

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

DEPT: Public Works *mlw*

BOARD AGENDA # 9:05 a.m. (b)

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE May 10, 2011

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

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

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Conduct a Public Hearing to introduce 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, the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 fare revenues are estimated to be \$462,445 of which \$86,000 will be generated by the proposed increases.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2011-288

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini, and Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION: INTRODUCED AND WAIVED THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE C.S. 1099

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No. ORD-55-N-09

Public Hearing 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 seeking approval to amend the ordinance for transit fares for Stanislaus Regional Transit (StaRT), the County's intercity public transportation system. The proposed ordinance, if adopted for August 2011, will update the StaRT system fare structure. The last fare increase occurred in August 2008.

The reason for the fare increase is to ensure the bus system is compliant with the State-mandated farebox efficiency requirements. This is required under the Transportation Development Act, the State legislation that provides funds for the County Transit System. 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.

Through increased ridership, StaRT has been able to comply with its State-mandated farebox ratio and has been the only County transportation system to not request an exemption from farebox requirements and/or request a change in farebox ratio requirements. The Cities of Ceres, Turlock and Modesto and the Riverbank-Oakdale Transit Authority have all requested either an exemption or a change in required fare box ratio.

However, as fuel costs, labor and insurance costs have increased, despite the increased ridership, operating costs have increased at a greater rate than fare revenues. Under the current fare structure, staff projects the farebox ratio could possibly drop below the 10% standard in Fiscal Year 2011-2012 unless adjusted. The ordinance's adoption will enable the StaRT system to increase fare revenues by an estimated \$86,000 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 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 2012-2013.

The proposed ordinance will include a fare increase for StaRT Fixed Route, Runabout, Shuttle, Dial-a-Ride and Medivan services. The fare structure is broken into Fixed Stop (Fixed Route and Runabout), Runabout and Shuttle (Intercity Dial-a-Ride), Intracity Dial-a-Ride, Medivan and Intersystem and Intrasystem Transfers categories.

The Fixed Stop services include Routes 10, 15, 40, 45, 60, and the Waterford/Modesto Runabout. The Runabout Intercity Curb-to-Curb Dial-a-Ride service includes the Waterford/Modesto Runabout, and the Shuttle services are the Turlock/Modesto and Eastside Shuttles. 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.

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

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	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$0.25
Student	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$1.00	\$1.00	unchanged
Ticket Book (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$22.50	\$27.00	\$4.50
Senior/Disabled	\$18.00	\$18.00	unchanged
Bus Card (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$22.50	\$27.00	\$4.50
Student	\$21.25	\$25.50	\$4.25
Senior/Disabled (New)		\$18.00	New
31-Day Pass			
General Fare	\$45.00	\$45.00	unchanged
Student	\$40.00	\$40.00	unchanged
Senior/Disabled	\$30.00	\$30.00	unchanged
Route 70 (Modesto to Merced)			
General Fare	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$0.25
Runabout & Shuttle (Intercity Dial-a-Ride Services)	Existing	Proposed	Increase
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$0.25
Student	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$0.25
Zone Fare for Service Outside Service Area	\$1.50 plus Regular fare	\$1.50 plus Regular fare	unchanged
Intracity Dial-a-Ride			
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$0.25
Student	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$0.25

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

Zone Fare for Service Outside Service Area	\$1.50 plus Regular fare	\$1.50 plus Regular fare	unchanged
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Medivan

One-Way Ride	\$ 9.00	\$10.00	\$1.00
Round Trip	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$2.00
Attendant (one-way)	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00	\$1.00
Attendant (round-trip)	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.00	\$2.00

Intersystem and Intrasystem Transfers

\$0.25	Free	(\$0.25) decrease
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New \$5.00 and \$10.00 cash cards will be sold and may be used on all StaRT services for all fare types.

To encourage increased usage of the more cost-effective StaRT fixed stop services, there is no proposed cost increase for the Senior and Person with a Disability fares on the fixed stop services. For passenger savings and convenience, staff has also eliminated the cost of transfers between services. The decreased revenue from the sale of transfers, an estimated \$9,280, will be backfilled by revenues from the proposed fare increases of \$86,000.

