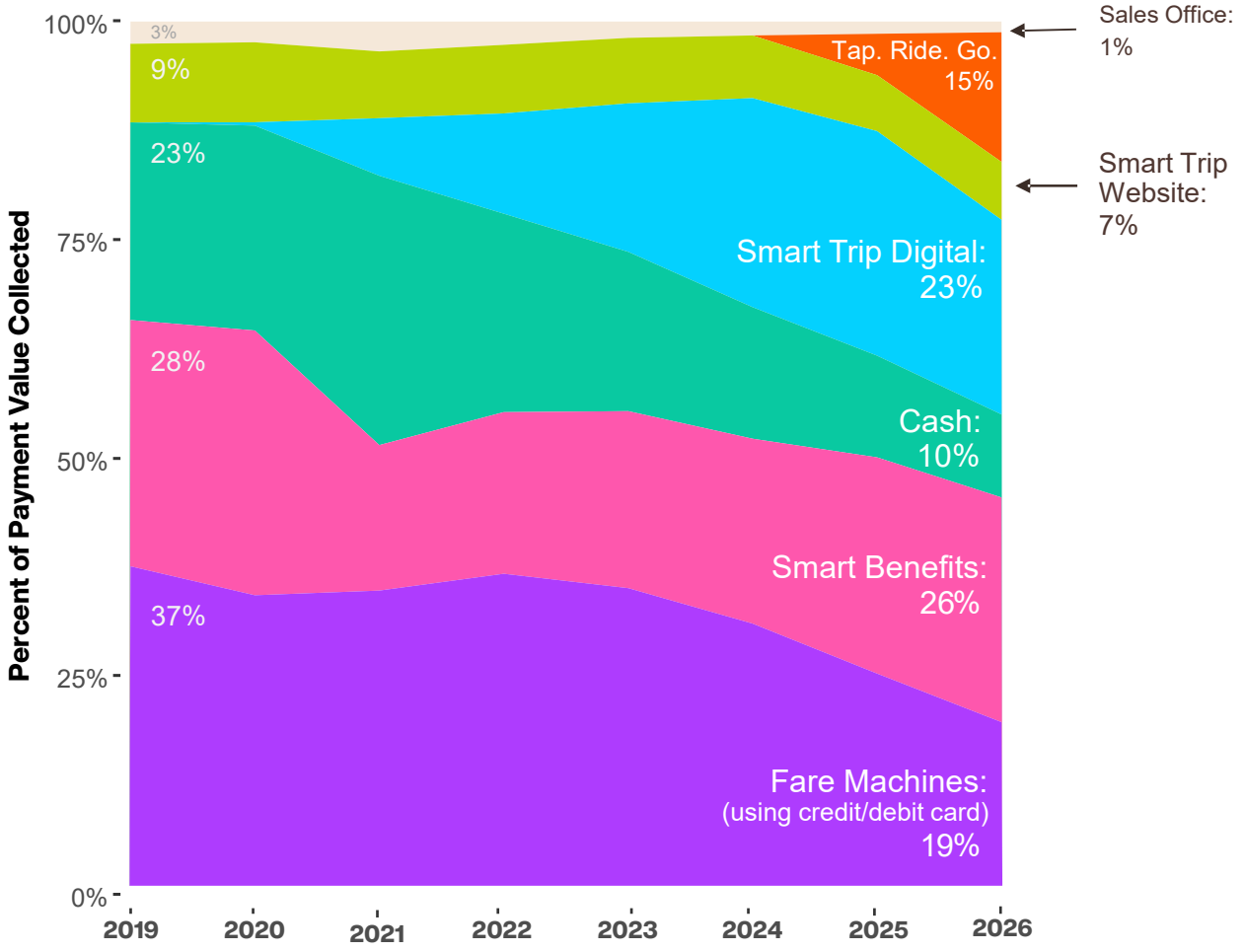
Appendix

Fare Background

The way customers pay is changing

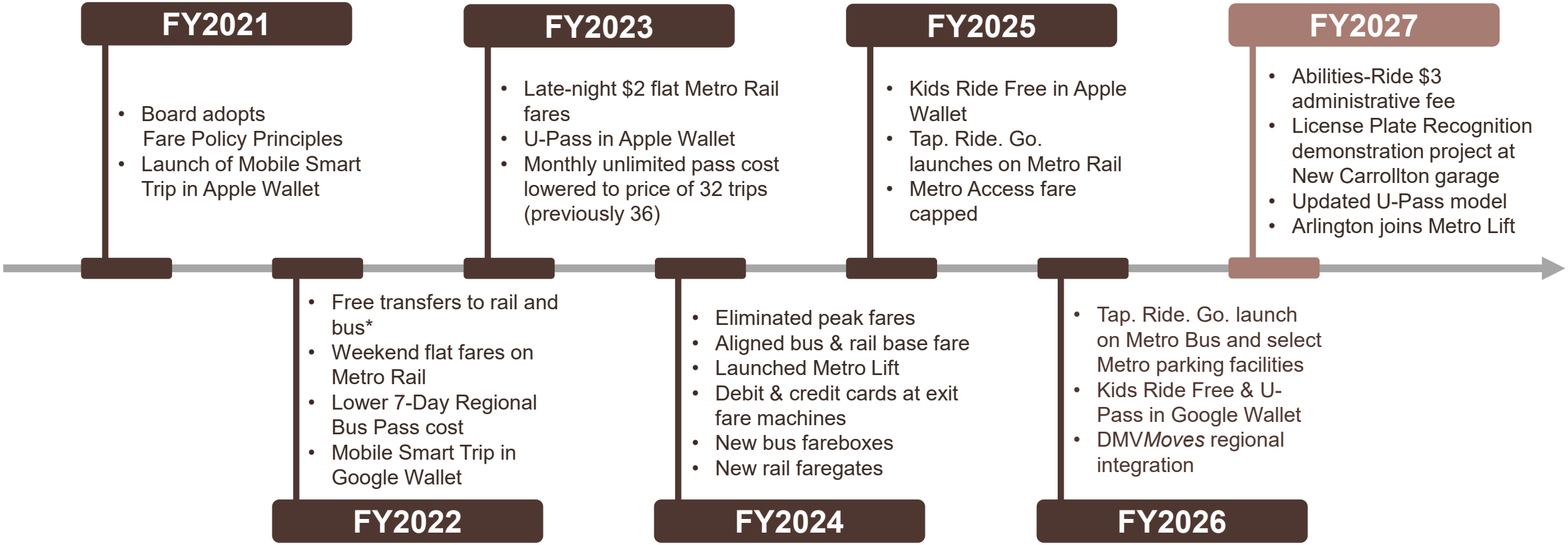
- The share of all dollars collected in cash has decreased by almost two thirds since 2019
- The share of all dollars collected with credit card payments at fare machines nearly halved since 2019
- Tap. Ride. Go. now accounts for 15% of all dollars in fare revenue collected
- Institutional and reduced fare programs (including students, seniors and Smart Benefits) still require Smart Trip cards

Total Dollar Value of Sales Transactions by Payment Channel
January 2019 through August 2026



