

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: May 12, 2009

FROM: KEN GREHM / WILL GARNER *WG*

SUBJECT: FARE MODIFICATION – PLACER COUNTY TRANSIT

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a Public Hearing and Approve a Resolution modifying the fare structure through an increase of \$0.25 in the cash fare for Placer County Transit fixed route, \$.50 in the cash fare for dial-a-ride, substitution of free transfers with a 24-hour unlimited ride pass, and a 5% increase to Placer Commuter Express fares.

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing a modification to the fares for Placer County Transit bus services. The fixed route and dial-a-ride fares are related. The fare for dial-a-ride service is set at twice that of the fixed route fare. The fare adjustment would increase the general public fixed route cash fare from \$1.00 to \$1.25 and the senior & disabled fares from \$.50 to \$.60. The proposed fare modification also eliminates the issuance of free transfers coupled with no increase to the charge for an all-day pass. Federal law requires that fares for elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and Medicare cardholders cannot exceed one-half the fare charged to the general public during non-peak travel times.

The elimination of free transfers is a notable change to the fare structure. Transfers will be replaced with a 24-hour unlimited ride pass costing \$2.50. Under this proposal, a passenger taking a two-way trip will pay the same price as paying two separate fares with a free transfer for each boarding. This is being done to simplify the transaction and reduce boarding time, use of paper, and cost of transfers.

Placer Commuter Express (PCE) has been in service since 2004. It provides service along I-80 from Colfax to downtown Sacramento. In July of 2007, fares were increased by 10% to 17% depending on the fare category. The proposed fare increase for July of 2009, is a 5% increase to all fare categories. The proposed modification to the PCT and PCE fare structures are shown in Attachment A - Supplemental Information. Also included in Attachment A is a comparison of fares of 17 other transit operations in the region.

The purpose of the fare modification is to stay in line with inflation and to help offset decreases in subsidy fund sources. Local Transportation Fund (LTF) revenue, which is derived from the retail sales tax, is down 16% over the last two years. Because the priority for LTF is transit, the reduction of revenue is primarily a reduction for DPW road maintenance. The State Transit Assistance has been reduced by 50% in the current year and eliminated beginning next year. This results in a loss of approximately \$350,000 for PCT. These shortfalls in revenue will be made up by the increase in fare revenue and the shift of LTF revenue from the road maintenance budget to PCT.

ENVIRONMENTAL

This action is categorically exempt as there is no possibility that this will have an effect on the environment per CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(2).

FISCAL IMPACT

Fare revenue is estimated to increase by \$60,000 to \$614,000 in FY 2009/10.

Attachments: Attachment A - Supplemental Information

Resolution w/Tables A & B

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DATE: May 12, 2009

SUBJECT: PCT FARE MODIFICATION

**Placer County Transit Fixed Route
and Dial-A-Ride Proposed Fares**

The current PCT fixed route and dial-a-ride fare structure has been in place since 2004. There are two notable components to the proposed PCT fixed route and dial-a-ride fare structure. First, is the elimination of transfers. Transfers will be replaced with a 24-hour unlimited ride pass costing \$2.50. Under this proposal, a passenger taking a two-way trip will pay the same price as paying two separate fares with a free transfer for each boarding. This is being done to simplify the transaction and reduce boarding time, use of paper, and cost of transfers. Second, 20-ride and 40-ride passes will be replaced by 14-day and 30-day passes upon implementation of automated fare collection on PCT buses. The automated fare collection is able to encode fare cards to be valid for a set period of time. This is a more efficient operation than having a multi-ride pass.

Proposed PCT Fare Modification - July 1, 2009 Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride			
Fare Category	Current Fare	Proposed Fare	Percent +/-
General Public - Cash Fare	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.25	25.0%
Senior/Disabled/Youth - Cash Fare	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.60	20.0%
Transfers	FREE	NO FREE TRANSFER ISSUED	
General Public - 24 Hour/Daily Pass	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50	0.0%
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 24 Hour/Daily Pass	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.25	0.0%
General Public - 10 Ride	\$ 9.00	\$ 10.00	11.1%
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 10 Ride	\$ 4.50	\$ 5.00	11.1%
General Public - 20 Ride*	\$ 17.00	\$ 18.75	10%
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 20 Ride*	\$ 8.50	\$ 9.25	9%
General Public - 40 Ride*	\$ 30.00	\$ 33.00	10%
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 40 Ride*	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.50	10%
General Public - 14 Day Pass**	NOT AVAILABLE	\$ 21.50	
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 14 Day Pass**	NOT AVAILABLE	\$ 10.75	
General Public - 30 Day Pass**	NOT AVAILABLE	\$ 37.50	
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 30 Day Pass**	NOT AVAILABLE	\$ 18.75	
General Public - Dial A Ride	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.50	25.0%
Senior/Disabled/Youth - Dial A Ride	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.25	25.0%
General Public - Dial A Ride - 20 Ride	\$ 34.00	\$ 42.50	25.0%
Senior/Disabled/Youth - Dial A Ride - 20 Ride	\$ 17.00	\$ 21.25	25.0%
Ages 5 and Under	FREE	FREE	
Note: Youth is ages 6 to 12			
* - To be discontinued with implementation of automated fare collection system			
** - To be added with implementation of automated fare collection system			

