



RESOLUTION NO. R2010-22

Acceleration of Link and ST Express Senior/Disabled Fare Rate and Structure Change

MEETING:	DATE:	TYPE OF ACTION:	STAFF CONTACT:	PHONE:
Executive	10/7/10	Recommendation to Board	Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director	(206) 398-5239
Operations and Administration	10/21/10	Recommendation to Board	Brian Brooke, Policy & Development Manager	(206) 398-5229
Board	10/28/10	Final Action		

PROPOSED ACTION

1) Establish a flat-rate fare structure and a fare rate of \$0.75 for the Senior/Disabled fare category on Link, 2) establish an in-county fare structure and a fare rate of \$0.75 for the Senior/Disabled fare category on ST Express, and 3) amend Resolution No. R2010-11 Attachment A to reflect the change to coincide with a proposed King County Metro fare adjustment.

KEY FEATURES

- This action achieves consistency in bus and light rail fares and fare media for the Senior/Disabled fare category for in-county and local service on Sound Transit, Community Transit, and King County Metro (KCM); and ensures that monthly passes purchased for the Senior/Disabled fare category in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties fully cover local fares on ST Express and Link.
- The proposed changes coordinate with a proposal by King County to establish a flat \$0.75 fare and a \$27 monthly pass for reduced fare riders on Metro bus service effective as early as January 1, 2011. The King County Council is expected to take action on this proposal in October 2010.
- If the Sound Transit Board establishes these changes, they could be implemented as early as January 1, 2011, rather than the currently scheduled date of June 1, 2011.
- Advancing the implementation date by a maximum of five months results in a ridership gain of 13,375 boardings and an estimated net fare revenue loss of \$80,600.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Aligns the Senior/Disabled fare category on Link and in-county ST Express with local transit partners and simplifies fare payment for reduced fare customers using multiple transit systems and modes.

FISCAL INFORMATION

There is no action outside of the Board-adopted budget; there are no contingency funds required, no subarea impacts or funding required from other parties other than what is already assumed in the financial plan.

SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

Not applicable for this action.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT WORKFORCE PROFILE

Not applicable for this action.

BACKGROUND for PROPOSED ACTION

Link light rail

KCM issues an unlimited ride monthly or annual pass for reduced fare riders that is designed for use only on KCM service, however, Sound Transit accepts that pass for full fare on Link to insure uninterrupted transit availability for customers who traditionally purchase that pass for local transit service. The King County Executive has proposed that this special reduced-fare pass be discontinued and be replaced by a regional pass with a face value of \$0.75. The proposal also includes maintaining the KCM reduced cash fare of \$0.75.

Under the King County Executive's proposal, the \$0.75 regional pass would not fully cover the fare for longer-distance trips on Link until June 1, 2011 when the Link fare becomes a flat \$0.75. Through June 2011, Sound Transit customers would be required to pay an additional amount to supplement the pass.

Sound Transit's intent is to provide for seamless transit availability and a simplified fare structure. Sound Transit's existing schedule eliminates distanced-based reduced fares on Link up to five months later than the King County Executive's proposal. Implementing Sound Transit's proposed fare structure and rate change would achieve regional consistency.

Accelerating the fare change for the Senior/Disabled fare category on Link by up to five months, would result in an estimated loss of up to \$27,300 through May and an estimated ridership gain of up to 2,875 boardings.

ST Express Bus

Accelerating the fare change of ST Express is recommended in order to maintain consistent fares on ST Express and Link and to minimize the number and frequency of fares changes reduce fare riders will have to adjust in 2011. Accelerating the fare change for the Senior/Disabled fare category on ST Express by up to five months, results in an estimated loss of up to \$54,300 and an estimated ridership gain of up to 10,500 boardings.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Jl 9/24/2010

PRIOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Resolution No. R2010-11 - Adopted new fare rates and fare structures for ST Express bus and Link light rail and superseded Resolution No. R2009-01 and Resolution No. R2005-05.