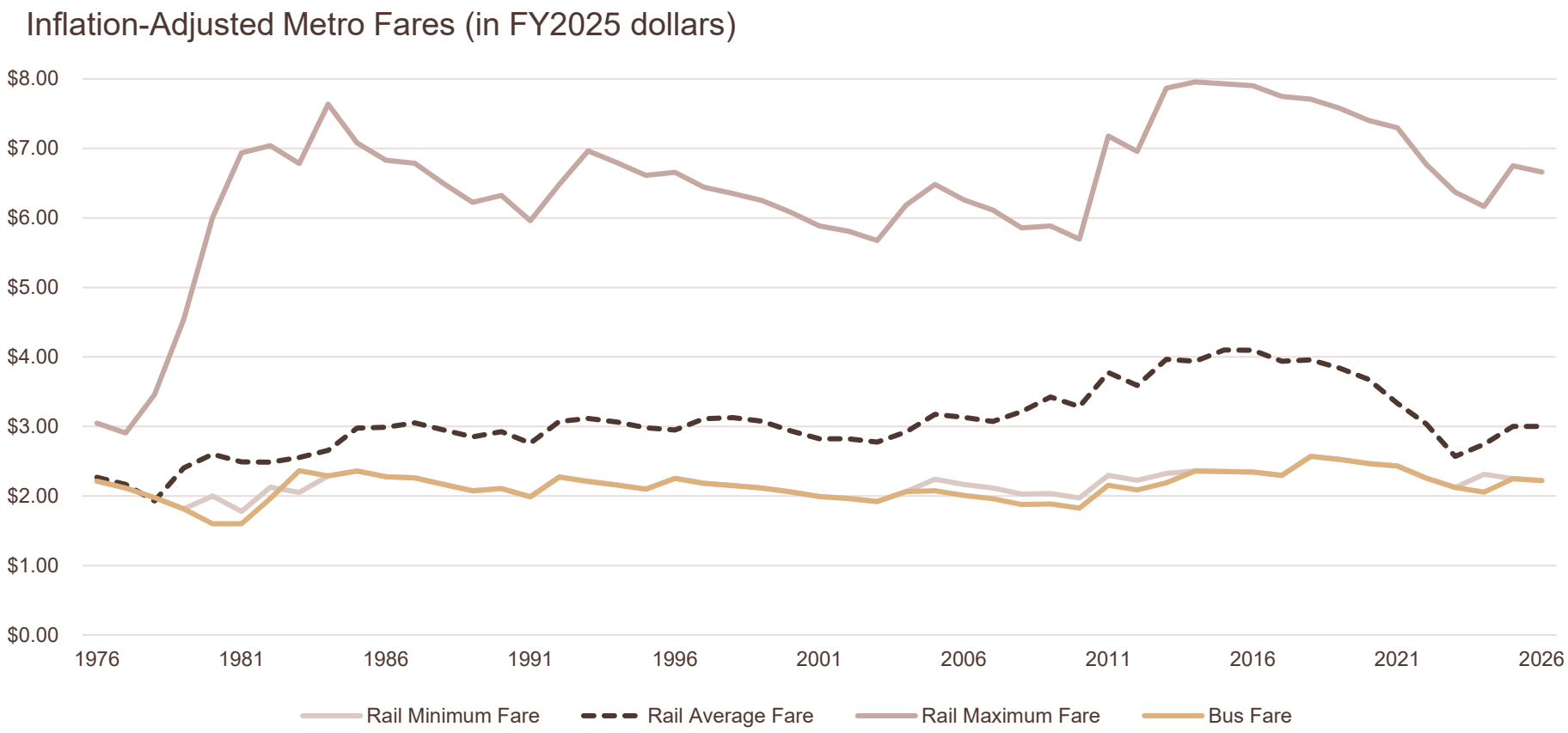
Source: Metro Sales Transactions, January 2019 – August 2026.
Note: Credit/Debit Card at fare machines includes at CPOS.
Note: Unused Smart Benefits Non-Rollover excluded.
Note: 85% of all cash payment occurred at fare machines.

Metro has made significant changes towards fare modernization since FY2021



* Transfer credit is equivalent to the base rail/regular bus fare

Adjusted for inflation, Metro Bus and Metro Rail fares have remained relatively stable since 1980



Customers have many ways to reduce the cost of Metro Rail and Metro Bus fares

Reduced Fare Programs
Half-off full-fare trips on Metro Rail, Metro Bus, and regional operators for eligible customers at least 65 years old

Student Programs
Free-to-student fares on Metro Bus and/or Metro Rail for eligible students in participating jurisdictions
Expanded: Montgomery County (2020), Arlington (2023), Alexandria (2026)

Seven-Day and Monthly Passes
Passes provides free trips on Metro Bus and/or Metro Rail for chosen period and fare level.
Lowered Prices: FY2022 & FY2023

Metro Lift Low-Income Program
Half-off full-fare trips on Metro Rail, Metro Bus, and ART Bus for eligible SNAP participants and their households
Launched: FY2024

U-Pass Program
Unlimited trips on Metro Bus and Metro Rail at single discounted annual price for eligible students at participating universities
Expanded: FY2027

SmartBenefits Program
Discounted trips on Metro Bus and Metro Rail using pre-tax dollars for employees at participating employers

Fare collection matters to Metro, our customers, and our jurisdictional partners

Fares pay for service.

Funding Source, FY2027
$ Millions

Transit Mode	Fare Revenue	Jurisdictional Subsidy
Metro Bus	$62.5	$823.1
Metro Rail	$465.1	$929.5
Metro Access	$9.5	$187.4
Total	$537.0	$1,940.0

Without fare revenue, jurisdictional subsidy would be 25 to 30 percent higher, or Metro would run substantially less service.

