

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: May 8, 2007

FROM: KEN GREHM / RICK DONDRO ^{KD} ^{RWD}

SUBJECT: FARE INCREASE – PLACER COMMUTER EXPRESS

ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a Public Hearing and Adopt a Resolution increasing the fares for the Placer Commuter Express (PCE) service effective July 1, 2007.

BACKGROUND / SUMMARY

PCE is a commuter service along I-80 from Colfax to downtown Sacramento. Initially this service was a two-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 two 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 March 2007 were 174 – an average of 43.5 passengers per bus per day. This is up 30% from March 2006. Due to these continued increases, your Board recently approved funding a third commuter bus route.

DPW is proposing an increase to the fares for PCE effective July 1, 2007. PCE has 3 fare zones, each with a cash fare, a 20-ride ticket book, and a monthly pass. The proposed fares, shown in Attachment A, increase from 10% to 17% depending on the fare category. PCE fares were established in August 2004 with the inception of service. The purpose of the PCE fare increase is to bring the fare revenue in line with increased operating costs and with the July 1, 2007 fare increase for the Roseville Commuter bus service.

In FY 2007/08 the contracted rate charges from Amador Stage will increase by 7% over FY 2006/07 and by 12% since the service began in 2004. In FY 2006/07 an estimated \$152,800 in fares for PCE will be collected, which is 38% of the total cost of the service. Without increasing fares, the percentage of fares to operating cost is projected to decrease to 31% in FY 2007/08 and 34% in FY 2008/09. With the proposed increase in fares the percentage is projected to be 34% in FY 2007/08 and 37% in FY 2008/09.

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.

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

Placer Commuter Express fares would increase from \$193,400 to \$209,000 – an 8% increase over the amount in the proposed FY 2007/08 budget.

Attachments: Resolution
Attachment A - Supplemental Information

Attachment A – Supplemental Information

A review of fares charged by other operators providing commuter bus service into downtown Sacramento is shown below:

Sacramento Area Commuter Transit Operators	Cash Fare One-Way	Monthly Pass	Miles to Sacramento
Roseville Resident *	\$ 3.25	\$ 110.00	18
Roseville Non Resident *	\$ 4.50	\$ 155.00	19
Yuba/Sutter (From Marysville)	\$ 3.00	\$ 100.00	42
El Dorado (From Placerville)	\$ 4.00	\$ 144.00	43
Yolo (From Davis)	\$ 2.00	\$ 85.00	16
San Joaquin RTD (From Stockton)	\$ 5.50	\$ 124.00	49
Fairfield-Suisun (From Fairfield)	\$ 5.50	\$ 98.00	43
Amador County (From Sutter Hill)	\$ 3.50	-	45
Capitol Corridor Train (From Auburn)	\$ 11.00	\$ 148.00	33
* Effective July 1, 2007			
Proposed Placer Commuter Express			
From Colfax	\$ 5.50	\$ 170.00	54
Clipper Gap	\$ 5.50	\$ 170.00	44
Auburn Station	\$ 4.50	\$ 140.00	37
Loomis (Penryn P&R & Loomis MM)	\$ 4.50	\$ 140.00	27
Rocklin	\$ 4.00	\$ 125.00	24
Roseville (Taylor Rd P&R)	\$ 4.00	\$ 125.00	21

PCE Operating Costs

The rate charged by Amador Stage in FY 2007/08 will increase by 7% over 2006/07 and by 12% since the service was established in 2004. In 2006/07 additional back-up buses were placed into service through a separate contract with PRIDE industries and with buses operated directly by Placer County Transit. In 2007/2008, the service will be expanded from 2 to 3 routes, which increases the overall cost by 50%. Ridership on the third bus is assumed to average 20 passengers per bus during the first full year and grow to 30 passengers per bus in 2008/2009.

