

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Jim Throop, Director of Administrative Services
SUBJECT: Transit System Service & Fare Changes
DATE: July 21, 2009

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider Transit system fare increase and service hour changes.

- FACTS:**
1. The City provides Dial-A-Ride (DAR) service on weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Fixed-route service is provided from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday through Saturday.
 2. Fares on the Dial-A-Ride are currently \$2.00 for general riders and \$1.00 for senior or disabled riders. Fares on Fixed-Route are currently \$1.00 for general riders and \$0.50 for senior or disabled riders.
 3. The Transit System is required to collect at least 20% of operating costs through fares collected from passengers. This is referred to as the Farebox Recovery Ratio (FRR).
 4. Fuel, maintenance, and other operating costs have increased in recent years, while fares have not. The most recent fare increase occurred over eight (8) years ago.
 5. Increasing costs and fixed fares have reduced the DAR farebox recovery ratio from 7.59% for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008, to 5.86% for the first 11 months of Fiscal Year 2009. Additionally, the hour of weekday service between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. accounts for less than 2% of total DAR ridership, but 6.5% of service hours.
 6. The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) recently increased its fixed route fares to \$1.25 (for an “intra-zonal”, i.e. local, ride). Maintaining comparable local fixed route transit fares is a goal of all transit agencies in the county.
 7. The primary source of Transit funding is the State’s Transportation Development Act (TDA). It has been decreasing due to the recession and the State’s budgetary issues.
 8. The City conducted two public input workshops to discuss proposed changes.
 9. A public hearing is also required to solicit comment and authorize the service changes.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: In order to increase the transit system’s FRR to compensate for reductions in funding and increase financial stability, fares for local and inter-city fixed route transit need to be raised from \$1.00 to \$1.25, with an increase in discounted fares from \$.50 to \$.60. This increase will help the fixed-route system maintain the required farebox recovery ratio, and offset increased operational expenses for fuel and maintenance. It would also keep fares comparable with the Regional Transit Authority.

Dial-A-Ride fares need to increase from \$2.00 to \$3.00, with discounted fares increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50, and the underutilized final hour of weekday DAR service, between 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., needs to be eliminated. Elimination of this hour of service would reduce DAR contractor operating expenses by \$5,500 annually, with added savings through reductions in fuel and maintenance costs. The service hour reduction, combined with the fare increase, could increase the FRR of the DAR service by 3% to 4%.

No comments in opposition to the proposed changes were received at the public workshops. The public is provided another opportunity to comment at the Council hearing on July 21st, 2009. If approved, all service changes would be implemented in September, 2009.

FISCAL

IMPACT:

Fare changes are projected to increase fare revenue approximately \$46,000 annually.

OPTIONS:

- A. Adopt Resolution No. 09-XXX approving the recommended fare and service changes,
or
- B. Amend, modify or reject the above option

RESOLUTION NO. 10-xxx

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
APPROVING THE INCREASE IN FARES FOR DIAL-A-RIDE AND FIXED-ROUTE AND
A DECREASE IN THE SERVICE HOURS FOR DIAL-A-RIDE

WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles provides public transit services, and

WHEREAS, transit services must maintain a 20% farebox recovery ratio to continue to qualify for State and Federal funding; and

WHEREAS, operational costs have steadily increased in recent years but have not been adjusted in eight years, and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends that fixed-route transit and Dial-A-Ride fares be increased to \$1.25 and \$3.00, respectively, and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends that Dial-A-Ride service be reduced by one hour on weekdays to reduce operational costs and partially compensate for State funding reductions, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with City policy on making changes to transit fares and hours, publicized workshops were held on June 8th and 10th, and a public hearing with the City Council was held on July 7th,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles to implement the fare and service changes as recommended by Staff, for the Paso Express, North County Shuttle and Dial-a-Ride transit services

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles this 21st day of July 2009 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cathy David, Deputy City Clerk

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TRIBUNE

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In The Superior Court of The State of California
In and for the County of San Luis Obispo
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

AD #6823019
CITY OF PASO ROBLES

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of San Luis Obispo

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen and not interested in the above entitled matter; I am now, and at all times embraced in the publication herein mentioned was, the principal clerk of the printers and publishers of THE TRIBUNE, a newspaper of general Circulation, printed and published daily at the City of San Luis Obispo in the above named county and state; that notice at which the annexed clippings is a true copy, was published in the above-named newspaper and not in any supplement thereof – on the following dates to wit; JUNE 1, 2009 that said newspaper was duly and regularly ascertained and established a newspaper of general circulation by Decree entered in the Superior Court of San Luis Obispo County, State of California, on June 9, 1952, Case #19139 under the Government Code of the State of California.

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.


(Signature of Principal Clerk)

DATED: JUNE 1 2009

Public Notice
City of El Paso de Robles &
City of Atascadero

Notice is hereby given that the City of Paso Robles and the City of Atascadero will be holding public workshops to solicit comment on proposed Paso Express and North County Shuttle fare and service changes on June 8th and June 10th, 2009. The workshops will be held at the Paso Robles City Hall/Library Conference Room at 1000 Spring St. from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on June 8th, 2009 and at the Atascadero City Hall, 6907 El Camino Real at 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. on June 10th, 2009. The public is invited to attend these workshops and provide any comments on the proposed service changes and the rationale for making these changes. Comments can also be submitted by mail, e-mail or by telephone. Send comments by mail to 821 Pine St., Suite A, Paso Robles, CA 93446. Comments by e-mail should be sent to the following e-mail address: info@pasoexpress.com. Comments by phone can be made by calling (805) 239-8747.

Proposed Changes to Transit fares and service

Fixed-route bus fares would be increased from \$1.00 for general fares and \$.50 for discounted fares to \$1.25 for general fares and \$.60 for discounted fares. These fares would apply to the Paso Express Routes A and Route B, and the North County Shuttle.

On the Paso Express Dial-A-Ride, fares for single trips would be increased from \$2.00 for general fares and \$1.00 for discounted fares to \$3.00 for general fares and \$2.00 for discounted fares. Also on the Paso Express Dial-A-Ride, service hours would be reduced from the current schedule of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekdays to 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays.

In addition, comments are being sought on changes to discount fare eligibility, specifically the extension of discount rates to persons who do not reside within the city limits of Paso Robles, and the eligibility of small children to ride transit services free of charge (accompanied by a fare-paying passenger), being determined by the child's height, rather than the child's age. June 1, 2009 6823019