Regional Fare Policy

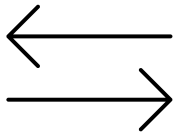
Today, regional fare policy is inconsistent and fragmented

	Operator	Base Fare	Free Transfers	Rail-Bus Unlimited Passes	Senior & Disabled*	Metro Lift	U-Pass	K-12 Student Pass*	Smart-Benefits
	Metro	$2.25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Bus	Fairfax Connector	$2.25	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Local Bus	ART	$2.25	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Local Bus	RideOn	Free	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Bus	DASH	Free	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Bus	CUE	Free	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Local Bus	TheBus	Free	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regional Rail	MARC	$6.00	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Regional Rail	VRE	$5.00	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Regional Rail	Purple Line	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Regional Rail	Amtrak	N/A	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Bike & Scooter	Capital Bikeshare	$1.00	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Bike & Scooter	Dockless Scooter & Bike	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Commuter Bus	OmniRide Express	$11.00	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Commuter Bus	LC-Transit Commuter	$11.00	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Commuter Bus	MTA Commuter Bus	$4.00	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Parking & Tolls	Parking Operators	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Parking & Tolls	EZ-Pass	N/A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

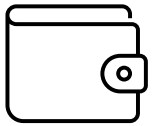
* Jurisdictions offer similar programs to one another but are not necessarily standardized or accepted by other operators.

DMV*Moves* called for regional fare integration so customers experience transit as a seamless network

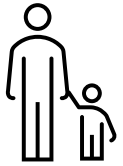
DMV MOVES
Moving our region forward, together.



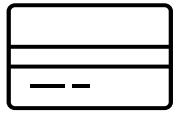
Credit for Transfers
Regardless of operator, customers should always receive full transfer credit.



Low-Income Program
Offer low-income fare discounts through the acceptance of the Metro Lift program



Youth Fares
Access to free transit for youth aged 18 and under across transit agencies in the DMV Region



Regional Unlimited Passes
Customers should be able to purchase and use unlimited passes region-wide

FY2028 Fare Concepts Preview

FY2028 Fare Concepts Preview: Customer Impact

Inflation-Based Increase

All Metro customers see
+11.1% increase
to cost of transit

Revenue: **+8%**
Trips: **-3%**

Includes customers purchasing passes and U-Pass, Metro Access rides, and Abilities Ride fees

Does not immediately impact cost of K-12 student programs

New Parking Pricing Structure

Park-and-ride customers see approximately:

Revenue: + $0 million
Trips: +1.1 million

+ $2 change in fee at 4 locations
$0 change in fee at 14 locations
- $2 change in fee at 23 locations

Non-rider customers see +$3.00 to +$5.00 change in fee at most locations

Youth Fare Program

An additional **+580,000 children** receive access to reduced fares on Metro

Children located in Prince George's County, Loudoun County, Fairfax County, and City of Falls Church currently have no access to K-12 program discounts

Net Cost: $2.3 million
Trips: +0.6 million

Current student programs across the region are fragmented

Program	Who is eligible?	Which services are included?	How is Metro reimbursed?	Approximate # of Schools	Active Participants, FY2026	Avg tap trips per card	Program Start Date
DC Kids Ride Free	DC resident aged 5-21 enrolled in an elementary or secondary public, charter, private or parochial school located within the District.	Ride for free on all Metro Bus and Metro Rail routes. In prior years Circulator was included.	Per unique user, per school year, at rate of $365.	300 schools	49,400	10.5 trips/ month	June 2013 for bus and extended to rail in 2015
iRide for Arlington Students	Arlington County residents enrolled in K-12 can obtain an “iRide” card. Determined by the county.	Ride for free on select Metro Bus routes. Other regional operators or Metro Rail trips can be purchased using stored value.	Per ride at full-fare bus fare rate ($2.25), not including transfers.	41 public schools	5,400	3.5 trips/ month	Since 2023
Fairfax County Student Bus Pass	All Fairfax County and City of Fairfax middle and high school students (grades 7-12).	Ride for free on Fairfax Connector, CUE, and select Metro Bus routes. Other bus trips can be taken using stored value. Card does not work on Metro Rail.	Per ride at full-fare bus fare rate ($2.25), not including transfers.	52 middle and high schools	2,400	3.8 trips/ month	Since 2020 (pilot 2018)
Montgomery County Youth Cruiser Cards	Montgomery County residents with a RideOn Youth Cruiser Smart Trip card or a student id valid for the current school year	Ride for free on Metro Bus routes with stops in Montgomery County. Other regional operators or Metro Rail trips can be purchased using stored value. (Ride-On is currently fare-free).	Per ride at full-fare bus fare rate ($2.25) beginning in FY27. Previously, average fare across stored value and weekly bus passes.	210 public schools	1,500	0.8 trips/ month	Since 2020, updated 2024
Alexandria Student Subsidy	Alexandria City Public Schools middle and high school students.	Ride for free on all Metro Bus routes. Other regional operators or Metro Rail Trips can be purchased using stored value. (DASH is currently fare-free).	Per ride at full-fare bus fare rate ($2.25), not including transfers.	6 middle and high schools	Upcoming	Upcoming	Since 2026

