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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MTA'S BASIC CASH FARE INCREASES TO \$1.35 SEPTEMBER 1;
OTHER FARE CHANGES TO AFFECT STUDENT AND DISABLED RIDERS**

MTA's basic cash fare for local bus and train service, which has been \$1.10 for the past six years, increases to \$1.35 starting Thursday, Sept. 1.

Regular monthly passes will no longer be available, though passes will still be sold at discount prices to seniors, K-12 and vocational students, and the disabled, including sight-impaired patrons.

"The 25th of each month is traditionally the first day monthly passes for the coming month are put on sale at our Customer Service Centers," said Franklin White, MTA's chief executive officer. "MTA riders who routinely bought their regular monthly passes beginning the 25th should be aware that they won't be able to buy them any longer.

"We are suggesting, instead, that they buy a bag of 10 tokens for \$9," White added. "Each token provides a one-third discount off the basic fare. It's the best discount now available for former regular monthly pass holders."

White also noted that sight-impaired patrons, who rode MTA buses and trains for free in the past, will now be charged 45 cents a ride if they hold proper identification.

Following is a summary of MTA's new fare structure that takes effect Sept. 1:

BASIC CASH FARE: The old cash fare of \$1.10 changes to \$1.35 for any local bus rider, or any Blue Line passenger traveling in one zone only.

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TRANSFERS: The 25-cent charge for transfers will remain unchanged. Senior and disabled transfers are 10 cents.

ZONE FARES: Until now, zone fares have been paid by passengers riding on any MTA express bus that uses a freeway as part of its regular route. Each additional zone the bus travels through will now cost 50 cents, up from 40 cents. It is possible for a bus patron to travel through up to five additional zones, depending on how far the passenger is going. Seniors and disabled riders will pay 25 cents per zone.

The new fare structure also has assigned three zones to the Metro Blue Line system. One zone boundary is between the Del Amo and Artesia stations; the other is between the Firestone and Florence stations. Blue Line riders entering any portion of the zones will also be required to pay an additional 50 cents for each zone.

Also, northbound Blue Line riders wishing to transfer to the Metro Red Line subway system in downtown Los Angeles may do so at no additional charge. Riders who transfer to the Red Line should keep their northbound Blue Line ticket handy in case of inspection.

SENIOR FARES: A rider is eligible for a senior discount if he/she is between 62 and 65 years old and not employed full time, or is 65 and older and has a DMV Senior Citizen or a Medicare identification card. Seniors may pay a cash fare of 45 cents, or purchase a monthly pass for \$12. The pass may be used, along with the proper identification, on any MTA bus or train.

Senior zone fare charge is 25 cents per zone; transfers are 10 cents.

DISABLED/BLIND FARES: To be eligible for MTA's special disabled fare, a rider must hold one of the following: a Los Angeles County Transit Operators Association (LACTOA) or a current disabled ID card issued by another transit

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agency, with photo. Disabled or sight-impaired riders pay the same fares as seniors -- 45 cents cash fare, or \$12 for a monthly pass, 25 cents for zone charges.

STUDENT FARES (K-12): To qualify for student fares, a rider must be enrolled in any accredited elementary, junior or senior high school in Los Angeles County, and must not be more than 20 years of age. Students must obtain a student ID card to be eligible for the \$20 monthly pass. Otherwise, students pay the regular \$1.35 cash fare.

COLLEGE/VOCATIONAL STUDENT FARES: To qualify for the \$30 monthly pass available to college and vocational students, a rider must be enrolled in an accredited school of learning in Los Angeles County with a minimum of 12 units. Cash fare is \$1.35.

TOKENS: Token prices remain unchanged, thus offering the best discount available in the MTA system. They may be purchased at any of 460 retail outlets and at MTA Customer Service Centers throughout Los Angeles County for \$9 for a bag of 10. Anyone is eligible to use tokens, which offer a one-third discount off the basic cash fare.

FARES NOT CHANGING: Metro Red Line fares remain at 25 cents; transfers for all modes remain at 25 cents (10 cents for senior/disabled); tokens remain \$9 for a bag of 10; senior/disabled cash fares remain at 45 cents.

For information on the new fare structure, MTA passengers may call (800) COMMUTE, (213) 626-4455, (310) 639-6800 or (818) 246-2593.

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