The proposed StaRT fares, if adopted, will be lower than most San Joaquin and Merced County intercity fares and comparable to other local intracity fares. As shown in Exhibit B, the StaRT fare structure will remain very affordable when compared with other local intercity and intracity public transportation services.

The farebox ratios for each service type will continue to be monitored annually for compliance and future fare adjustments made as necessary to ensure compliance with the adopted standards.

POLICY ISSUES:

This item is consistent with the Board’s priority of A Well Planned Infrastructure System. The fare increase will ensure compliance with the State-mandated efficiency standards. This item is also consistent with the Board’s priority of A Healthy Community by providing necessary funding for local transit services provided by the County’s public transit system, StaRT, to reduce single occupancy vehicle miles traveled and improve valley air quality.

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

STAFFING IMPACT:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this action.

CONTACT PERSON:

Brad Christian, Public Works Transit Manager. Telephone: 209-525-4130.

BC:lc

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ORDINANCE NO. C.S. _____

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 _____, 2011, by the following called vote:

AYES: Supervisors:

NOES: Supervisors:

ABSENT: Supervisors:

Dick Monteith
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

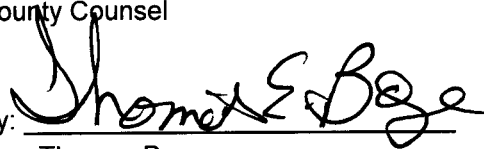
By: 
Thomas Boze
Deputy County Counsel

Exhibit A

NOTE: \$5.00 and \$10.00 cash cards are available for use on all StaRT services and for all fare types.

FARE STRUCTURE FOR STANISLAUS REGIONAL TRANSIT ("StaRT")

Fare Type	Cash Fare	20-Ticket Book	20-Ride Bus Card	31-Day Pass
Fixed Stop (Fixed Route and Runabout)				
General Fare	\$1.50	\$27.00	\$27.00	\$45.00
Senior/ Person w/ Disability	\$1.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$30.00
Student	\$1.50	NA	\$25.50	\$40.00
Runabout (Intercity Dial-a-Ride)				
General Fare	\$2.75	NA	NA	NA
Senior/ Person w/ Disability	\$2.25	NA	NA	NA
Student	\$2.75	NA	NA	NA
Zone Fare for outside Service Area	Regular fare plus \$1.50			
Intracity Dial-a-Ride				
General Fare	\$1.50	NA	NA	NA
Senior/ Person w/ Disability	\$1.25	NA	NA	NA
Student	\$1.50	NA	NA	NA
Zone Fare for outside Service Area	Regular fare plus \$1.50			
Route 70 to Merced				
General Fare	\$2.75			
Senior/ Person w/ Disability	\$2.25			
Medivan				
All Passengers		\$20.00 - Round trip		
		\$10.00 - One-way trip		
		Attendants \$3.00 each way		
Intersystem and Intrasystem Transfers				
All passengers		Free		