Note: Active participants is measured as distinct cards used at least once Aug 1, 2025 - Jul 31, 2026 and not reported as lost/stolen for all jurisdictions except the District, where measured as distinct student ids associated with a card issued in SY25-26 and used at least once.

Daily rates for park-and-ride customers vary by jurisdiction, ranging between $4.45 and $5.20

Location	Rider Pricing
Montgomery County Grosvenor, North Bethesda, Twinbrook, Rockville, Shady Grove, Glenmont, and Forest Glen Exception: Wheaton ($4.45)	$5.20
Prince George's County New Carrollton, Cheverly, Capitol Heights, Greenbelt, College Park, West Hyattsville, Southern Avenue, Naylor Road, Suitland, Branch Avenue, Morgan Blvd, Downtown Largo Exception: Hyattsville Crossing, Addison Rd ($4.45)	$4.95
Northern Virginia Huntington, Dunn Loring, Vienna, Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn Street, East Falls Church, Ashburn, Loudoun Gateway, Herndon, Innovation Center, and Wiehle	$4.95
District of Columbia Deanwood, Minnesota Ave, Rhode Island Ave, Ft. Totten, and Anacostia	$4.45 - $4.95
Low-Price Lots West Falls Church (Virginia) & Landover (Prince George's)	$3.00

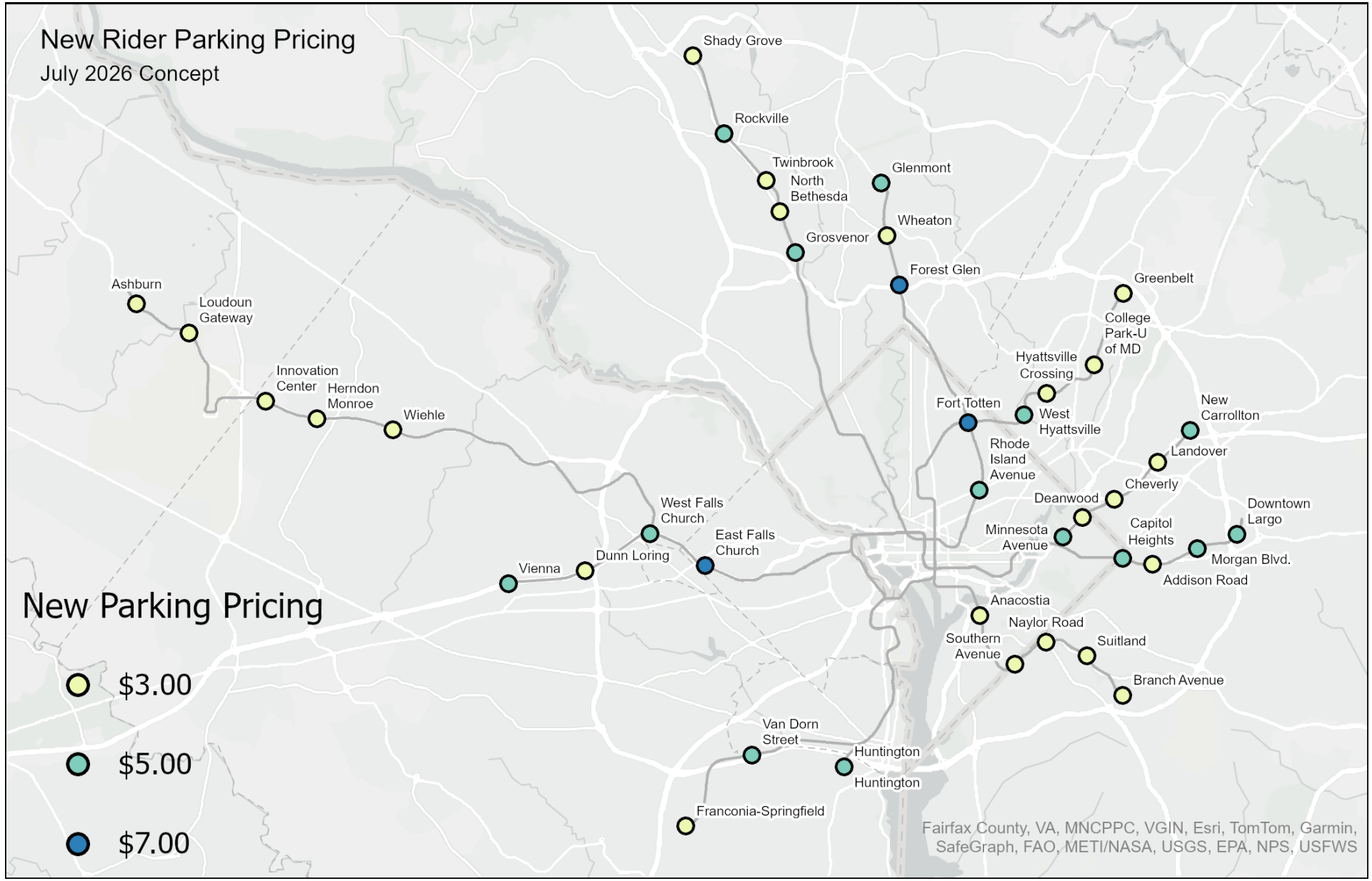
All parking prices include jurisdictional surcharges, when applicable.