Placer Commuter Express Proposed Fares

PCE provides commuter service along I-80 from Colfax to downtown Sacramento. Initially this service was a 2-year demonstration program funded primarily by federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funds. After this demonstration period ended, this service was continued with increased funding from participating jurisdictions and the County. Currently, four buses transport commuters to and from Sacramento during morning and afternoon commute times. This service has steadily increased in ridership. The average daily boardings for January through March 2009 were 327 – an average of 41 passengers per bus per day. In May of 2008, a fourth round trip was added to the service in order to accommodate increasing demand for the service.

The PCE fares were established in 2004, based on the City of Roseville fares and other commuter fares in the region. It is important that the PCE fares remain higher than the City of Roseville resident fare to avoid a large shift of passengers from that system to PCE, which could exceed the capacity of our buses.

Proposed Placer Commuter Express Fares					
July 1, 2009					
Cash - One Way		Current		Proposed	
Colfax/Clipper Gap	\$	5.50	\$	5.75	
Auburn/Penryn/Loomis	\$	4.50	\$	4.75	
Rocklin/Roseville	\$	4.00	\$	4.25	
20 - Ride Pass					
Colfax/Clipper Gap	\$	94.00	\$	98.00	
Auburn/Penryn/Loomis	\$	78.00	\$	82.00	
Rocklin/Roseville	\$	70.00	\$	74.00	
Monthly Pass					
Colfax/Clipper Gap	\$	170.00	\$	178.50	
Auburn/Penryn/Loomis	\$	140.00	\$	147.00	
Rocklin/Roseville	\$	125.00	\$	131.25	

Operating Cost & Fare Revenue

One key performance indicator for transit is the ratio of fare revenue to operating cost. This is known as the farebox recovery ratio. In FY 2007/2008, the PCT system wide passenger fare revenue was \$546,177 and operating expenses were \$546,177, resulting in a farebox recovery ratio of 11.1%. In FY 2007/08, there was a large cost increase due to the elimination of subsidy of the dial-a-ride services from the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency, which shifted the full cost of dial-a-ride services to PCT, without any increase in ridership or fare revenue. In FY 2008/09, the only increase in service is the addition of the 4th commuter bus route for the entire fiscal year. In FY 2009/10, ridership is estimated to decrease from 2008/09, due to the sharp increase in ridership in the summer of 2008, which is not expected to repeat in FY 2009/10.

The goal for farebox recovery ratio at PCT is 10%, which is the minimum set by the Transportation Development Act. The goal for Placer Commuter Express is to reach and exceed a farebox ratio of 75%, which is typical for commuter bus services that are focused in the peak travel times. The overall farebox recovery ratio is estimated to increase from 12.7% to 14% with the proposed fare increase.

PCT Farebox Recovery Ratio			
Includes PCT, PCE, DAR and Vanpool			
TDA Fiscal Audit Reports			
Fiscal Year	Operating Cost	Fare Revenue	Farebox Ratio
2003/04	\$ 3,045,183	\$ 364,350	12.0%
2004/05	\$ 3,464,215	\$ 371,103	10.7%
2005/06	\$ 3,540,480	\$ 360,353	10.2%
2006/07	\$ 3,793,107	\$ 420,821	11.1%
2007/08	\$ 4,494,748	\$ 546,177	12.2%
2008/09 (estimate)	\$ 4,844,000	\$ 645,000	13.3%
2009/10 (estimate) W/out Fare Increase	\$ 4,989,320	\$ 635,000	12.7%
2009/10 (estimate) with Fare Increase	\$ 4,989,320	\$ 696,900	14.0%

Fare Review of the Region's Transit Operators

The following tables show comparison of the proposed fares for Placer County Transit to other operators in the region. For the local fixed route base cash fare, 12 of the 17 operators in the comparison will have a charge greater than the \$1.25 proposed for Placer County Transit.