PCE Costs and Revenues

	FY 06/07 Current Fares	FY 07/08 Current Fares	FY 07/08 Proposed Fares	FY 08/09 Current Fares	FY 08/09 Proposed Fares
2 Buses	\$ 152,800	\$ 152,800.00	\$ 165,024.00	\$ 152,800.00	\$ 168,080.00
3rd Bus Additional Fares		\$ 40,640.00	\$ 43,891.20	\$ 60,960.00	\$ 66,649.60
Total Fare Revenue	\$ 152,800	\$ 193,440.00	\$ 208,915.20	\$ 213,760.00	\$ 234,729.60
County Costs	\$ 12,000	\$ 13,100	\$ 13,100	\$ 13,900	\$ 13,900
Contract Operating Cost*	\$ 308,889	\$ 455,651	\$ 455,651	\$ 482,990	\$ 482,990
Contract Bus Cost*	\$ 80,064	\$ 128,502	\$ 128,502	\$ 136,212	\$ 136,212
Bus Modification Charge	\$ -	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	\$ -	\$ -
Total	\$ 400,953	\$ 618,253	\$ 618,253	\$ 633,102	\$ 633,102
TDA Fare Ratio - Operating Only**	48%	41%	45%	43%	47%
Fare Ratio - Total Charges	38%	31%	34%	34%	37%

* Includes 3rd Bus beginning in FY 2007/08

**The Transportation Development Act required farebox recovery ratio excludes capital related costs from the calculation

Attachment A – Supplemental Information

DATE: May 8, 2007

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PLACER COMMUTER EXPRESS (PCE) FARE INCREASE

Introduction

Below is the proposed fare increase for PCE. The current PCE fare structure has been in place since the service was established in August 2004 and was based primarily on Roseville Transit commuter fares.

Placer Commuter Express Fares

Cash One-Way	Current	Proposed July 1, 2007	Percent Increase
Colfax-Clipper Gap	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.50	10%
Auburn-Ophir-Penryn-Loomis	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.50	13%
Rocklin-Roseville	\$ 3.50	\$ 4.00	14%
20-Ride Pass			
Colfax-Clipper Gap	\$ 85.00	\$ 94.00	11%
Auburn-Ophir-Penryn-Loomis	\$ 70.00	\$ 78.00	11%
Rocklin-Roseville	\$ 60.00	\$ 70.00	17%
Monthly Pass			
Colfax-Clipper Gap	\$ 155.00	\$ 170.00	10%
Auburn-Ophir-Penryn-Loomis	\$ 125.00	\$ 140.00	12%
Rocklin-Roseville	\$ 110.00	\$ 125.00	14%

Roseville Transit Commuter Fares

Fare Increase Effective July 1, 2007

	Current	Approved Increase	Percent Increase
Single Ride Resident/Reverse Commuter	\$ 2.75	\$ 3.25	18%
Single Ride Non Resident	\$ 3.80	\$ 4.50	18%
20-Ride Pass Resident	\$ 55.00	\$ 65.00	18%
20-Ride Pass Non Resident	\$ 76.00	\$ 90.00	18%
Monthly Pass Resident/Reverse Commuter	\$ 95.00	\$ 110.00	16%
Monthly Pass Non Resident	\$ 130.00	\$ 155.00	19%

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

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE
INCREASE IN FARES FOR PLACER COMMUTER
EXPRESS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007.

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

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California, that effective July 1, 2007, the fares for Placer Commuter Express shall be set in accordance with Table A.

TABLE A

Placer Commuter Express Fares	
	Effective July 1, 2007
Cash One-Way	
Colfax-Clipper Gap	\$ 5.50
Auburn-Ophir-Penryn-Loomis	\$ 4.50
Rocklin-Roseville	\$ 4.00
20-Ride Pass	
Colfax-Clipper Gap	\$ 94.00
Auburn-Ophir-Penryn-Loomis	\$ 78.00
Rocklin-Roseville	\$ 70.00
Monthly Pass	
Colfax-Clipper Gap	\$ 170.00
Auburn-Ophir-Penryn-Loomis	\$ 140.00
Rocklin-Roseville	\$ 125.00