Parking Pricing

Low Usage Lot:
$3 at 23 lots

Medium Usage Lot:
$5 at 14 lots

High Usage Lot:
$7 at 3 lots



Park-and-Ride Price Proposal

Parking Facility	Current Price	New Price
Addison Road	$4.45	$3.00
Anacostia	$4.45	$3.00
Ashburn	$4.95	$3.00
Branch Ave	$4.95	$3.00
Capitol Heights	$4.95	$5.00
Cheverly	$4.95	$3.00
College Park-U of Md	$4.95	$3.00
Deanwood	$4.70	$3.00
Downtown Largo	$4.95	$5.00
Dunn Loring	$4.95	$3.00
East Falls Church	$4.95	$7.00
Forest Glen	$5.20	$7.00
Fort Totten	$4.70	$7.00
Franconia-Springfield	$4.95	$3.00
Glenmont	$5.20	$5.00

Parking Facility	Current Price	New Price
Greenbelt	$4.95	$3.00
Grosvenor	$5.20	$5.00
Herndon	$4.95	$3.00
Huntington	$4.95	$5.00
Hyattsville Crossing	$4.45	$3.00
Innovation Center	$4.95	$3.00
Landover	$3.00	$3.00
Loudoun Gateway	$4.95	$3.00
Minnesota Ave	$4.95	$5.00
Morgan Blvd	$4.95	$5.00
Naylor Road	$4.95	$3.00
New Carrollton	$4.95	$5.00
North Bethesda	$5.20	$3.00
Rhode Island Ave	$4.95	$5.00
Rockville	$5.20	$5.00

Parking Facility	Current Price	New Price
Shady Grove	$5.20	$3.00
Southern Ave	$4.95	$3.00
Suitland	$4.95	$3.00
Twinbrook	$5.20	$3.00
Van Dorn Street	$4.95	$5.00
Vienna	$4.95	$5.00
West Falls Church	$3.00	$5.00
West Hyattsville	$4.95	$5.00
Wheaton	$4.45	$3.00
Wiehle-Reston East	$4.95	$3.00