Commuter fares vary widely throughout the region. The proposed PCE monthly pass fare from Colfax and Clipper Gap at \$178.50 would be the highest commuter bus fare in the region. The Capitol Corridor train fare from Auburn will still be the highest overall commuter fare at \$184 for a monthly pass. However on a per mile basis, the fare from Colfax and Clipper Gap will be below the average for the region. Overall, the proposed fares for PCE will have an average daily fare cost of \$.11 per mile for the monthly pass. This is also the average for the regional operators in the comparison.

Local Route Fixed Route Service Fare Comparison

Provider	General Public Cash Fare	Senior/ Disabled Cash Fare	General Public Day Pass	Senior/ Disabled Day Pass	General Public Monthly Pass	Senior/Disabled Monthly Pass
Lincoln Transit	\$0.75	\$0.50			\$15.00	
Unitrans (Davis)	\$1.00				\$25.00	
Tahoe Area Regional Transit	\$1.75	\$0.85	\$3.50	\$1.75	\$53 (monthly)	\$26.50 (monthly)
Auburn Transit	\$0.80	\$0.60	\$2.00		\$18.00	
Yuba-Sutter Transit	\$1.00	\$0.50			\$30.00	\$15.00
Amador Regional Transit	\$2.00	\$1.00			\$34.00	\$34.00
Vacaville City Coach	\$1.50	\$0.75	3.25	\$2.00	\$45.00	\$25.00
Truckee Trolley	\$2.00	\$0.50	\$4.00	\$1.00		
EL Dorado Transit	\$1.10	\$0.55			\$33.00	\$21.00
San Joaquin RTD	\$1.50	\$0.75	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$65.00	\$30.00
Fairfield-Suisun Transit	\$1.50	\$0.75			\$50.00	\$25.00
Roseville Transit	\$1.50	\$0.75	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$58.00	\$29.00
Folsom Stage	\$2.00	\$1.00			\$85.00	\$42.50
Sacramento RT	\$2.25	\$1.10	\$6.00	\$3.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
Ydibus	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$6.00	\$3.00	\$85.00	\$42.50
Citifare (Reno)	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$70.00	\$35.00
Blue Go (South Tahoe)	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$6.00	\$3.00	\$70.00	\$35.00
PCT Current	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$2.50	\$1.25	\$30.00 (40 rides)	\$15.00 (40 rides)
PCT Proposed	\$1.25	\$0.60	\$3.00	\$1.50	\$37.50 (40 rides)	\$18.50 (40 rides)

Commuter Service Fare Comparison

Sacramento Area Commuter Transit Operators	Cash	Monthly	Miles to	Daily
	Fare One-Way	Pass	Sacramento	Cost per Mile
Roseville Resident	\$ 3.25	\$ 110.00	18	\$ 0.14
Roseville Non Resident	\$ 4.50	\$ 155.00	19	\$ 0.19
Yuba/Sutter (From Marysville)	\$ 3.50	\$ 112.00	42	\$ 0.06
El Dorado (From Placerville)	\$ 4.00	\$ 144.00	43	\$ 0.08
Yolo (From Davis)	\$ 2.00	\$ 85.00	16	\$ 0.13
San Joaquin RTD (From Stockton)	\$ 14.00	\$ 155.00	49	\$ 0.07
Fairfield-Suisun (From Fairfield)	\$ 5.50	\$ 98.00	43	\$ 0.05
Amador County (From Sutter Hill)	\$ 5.25	\$ -	45	\$ -
Capitol Corridor Train (From Auburn)	\$ 13.00	\$ 184.00	33	\$ 0.13
Capitol Corridor Train (From Rocklin)	\$ 10.00	\$ 146.00	34	\$ 0.10
Proposed Placer Commuter Express				
From Colfax	\$ 5.75	\$ 178.50	54	\$ 0.08
Clipper Gap	\$ 5.75	\$ 178.50	44	\$ 0.10
Auburn Station	\$ 4.75	\$ 147.00	37	\$ 0.09
Loomis (Penryn P&R & Loomis MM)	\$ 4.75	\$ 147.00	27	\$ 0.13
Rocklin	\$ 4.25	\$ 131.25	24	\$ 0.13
Roseville (Taylor Rd P&R)	\$ 4.25	\$ 131.25	21	\$ 0.15