Effective August 2011

Exhibit B

CASH FARE COMPARISONS

Fare Type	StaRT Proposed Fares (Intercity)	Modesto (Intracity)	Turlock (Intracity)	Ceres (Intracity)	ROTA Riverbank/Oakdale Transit Authority (Intercity)	San Joaquin Regional Transit (Intercity)	Merced Cnty (Intercity)
FIXED STOP SERVICES							
General Fare	\$1.50 (Rt. 70 Merced - \$2.75)	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$2.00	NA	\$2.00	\$2.00 - \$10.00 *
Senior	\$1.00 (Rt. 70 Merced - \$2.25)	\$0.60	\$0.75	\$1.50	NA	\$2.00	\$2.00 - \$10.00 *
Person w/Disability	\$1.00 (Rt. 70 Merced - \$2.25)	\$0.60	\$0.75	\$1.50	NA	\$2.00	\$2.00 - \$10.00 *
Student	\$1.50 (Rt. 70 Merced - \$2.75)	\$1.00	\$1.50	\$2.00	NA	\$2.00	\$2.00 - \$10.00 *
RUNABOUT / INTERCITY DIAL-A-RIDE (curb-to-curb) SERVICES							
General Fare	\$2.75	NA	NA	NA	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$2.00 - \$10.00 *
Senior	\$2.25				\$1.75	\$3.00	\$2.00 - \$10.00 *
Person w/Disability	\$2.25				\$1.75	\$3.00	\$2.00 - \$10.00 *
Student	\$2.75				\$1.75	\$3.00	\$2.00 - \$10.00 *
Zone Fare *	\$1.50 plus regular fare				\$5.00		
INTRACITY DIAL-A-RIDE (curb-to-curb) SERVICES							
General Fare	\$1.50	\$2.50 after 6:00 pm	\$2.50	\$2.15	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$2.00
Senior	\$1.25	\$2.50 ADA until 6:00 pm	\$2.50	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$3.00	\$2.00
Person w/Disability	\$1.25	\$2.50 ADA until 6:00 pm	\$2.50	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$3.00	\$2.00
Student	\$1.50	\$2.50 after 6:00 pm	\$2.50	\$2.15	\$1.75	\$3.00	\$2.00
Zone Fare *	\$1.50 plus regular fare		\$3.50		\$5.00		
MEDIVAN							
All Passengers	\$20.00 Round Trip	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	\$10.00 One-Way Trip						
	Attendants \$3.00 each way						
TRANSFERS							
All passengers	Free	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.50	Not Available

NOTE: * Zone fare is charged for service outside the normal service area.

Various fare discounts are available from all operators through the use of passes, bus cards or ticket books

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 24, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors will meet in the Basement Chambers, 1010 10th St., Modesto, CA, to consider the adoption and the waiving of the second reading of the following ordinances:

- A. Ordinance C.S. 1100 establishes new and amends existing fees for the Department of Parks and Recreation (for further information, contact Sonya Harrigfeld, Director of Parks and Recreation, at (209) 525-6750, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit the offices at 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Modesto, CA).
- B. Ordinance C.S. 1099 establishes a new fare for a Senior/Disabled bus card and amends existing transit fares for Stanislaus Regional Transit (StaRT), the County's intercity public transportation system (for further information, contact Brad Christian, Stanislaus County Public Works Department, Transit Division at (209) 525-7538 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or visit the offices at 1010 10th Street, Suite 4204, Modesto, CA).

ADDITIONAL NOTICE IS GIVEN that the proposed Ordinances and Fee Schedules are available for review in the Clerk of the Board Office, 1010 10th Street, Suite 6700, Modesto, CA.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATED: May 10, 2011

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



BY:

Elizabeth A. King, Assistant Clerk of the Board

**DECLARATION OF PUBLICATION
(C.C.P. S2015.5)**

**COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident Of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of Eighteen years, and not a party to or interested In the above entitle matter. I am a printer and Principal clerk of the publisher of **THE MODESTO BEE**, printed in the City of **MODESTO**, County of **STANISLAUS**, State of California, daily, for which said newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of **STANISLAUS**, State of California, Under the date of **February 25, 1951, Action No. 46453**; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each issue there of on the following dates, to wit:

May 17, 2011

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury That the foregoing is true and correct and that This declaration was executed at

MODESTO, California on

May 17th, 2011

(By Electronic Facsimile Signature)

Marie Dieckmann

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ADDITIONAL NOTICE IS GIVEN that the proposed Ordinances and Fee Schedules are available for review in the Clerk of the Board Office, 1010 10th Street, Suite 6700, Modesto, CA.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. DATED: May 10, 2011. ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California; BY: Elizabeth A. King, Assistant Clerk of the Board
Pub Dates May 17, 2011

