

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Public Works *MAA*

BOARD AGENDA # 9:10 a.m.

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE June 24, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Introduce and Waive the First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Transit Fares for Stanislaus Regional Transit (StaRT)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the introduction and waive the first reading of an ordinance to amend transit fares for Stanislaus Regional Transit (StaRT).
2. Find and determine that the proposed ordinance is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Utility Code, Section 2100 et seq.).

FISCAL IMPACT:

Transit fares will offset and reduce the need for other public funding sources for transit operations and enable the StaRT bus system to meet its State-mandated farebox requirements. If the transit fares are amended as recommended, the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 revenue for StaRT is estimated to be \$388,918 of which \$59,125 will be generated by the proposed increase. Furthermore, the proposed increase is projected to ensure that StaRT's farebox ratio, or the ratio of fare revenues collected to operating expenses, exceeds the 10% State requirement.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-487

On motion of Supervisor Grover, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini and Chairman Mayfield

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION: Introduced and waived the first reading of Ordinance C.S. 1041

* Please note that Exhibit "A" of the ordinance contains a typographical error regarding the Route 70 Senior/Disabled Fare proposed increase. The correct proposed increase is \$0.50

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No. ORD-55-H-3

Approval to Introduce and Waive the First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Transit Fares for Stanislaus Regional Transit (StaRT)

DISCUSSION:

The Public Works Transit Division (Transit Division) is recommending that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors introduce and waive the first reading of an ordinance to amend the ordinance for transit fares for the County’s public transportation system, Stanislaus Regional Transit (“StaRT”). The proposed ordinance will include a system wide fare increase for StaRT Fixed Route, Shuttle, Runabout, Dial-a-Ride and Medivan services. The fare structure is broken into Fixed Stop (Fixed Route and Runabout), Runabout (Intercity Dial-a-Ride), Intracity Dial-a-Ride, Medivan and Intersystem and Intrasystem Transfers categories.

The proposed changes to the current fare structure are:

Fixed Stop Service (Fixed Route and Runabout Services)	Existing	Proposed	Increase
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$0.25
Student	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$0.25
Ticket Book (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$18.00	\$22.50	\$4.50
Senior/Disabled	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$3.00
Bus Card (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$18.00	\$22.50	\$4.50
Student	\$17.00	\$21.25	\$4.20
31-Day Pass (Effective August 2009)			
General Fare	NA	\$45.00	NA
Student	NA	\$40.00	NA
Senior/Disable	NA	\$30.00	NA
Route 70 (Modesto to Merced)			
General Fare	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$0.50
Senior/Disabled	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$1.00
Runabout & Shuttle (Intercity Dial-a-Ride) Services			
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$0.50
Student	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$0.50
Senior/Disabled	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$0.50

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Ticket Book (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$10.00
Senior/Disabled	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$ 7.00
Zone Fare for Service Outside Service Area			
	\$1.00	\$1.50 plus Regular fare	\$0.50
Intracity Dial-a-Ride	Existing	Proposed	Increase
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$1.15	\$1.25	\$0.10
Student	\$1.15	\$1.25	\$0.10
Senior/Disabled	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$0.25
Ticket Book (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$23.00	\$25.00	\$2.00
Senior/Disabled	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$5.00
Zone Fare for Service Outside Service Area			
	\$1.00	\$1.50 plus Regular fare	\$0.50
Medivan			
One-Way Ride	\$ 7.50	\$ 9.00	\$1.50
Round Trip	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$3.00
Attendant (one-way)	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00	\$1.00
Attendant (round-trip)	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00	\$2.00
Intersystem and Intrasystem Transfer	\$0.25	\$0.25	Unchanged

The proposed ordinance, if adopted will update the StaRT system fare structure. The last fare increase occurred in July 2005. The fare changes will become effective August 4, 2008.

The Transit Division is proposing a new fare for a 31-Day Pass for Fixed Stop services. The pass is proposed to start in August 2009 after fareboxes have been installed in StaRT Fixed Route buses. The Transit Division is also proposing to raise the age from four years or younger to five years or younger for a child to be able to ride free with a paid fare. The Transit Division is also proposing to increase the number of children who can ride free with a paid fare from one child to two children per paid fare. The purpose of the age increase and number of children who can ride free is to promote the use of StaRT services by families.

The Fixed Stop services include Routes 10, 15, 40, 45, 60, the Waterford/Modesto Runabout and the Waterford and Newman Dial-a-Ride Fixed Stop services into Oakdale and Patterson, respectively.

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The Runabout Intercity Curb-to-Curb Dial-a-Ride service includes the Waterford/Modesto Runabout and the Shuttle services are the Turlock/Modesto shuttle and the Eastside Shuttle. The Intracity Dial-a-Ride services category is for local Curb-to-Curb Dial-a-Rides and includes Patterson, Newman and Waterford Dial-a-Rides. The Medivan service is the County's non-emergency medical transportation service to Bay Area medical facilities.

The Intersystem and Intrasystem Transfers enable passengers on the StaRT system to transfer to and from other transportation services within Stanislaus County at a discounted rate.

Under the Transportation Development Act, the State legislation that provides funds for the County Transit System, a mandated fare box ratio is required. A farebox ratio is the ratio of fare revenues collected to operating expenses. For the County, as a non-urban transit operator, a 10% farebox ratio is required. Failure to maintain this 10% ratio can result in the loss of Local Transportation Funds, the primary source of transit operation funds.

