

MTA Board Schedules April 12 Public Hearing to Consider Fare Restructuring Proposals

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The MTA Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to consider restructuring Metro Bus and Metro Rail fares, the first adjustment in more than eight years, at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12. The hearing will be held in the third floor MTA Board room at MTA headquarters, One Gateway Plaza, next to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles.

No decision will be made at the hearing. Later this spring, MTA directors will consider accepting, rejecting or modifying staff's proposed fare proposals. If they change the fares, they will not take effect until after Nov. 1, 2003.

MTA is considering two staff proposals. In both proposals staff is recommending that the MTA cash fare, currently \$1.35, be lowered by 10 cents to \$1.25 to make the fare structure more equitable. MTA estimates that 24 percent of Metro customers pay cash but contribute 40 percent of the farebox revenue. Regular pass users, who can ride unlimited trips, account for 39 percent of Metro riders but contribute just 30 percent of the farebox revenue.

Under one option there would be no change in fares charged seniors, disabled persons and students. Elimination of tokens and transfers to be replaced by a new \$3 day pass is another staff recommendation.

MTA staff is recommending restructuring fares to raise more revenue to offset potential operating deficits that could reach \$1.4 billion during the next 10 years. Today Metro Bus and Metro Rail riders pay for only 29 percent of the cost of operating Metro service. Taxpayers heavily subsidize the rest.

By comparison, the four other largest transit properties in the United States – New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Washington recover, on average, 47 percent of their operating costs from the farebox.

Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the upcoming public hearing and provide testimony. Persons unable to attend the hearing may submit written testimony postmarked through April 30, 2003. Correspondence should be addressed to:

LACMTA, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2932, Attn: Michele Jackson - 2004 Fare Adjustments.

MTA-042

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

A public hearing will be held by the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) on Saturday April 12, 2003 at 10 am in the MTA's Headquarters Building, located at One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles. The

hearing is being held in conformance with federal public hearing requirements outlined in Section 9 (e) (3) (H) of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, as amended, and public hearing guidelines adopted by the MTA's Board of Directors in 1993, as amended.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public testimony on possible adjustments to MTA's fare structure. These changes are necessary to finance bus and rail operations in Fiscal Year 2004 and are consistent with those permitted by a federal Consent Decree affecting MTA's bus operations. Listed below are the proposals now under consideration:

PROPOSED FARE MODIFICATIONS *

CASH FARES	CURRENT FARE	OPTION A FARE	OPTION B FARE
Cash	\$1.35	\$1.25	\$1.25
Tokens	.90	N.A.	N.A.
Transfers	.25	N.A.	N.A.
Senior Cash Fare	.45	.60	(no change) .45
Express Fare	\$1.85 - \$3.85	\$1.75 - \$2.25	\$1.75 - \$2.25
PASS FARES	CURRENT FARE	OPTION A FARE	OPTION B FARE
Weekly	\$11.00	\$14.00	\$14.00
Semi-Monthly	21.00	27.00	27.00
Monthly	42.00	52.00	52.00
Senior	12.00	15.00	(no change) 12.00
Disabled	12.00	15.00	(no change) 12.00
Student K-12	20.00	24.00	(no change) 20.00
College/Vocational	30.00	36.00	(no change) 30.00
Day Pass	N.A.	3.00	3.00
Zone	4 @ \$15.00	2@ \$15.00	2@ \$15.00
EST. IMPACT	CURRENT FARE	OPTION A FARE	OPTION B FARE
Avg. Fare/Boarding	\$.56	\$.66	\$.64
Impact on Boardings	N.A.	-3.2%	-2.5%
Increase in Fare Rev.	N.A.	\$37,000,000	\$33,000,000
FAP* Rev. Increase	N.A.	\$13,000,000	\$12,000,000
Total Rev. Increase	N.A.	\$50,000,000	\$45,000,000
Farebox Recovery Ratio	28.9%	33.1%	32.7%

* The Day Pass will replace transfers and tokens. FAP increase occurs after two years.

Fare changes consistent with these proposals may be approved in whole or in part later this year. Approved changes would become effective January 1, 2004. Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend the upcoming public hearing and provide testimony. Persons unable to attend the hearing may submit written testimony postmarked through April 30, 2003. Correspondence should be addressed to: LACMTA One Gateway Plaza Los Angeles, CA 90012-2932 Attn: Michele Jackson - 2004 Fare Adjustments

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