Resolution No. R2010-10 - Adopted a Fare Policy and superseded Resolution No. R99-2-2, Resolution No. R2005-05, Resolution No. R2007-06, and Motion No. M2004-53.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

A delay of Board action beyond October 2010 could delay any possible fare changes until a later service change date resulting in a temporary period where senior and disabled riders on Link would be required to pay an upgrade when using the local transit pass purchased from KCM.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A Title VI analysis of environmental equity was issued in April 2010 and a public hearing was held in April 2010 for the fare changes adopted by Resolution No. R2010-11. This action to accelerate the timing of two elements of that fare change would have only positive impacts on any effected riders, and has not been subject to a separate public involvement process.

LEGAL REVIEW

JW 10/1/10

RESOLUTION NO. R2010-22

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority to 1) establish a flat-rate fare structure and a fare rate of \$0.75 for the Senior/Disabled fare category on Link, 2) establish an in-county fare structure and a fare rate of \$0.75 for the Senior/Disabled fare category on ST Express, and 3) amend Resolution No. R2010-11 Attachment A to reflect the change to coincide with a proposed King County Metro fare adjustment.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, commonly known as Sound Transit, was formed under RCW Chapters 81.104 and 81.112 for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is authorized to plan, construct, and permanently operate a high-capacity system of transportation infrastructure and services to meet regional public transportation needs in the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in general elections held within the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority district on November 5, 1996 and November 8, 2008, voters approved local funding to implement a regional high-capacity transportation system for the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit charges fares for access to transit services in order cover a portion of Sound Transit's operating expenses as part of the long-term financial plan; and

WHEREAS, RCW 81.112.080 grants a regional transit authority the power to establish fares; and

WHEREAS, the Sound Transit Board establishes fare structures and sets corresponding fare rates for ST Express bus and Link light rail services; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit desires to coordinate fare structures and fare rates with those of regional transit providers within Sound Transit's service area; and

WHEREAS, public input received via public outreach events, email, the Sound Transit website, telephone and a public hearing has been reported to the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that to coincide with a proposed King County Metro fare adjustment:

1) a flat-rate fare structure and a fare rate of \$0.75 for the Senior/Disabled fare category on Link is established,


- 2) an in-county fare structure and a fare rate of \$0.75 for the Senior/Disabled fare category on ST Express is established, and
- 3) Resolution No. R2010-11 Attachment A is amended to reflect the changes.

ADOPTED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on October 28, 2010.



Aaron Reardon
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Marcia Walker
Board Administrator

SOUND TRANSIT

RESOLUTION No. R2010-11

**Attachment A as amended by Resolution No. R2010-22
Effective June 1, 2010**

ST Express Bus Fares

Prior to June 2010	One-zone	Two-zone	Three-zone
Adult	\$1.50	\$2.50	\$3.00
Youth	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$2.50
Senior/Disabled	\$0.50	\$1.25	\$1.50

June 2010	One-zone	Two-zone (in-county)	Intercounty
Adult	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$3.00
Youth	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$2.50
Senior/Disabled	\$0.75	\$1.25	\$1.50

January 1, 2011*	<u>One-zone</u>	<u>Two-zone</u>	<u>Intercounty</u>
<u>Adult</u>	<u>\$2.00</u>	<u>\$2.50</u>	<u>\$3.00</u>
<u>Youth</u>	<u>\$1.00</u>	<u>\$1.75</u>	<u>\$2.50</u>
<u>Senior/Disabled</u>	<u>\$0.75 (bus & Link)</u>		<u>\$1.50</u>

June 2011	In-county	Intercounty
Adult	\$2.50	\$3.50
Youth	\$1.25 (bus & Link)	\$2.50
Senior/Disabled	\$0.75 (bus & Link)	\$1.50

Link Light Rail Fares

	Prior to June 2011	January 1, 2011*	June 2011
Adult	\$1.75 to \$2.50	<u>\$1.75 to \$2.50</u>	\$2.00 to \$2.75
Youth	\$1.25 to \$2.00	<u>\$1.25 to \$2.00</u>	\$1.25 (Link & bus)
Senior/Disabled	\$0.75 to \$1.25	<u>\$0.75</u>	\$0.75 (Link & bus)

* Date subject to change based on action by King County Council