As contractor fuel, labor and insurance costs have increased, despite increased ridership, operating costs have increased at a greater rate than fare revenues. Without a fare increase, staff projects the farebox ratio would drop below the 10% standard in Fiscal Year 2008-2009. The ordinance's adoption will enable the StaRT system to increase fare revenues by an estimated \$59,125 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and will ensure the StaRT transit system exceeds the 10% standard. Staff projects this fare increase, contingent on fuel and insurance costs, should enable the StaRT transit system to exceed the 10% standard through Fiscal Year 2009-2010.

To ensure continued compliance with the State standard beyond Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the Public Works Transit Division proposes to continue the program whereby each service type, Fixed Stop or Demand Response, will be expected to maintain a farebox standard. For Fixed Stop services, the standard will be 15% and for Demand Response services (Roundabout, Shuttle, Dial-a-Ride and Medivan) a 10% farebox standard.

Under this program, if projections show the Fixed Stop farebox ratio is:

1. Greater than 3% below standard, fares may increase \$0.10
2. Greater than 2% below standard, fares may increase \$0.05
3. Less than 2% below standard would not change the fares and staff would keep an eye on the farebox ratio for another year

Under this program, if projections show the Demand Response farebox ratio is:

1. Greater than 3% below standard, fares may increase \$0.10 for Runabouts, \$0.05 for local Dial-a-Rides and \$0.50 for the Medivan.
2. Greater than 2% below standard, fares may increase \$0.05
3. Less than 2% below standard would not change the fares and staff would keep an eye on the farebox ratio for another year.

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For 31-Day Passes, 20-ticket books and 20-Ride cards, increases would be based on the percentage of the respective cash fare increase.

The farebox ratios for each service type would be reviewed annually for compliance and fare adjustments made as necessary to ensure compliance with the adopted standards.

The Transit Division did extensive outreach for the proposed fare increase. The Division held an informational Open House on June 10 at 1010 10th Street, sent press releases to all County newspapers, did public service announcements on local radio stations, had a story on a Sacramento television station, discussed the increases with the StanCOG Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) and had information on all StaRT buses and the StaRT web site. County residents were able to submit comments through the Open House, the StaRT web site and the StaRT reservation and Customer Comment telephone lines. No comments were received at the Open House and three comments had been received through the StaRT Customer Comment line and web site. One request was for information about the increases and other two comments expressed concerns about the increases.

If the proposed fare structure is adopted, the StaRT fare structure will remain very affordable when compared with other local intercity and intracity public transportation services.

POLICY ISSUES:

The Board of Supervisors should determine if this item is consistent with its priority of striving for a well-planned infrastructure system.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this action.

BC:jg

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AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO FARES FOR TRANSIT SERVICE

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS, ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Fares for transit services provided by Stanislaus Regional Transit ("StaRT") are amended and adopted as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days from and after the date of its passage and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage it shall be published once, with the names of the members voting for and against the same, in the Modesto Bee, a newspaper published in the County of Stanislaus, State of California.

Upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____, the foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, this _____ day of _____, 2008, by the following called vote:

AYES: Supervisors:

NOES: Supervisors:

ABSENT: Supervisors:

Thomas W. Mayfield
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Stanislaus, State of California

ATTEST:
CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Stanislaus, State of California

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN DOERING
County Counsel

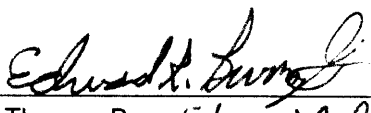
By: 
Thomas Boze *Edward R. Burroughs*
Deputy County Counsel
Assist

EXHIBIT A**Fixed Stop Service (Fixed
Route and Runabout Services)**

	Existing	Proposed	Increase
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$0.25
Student	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$0.25
Ticket Book (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$18.00	\$22.50	\$4.50
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Bus Card (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$18.00	\$22.50	\$4.50
Student	\$17.00	\$21.25	\$4.20
31-Day Pass (Effective August 2009)			
General Fare	NA	\$45.00	NA
Student	NA	\$40.00	NA
Senior/Disable	NA	\$30.00	NA
Route 70 (Modesto to Merced)			
General Fare	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$0.50
Senior/Disabled	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$1.00
Runabout & Shuttle (Intercity Dial-a-Ride) Services			
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$0.50
Student	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$0.50
Senior/Disabled	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$0.50
Ticket Book (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$10.00
Senior/Disabled	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$ 7.00
Zone Fare for Service Outside Service Area	\$1.00	\$1.50 plus Regular fare	\$0.50

EXHIBIT A

Fixed Stop Service (Fixed Route and Runabout Services)

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Runabout & Shuttle (Intercity Dial-a-Ride) Services

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Zone Fare for Service Outside Service Area	\$1.00	\$1.50 plus Regular fare	\$0.50

Intracity Dial-a-Ride	Existing	Proposed	Increase
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$1.15	\$1.25	\$0.10
Student	\$1.15	\$1.25	\$0.10
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Medivan			
One-Way Ride	\$ 7.50	\$ 9.00	\$1.50
Round Trip	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$3.00
Attendant (one-way)	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00	\$1.00
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Intersystem and Intrasystem Transfer	\$0.25	\$0.25	Unchanged