Fare Increase Proposal for Stanislaus Regional Transit *StaRT*



May 10, 2011



PowerPoint Presentation

Reasons for the Fare Increase

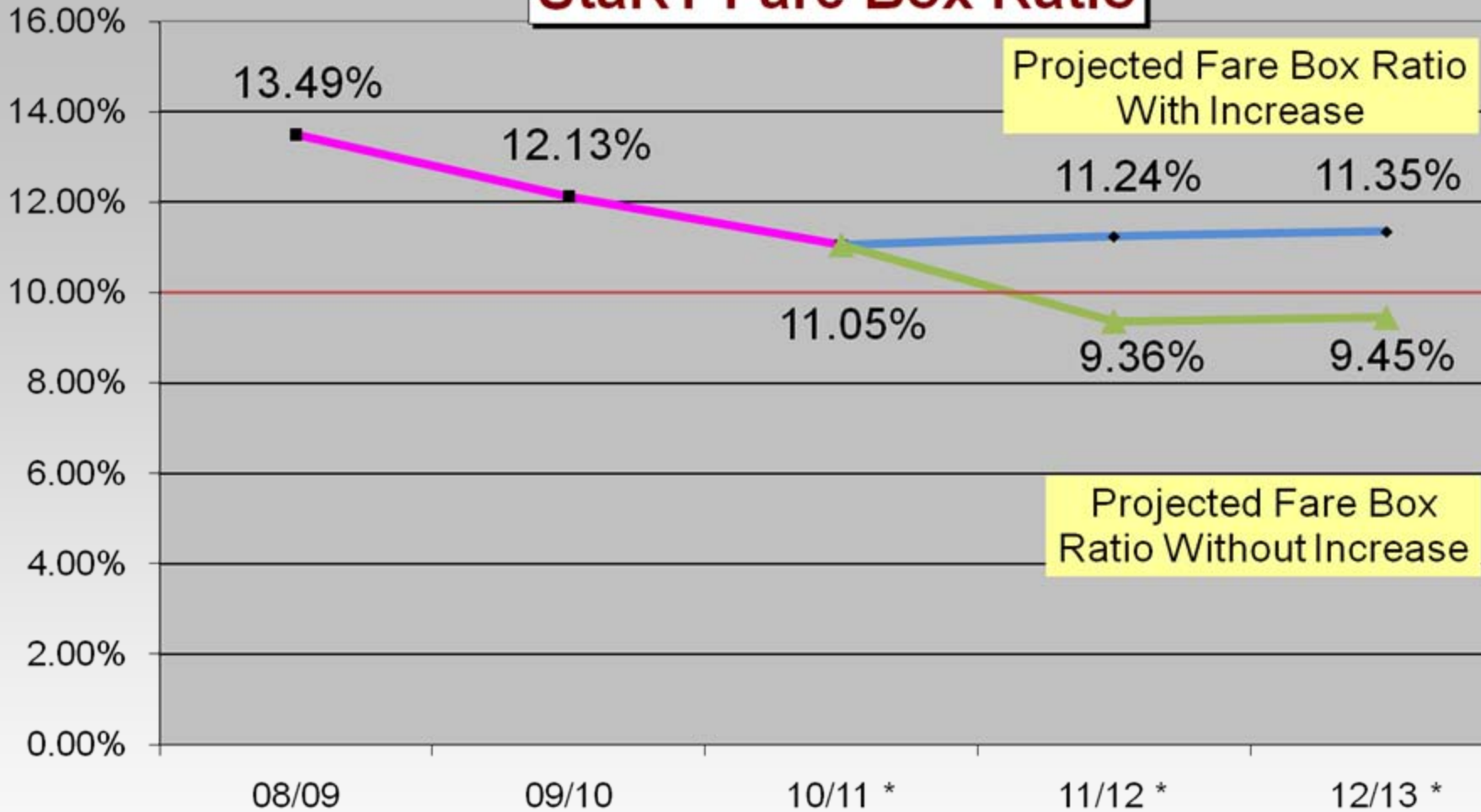
Primary reasons –

- Increase in contracted costs (including contractor-provided fuel for the dial-a-ride-sized buses)
- Increased labor and insurance costs
- Have to Meet State Efficiency Standards to be eligible for State Local Transportation Funds (LTF) and State Transit Assistance Funds (STA) from the Transportation Development Act (TDA).

Must recoup 10.0% of operation costs through fare revenues or what is called a “10.0% fare box ratio.”



