



NEWS

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MTA BUS AND TRAIN FARES INCREASE TOMORROW; BASE FARE TO BE \$1.35, MONTHLY PASSES \$49

The first change in MTA's fare structure in more than six years takes effect tomorrow, February 1, as local bus and train fares increase by a quarter from \$1.10 to \$1.35, and monthly pass prices increase from \$42 to \$49.

The 90-cent discount token, however, remains unaffected by the new fare structure, and remains the best transportation bargain available. Tokens are sold in bags of 10 for \$9 at more than 400 locations throughout Los Angeles County. The cost of a transfer also stays the same at 25 cents (10 cents for disabled, seniors, and sight impaired).

The increase, approved January 25 by the MTA Board of Directors, is a modification of the fare structure approved last July, originally to have been implemented on September 1, 1994.

"MTA was losing \$4 million each month we weren't allowed to raise the fares," said Michael Antonovich, MTA's chairman and a Los Angeles County supervisor. "Until the trial can take place later this year, we are satisfied that this arrangement in the meantime will put us in a little better financial shape than we were with no fare increase at all." A pre-trial conference to resolve a lawsuit over the fare increase is scheduled for April 17.

Other elements of the modified fare structure include raising the express charge on buses to 50 cents per zone, and express stamps go to \$15 per month. Zone charges on the Blue Line, part of the original fare proposal, will not be implemented, meaning that only the base fare of \$1.35 or one 90-cent token will be charged.

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Monthly passes for students from kindergarten through 12th grade increase to \$20 per month, while college and vocational student passes will be \$30 per month. Seniors, disabled and sight impaired passes go to \$12 per month, while express charges increase to 25 cents.

MTA Chief Executive Officer Franklin White strongly urged the use of tokens, which offer a one-third savings off the regular \$1.35 fare. "Any MTA bus or train rider can use the tokens, which will save 45 cents each time you board," White said. "If used regularly, the savings can be substantial. For example, someone taking the bus or train to work every weekday can save up to \$4.50 a week just by using tokens."

Tokens and passes are available at all MTA Customer Service Centers, as well as many supermarkets, check cashing outlets, and other retail businesses. To learn the location of the nearest token outlet, call (800) COMMUTE.

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