Commuter Monthly Pass Cost Per Mile Sorted from Lowest to Highest	
Commuter Service	Cost/Mile Mo. Pass
Fairfield-Suisun (From Fairfield)	\$ 0.05
Yuba/Sutter (From Marysville)	\$ 0.06
San Joaquin RTD (From Stockton)	\$ 0.07
PCE From Colfax	\$ 0.08
El Dorado (From Placerville)	\$ 0.08
PCE From Auburn Station	\$ 0.09
PCE From Clipper Gap	\$ 0.10
Capitol Corridor Train (From Rocklin)	\$ 0.10
Yolo (From Davis)	\$ 0.13
PCE From Penryn/Loomis	\$ 0.13
PCE From Rocklin	\$ 0.13
Capitol Corridor Train (From Auburn)	\$ 0.13
Roseville Resident	\$ 0.14
PCE From Roseville (Taylor Rd P&R)	\$ 0.15
Roseville Non Resident	\$ 0.19

Note: Cost per Mile is the cost of a monthly pass used daily divided by the number of miles

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION APPROVING
MODIFICATION TO PLACER COUNTY
TRANSIT AND PLACER COMMUTER
EXPRESS FARES

Resol. No:.....

Ord. No:.....

First Reading:.....

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors
of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____,
by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Attest:
Clerk of said Board

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, Placer County Transit is a public transit service operated by Placer County; and

WHEREAS, 49 USC Chapter 53, Section 5307(d)(1)(D) requires that fares for elderly, disabled and Medicare cardholders be set no more than one-half of the fare for general public passengers

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that effective July 1, 2009, the fares for Placer County Transit and Placer Commuter Express will be modified in accordance with Tables A and B (attached).

TABLE A

Placer County Transit - Fare Schedule July 1, 2009 Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride	
Fare Category	Fare
General Public - Cash Fare	\$ 1.25
Senior/Disabled/Youth - Cash Fare	\$ 0.60
Transfers	NO FREE TRANSFER ISSUED
General Public - 24 Hour/ Daily Pass	\$ 2.50
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 24 Hour/ Daily Pass	\$ 1.25
General Public - 10 Ride	\$ 10.00
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 10 Ride	\$ 5.00
General Public - 20 Ride*	\$ 18.75
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 20 Ride*	\$ 9.25
General Public - 40 Ride*	\$ 33.00
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 40 Ride*	\$ 16.50
General Public - 14 Day Pass**	\$ 21.50
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 14 Day Pass**	\$ 10.75
General Public - 30 Day Pass**	\$ 37.50
Senior/Disabled/Youth - 30 Day Pass**	\$ 18.75
General Public - Dial A Ride	\$ 2.50
Senior/Disabled/Youth - Dial A Ride	\$ 1.25
General Public - Dial A Ride - 20 Ride	\$ 42.50
Senior/Disabled/Youth - Dial A Ride - 20 Ride	\$ 21.25
Ages 5 and Under	FREE
Note: Youth is ages 6 to 12	
* - To be discontinued with implementation of automated fare collection system	
** - To be added with implementation of automated fare collection system	

TABLE B

Placer Commuter Express Fares		
July 1, 2009		
Cash - One Way		
Colfax/Clipper Gap	\$	5.75
Auburn/Penryn/Loomis	\$	4.75
Rocklin/Roseville	\$	4.25
20 - Ride Pass		
Colfax/Clipper Gap	\$	98.00
Auburn/Penryn/Loomis	\$	82.00
Rocklin/Roseville	\$	74.00
Monthly Pass		
Colfax/Clipper Gap	\$	178.50
Auburn/Penryn/Loomis	\$	147.00
Rocklin/Roseville	\$	131.25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BY WHOM: PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHERE: Placer County Board of Supervisors Chambers
175 Fulweiler Drive
Auburn, CA 95603

WHEN: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 10:30 AM

PURPOSE: NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Placer County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider action to modify the Placer County Transit fare structure and to modify fares for the Placer Commuter Express bus service at the regularly scheduled Placer County Board of Supervisors meeting on May 12, 2009, at 10:30 AM, at the Placer County Board Of Supervisors Chambers at 175 Fulweiler Drive, Auburn, CA 95603.

Placer County is considering an increase to the general public bus fare from \$1.00 to \$1.25 and to the Senior Citizen and Disabled fare from \$.50 to \$.60. Highway 49, Rocklin/Loomis, and Granite Bay Dial-A-Ride fares are proposed to increase from \$2.00 to \$2.50 for General Public and \$1.00 to \$1.25 for Senior Citizen and Disabled. The fare changes are proposed to take effect July 1, 2009. Fares for the Commuter Bus service will also be considered by the Board of Supervisors.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Will Garner, Placer County Dept. of Public Works, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220, Auburn, CA, or (530) 745-7582.

Interested persons are invited to attend the hearing or submit their written comments to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 175 Fulweiler Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603, prior to the hearing date.

Ann Holman
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