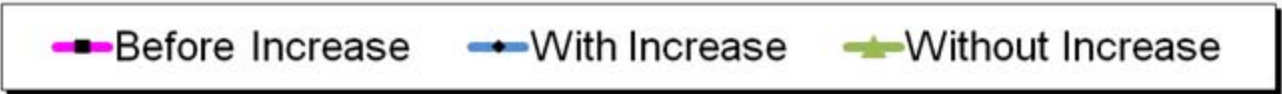
StaRT Fare Box Ratio



Projected Fare Box Ratio With Increase

Projected Fare Box Ratio Without Increase

* Projected



Fixed Route and Runabout (Fixed Stop) Services

	Existing	Proposed	Increase
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare/Student	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.50	\$ 0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	Unchanged
Ticket Book (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$22.50	\$27.00	\$ 4.50
Senior/Disabled	\$18.00	\$18.00	Unchanged
Bus Card (20 ride)			
General Fare	\$22.50	\$27.00	\$ 4.50
Student	\$21.25	\$25.50	\$ 4.25
Senior/Disabled		\$18.00	New
31-Day Pass			
General Fare	\$45.00	\$45.00	Unchanged
Senior/Disabled	\$30.00	\$30.00	Unchanged
Student	\$40.00	\$40.00	Unchanged



Runabout, Shuttles (Intercity Dial-a-Ride, curb-to-curb)

	Existing	Proposed	Increase
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.75	\$ 0.25
Student	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.75	\$ 0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.25	\$ 0.25

Intracity Dial-a-Ride (curb-to-curb)

	Existing	Proposed	Increase
Cash Fare (one ride)			
General Fare	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.50	\$ 0.25
Student	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.50	\$ 0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.25	\$ 0.25

Zone Fare for Service Outside Service Area	\$1.50 plus regular fare	\$ 1.50 plus regular fare	Unchanged
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Medivan	Existing	Proposed	Increase
One-Way Ride	\$ 9.00	\$10.00	\$1.00
Round Trip	\$18.00	\$20.00	\$2.00
Attendant (one-way)	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00	\$1.00
Attendant (round-trip)	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.00	\$2.00

Route 70 (To/from Merced)

General Fare	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.75	\$0.25
Senior/Disabled	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.25	\$0.25

Intersystem & Intrasystem Transfer

	\$ 0.25	Free	(\$0.25) Decrease
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Cash Fare Comparison

Intercity (between cities) Fixed Stop Services

Transit System Name	General Fare	Senior/ Disabled	Student
Madera County	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Fresno County	\$0.75-6.50	\$0.75-6.50	\$0.75-6.50
San Joaquin County	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Merced County	\$2-10.00	\$2-10.00	\$2-10.00
StaRT CURRENT Fares	\$1.25	\$1.00	\$1.25
StaRT PROPOSED Fares	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$1.50

Cash Fare Comparison

Intercity Curb-to-Curb Service

Transit System Name	General Fare	Senior/ Disabled	Student
Madera County	\$1.50-10.00	\$1.50-10.00	\$1.50-10.00
Fresno County	\$0.75-6.50	\$0.75-6.50	\$0.75-6.50
ROTA	\$2.25	\$1.75	\$1.75
San Joaquin County	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Merced County	\$2-10.00	\$2-10.00	\$2-10.00
StaRT CURRENT Fares	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$2.50
StaRT PROPOSED Fares	\$2.75	\$2.25	\$2.75

Cash Fare Comparison

Intracity (within cities) Curb-to-Curb Service

Transit System Name	General Fare	Senior/ Disabled	Student
Modesto	\$2.50 after 6pm	\$2.50	\$2.50 after 6pm
Turlock	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50
Ceres	\$2.15	\$1.50	\$2.15
ROTA	\$2.25	\$1.75	\$1.75
San Joaquin County	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Merced County	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
StaRT CURRENT Fares	\$1.25	\$1.00	\$1.25
StaRT PROPOSED Fares	\$1.50	\$1.25	\$1.50

Public Outreach for Fare Increase

- Discussed at StanCOG Social Services
Transportation Advisory Committee (SSTAC)
- Public Information Meetings held in Patterson, Turlock,
Riverbank and Modesto
- Public information meetings, public hearing and fare
information sent to nine local County papers.
- Public hearing, public information meetings and fare
information available on the StaRT website and buses.



Staff Recommends:

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



Fare Increase Proposal for Stanislaus Regional Transit

StaRT



May 10, 2011