Usage based on percentage of spaces occupied on average weekday

Low Use: 0% - 50%
Medium Use: 51% to 90%
High Use: 91%+

Parking Example: Anacostia

32.9%

Average Weekday Utilization

Currently

$4.45/day

Concept

$3/day



Picture: Google Maps Satellite View

Parking Example:
Shady Grove

45.6%

Average Weekday Utilization

Currently

$5.20/day

Concept

$3/day



Picture: Google Maps Satellite View

Parking Example:
New Carrollton

72.5%

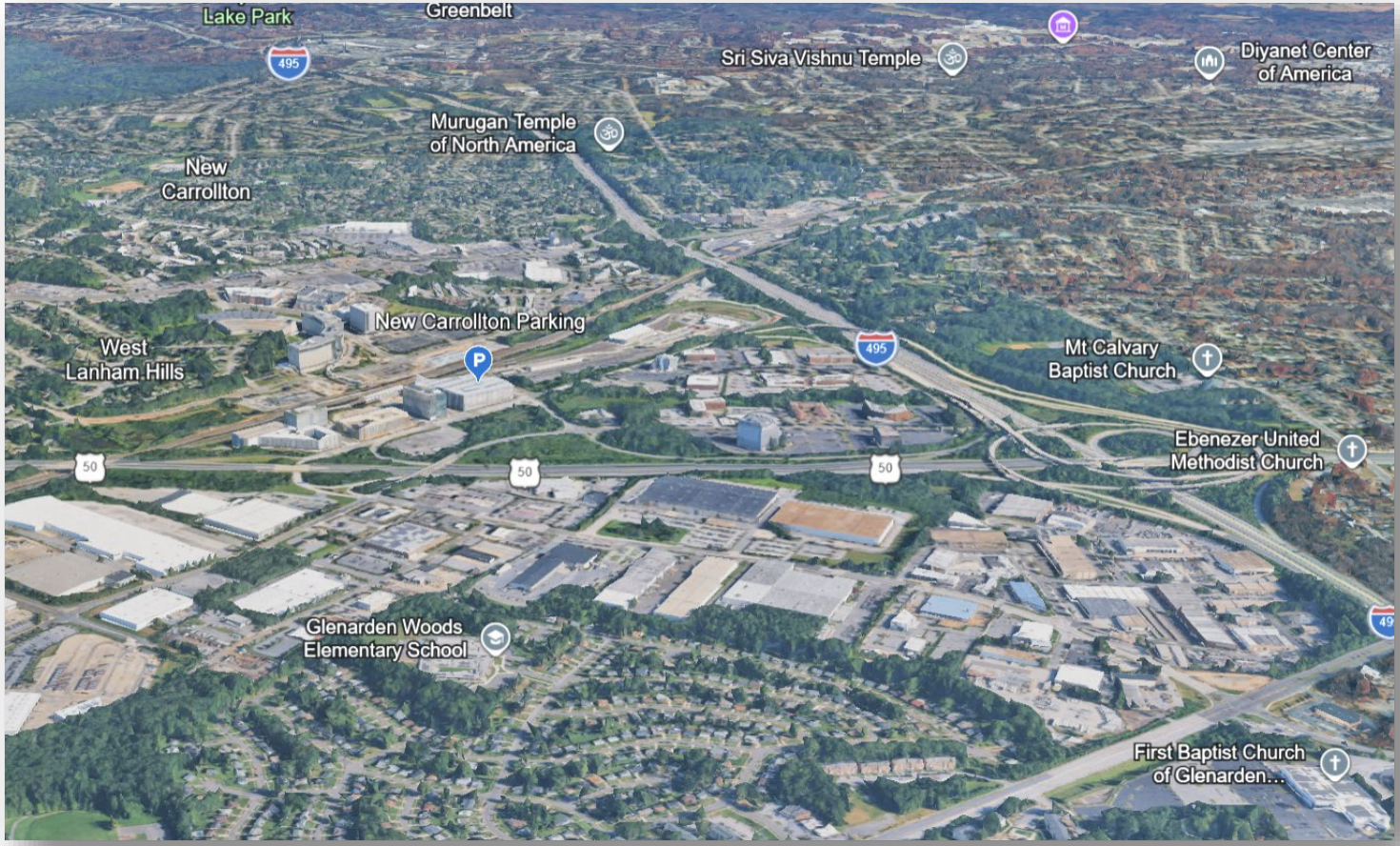
Average Weekday Utilization

Currently

$4.95/day

Concept

$5/day



Picture: Google Maps Satellite View

Parking Example:
East Falls Church

96.5%

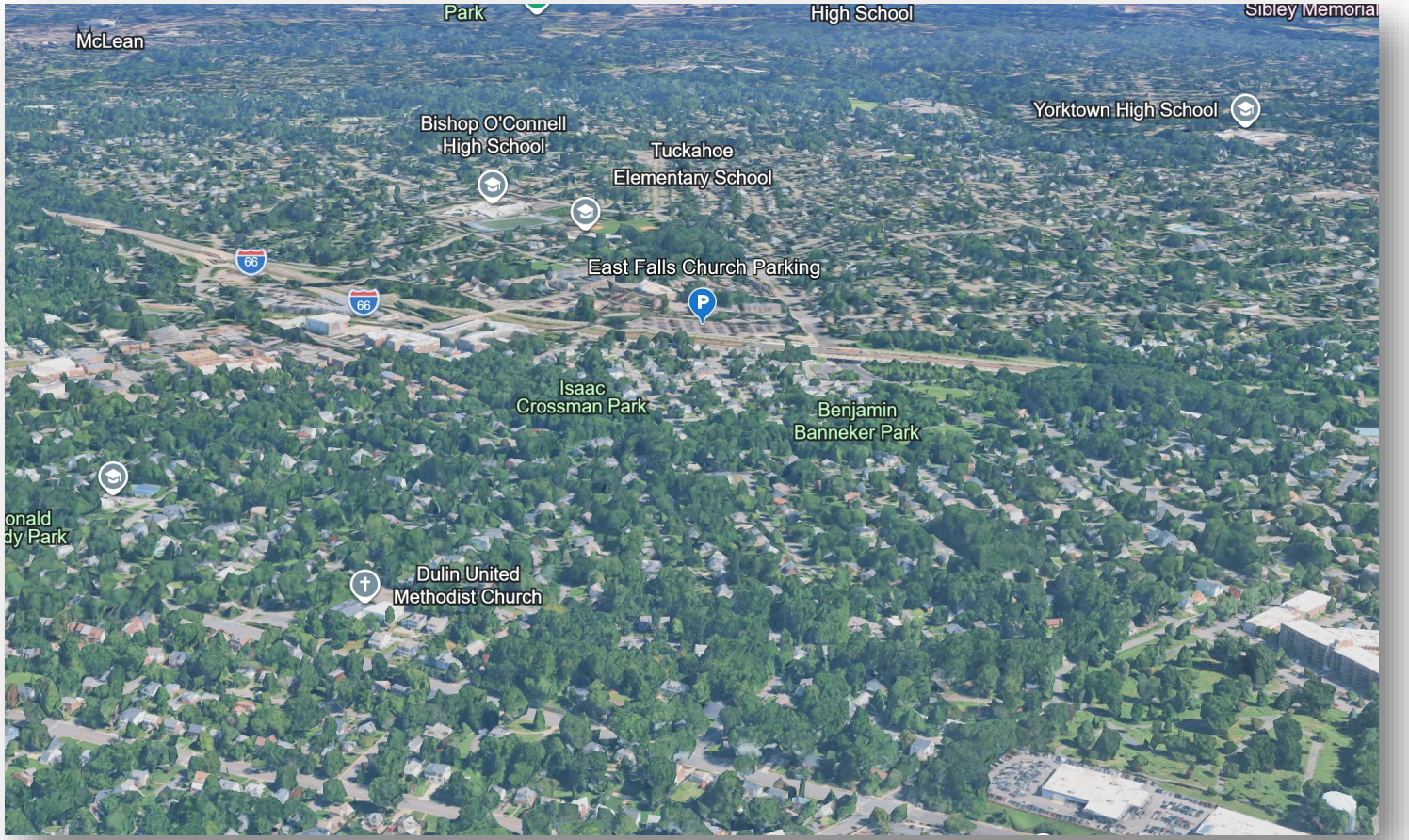
Average Weekday Utilization

Currently

$4.95/day

Concept

$7/day



Picture: Google Maps Satellite View

Non-Rider Parking Rate Proposal

Current Pricing: Prices for customers using Metro parking garages but not travelling on Metro Rail range $3.00 to $10.00, depending on the location of the parking facility.

Concept Pricing: Baseline non-rider rate of $10 with higher non-rider rates up to $15 at lots with especially high utilization, non-rider usage, or high equivalent nearby parking prices.

Customer Impact: Increases lot availability for customer parking, no change to customer rates.

Adjust Non-Rider Parking Rates

Fare Change: Baseline non-rider rate of $10 with higher rates at lots with especially high utilization, non-rider usage, or high equivalent nearby parking prices
Change in Revenue: $2.3 million
Change in Ridership: N/A
Change in Non-Rider Usage: (0.4M)

Board delegated authority to implement non-rider rates to General Manager