

Type of Fare Payment	Current Fare	Proposed Fare	% Change
Cash Fares			
General Public Cash Fare	75¢	\$1.00	33%
Reduced Fare Card Holders	35¢	50¢	43%
80X (crossing county line)	\$2.00	\$2.00	0%
Bus Passes			
Monthly General Public	\$20	\$25	25%
Quarterly General Public	\$60	\$70	17%
Annual General Public	\$200	\$250	25%
Monthly Student	\$10	\$15	50%
Quarterly Student	\$30	\$40	33%
Monthly Senior/Disabled	\$10	\$13	30%
Quarterly Senior/Disabled	\$30	\$35	17%
WWU Viking Xpress Pass	\$561,928/year	\$702,411/year	25%
Other			
Tokens	20/\$15	20/\$20	33%
Transfers (fixed route)	Yes	Discontinued	
Free Fare Age Limits	7 & under 80 & over	7 & under 75 & over	
WTA Specialized Trans. Riders on Fixed Route	Free	Free	
Service & Health Free Fare Coupons	Use Coupons	Use Tokens	
Vanpool Fares	80% of direct costs	100% of direct costs	25%

Staff will work with the Board Chairperson to set a Public Hearing date, likely to be in mid March.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None at this time. If approved as is, there would be an increase in fare revenue of approximately \$300,000 - \$400,000 per year.

Current Cash Fares of Local Transit Agencies (as of Jan. 2009)

System	Fare Categories	Current Fare	% Change of Most Recent Fare Increase	Fare Recovery Ratio
Ben Franklin	In process of reviewing fares	Effect. 1/2/07		
(Tri-Cities area)	Adult	\$1.00	n/a	8.9%
	Youth	\$0.65	n/a	
Community Transit		Effect. 10/1/08		
(Snohomish Co.)	Local Adult	\$1.50	20%	18.2%
	Local Youth	\$1.00	33%	Goal is 20%
C-Tran		Effect. 5/1/08		
(Vancouver WA. Area)	Adult All Zone	\$2.35	4%	20.0%
	Disabl/Sr/Youth All-Zone	\$1.20	9%	
Everett Transit		Effect. 9/06		
	Regular (6 - 64)	\$0.50		no goal
Intercity		Effect. 1/1/09		
(Olympia area)	Regular	\$1.00	33%	no goal
	Youth	\$1.00	33%	
King Co. Metro	(KCM has 2 zones)	Effect. 2/1/09		
	Adult Peak 2 Zones	\$2.50	11%	
	Adult Off Peak	\$1.75	17%	
	Youth All Zones (6 - 17)	\$0.75		
Kitsap Transit		Effect. 8/1/08		
(Kitsap Peninsula)	Full Fare	\$1.50	20%	
	Youth/Seniors/Permit	\$0.75	15%	
Link Transit		Effect 1/02/09		
(Wenatchee area)	Adult - 1 Zone	\$1.00	100%	
	Adult - 2 Zone	\$2.00	100%	
Pierce Transit		Effect. 1/09		
(Tacoma area)	Adult	\$1.75	17%	
	Youth/Sr/Disabled	\$0.75		
Spokane		Effect. 9/1/09		
	Adult	\$1.25	25%	19.2%
	Youth	\$1.25	25%	20% goal
Skagit Transit		Effect 10/08		
	Adult	\$1.00		
	Youth	\$0.50		
Sound Transit	(ST has 3 zones)	Effect. 2005		
	Adult 1 Zone	\$1.50		
	Youth 1 Zone	\$1.00		
TriMet	(Tri-Met has 2 zones)	Effect. 9/1/08		
(Portland area)	Adult All Zones	\$2.30	12%	
	Youth	\$1.50	7%	
WTA		Proposed 2009		
	Adult	\$1.00	33%	
	Youth (discount for Youth pass)	\$1.00	33%	
Yakima		Effect. 1/1/09		
	Adult	\$0.75	50%	5-6%
	Youth	\$0.50	43%	no goal
AVERAGE	Adult	\$1.42		
	Youth	\$0.88	(62% of adult fare)	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members of the Executive Committee

FROM: Rick Nicholson, Director of Service Development
Kim Cederstrom, Public Information/Rideshare Coordinator

DATE: February 12, 2009

SUBJECT: Discussion of Proposed Fare Policy Changes

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Committee recommends to the full Board of Directors the following fare policy changes, pending the Public Hearing process. The tentative implementation date of any approved changes is expected to be close to September 1, 2009.

BACKGROUND:

WTA last went through a fare policy review in 2006. The changes resulting from that review took effect on October 1st of that year. Since that time, WTA has seen unprecedented ridership increases and, most recently, significant revenue shortfalls (11% below budgeted amounts in the last three months alone). The 2009 WTA budget projects an operating deficit of \$896,387. As sales tax revenues continue to diminish, staff believes that this deficit projection is likely to worsen as the year progresses. If these shortfalls continue, WTA could find itself needing to consider service reductions. This is a scenario WTA wants to avoid, if at all possible.

Staff met and have come to consensus on the initial recommendations detailed on the following page. Also attached is a list of other local transit agencies and their current base cash fares as a comparison.