

Proposal to Increase Runabout Fares

- Runabout is for persons with disabilities
- Demand is increasing dramatically
- Trend is not financially sustainable
- Proposal:
 - *Set Runabout fares equal to twice the fixed-route fare; cap at \$10 per trip*
- Effective February 1, 2015

Seeking Public Input

- Public Workshops:
 - Grover Beach on October 14th
 - Atascadero on October 15th
 - San Luis Obispo on October 16th
- Individual Comments:
 - Email info@slorta.org
 - Call 781-4472
 - Send letter to: RTA, 179 Cross St., SLO, CA 93401
- November 5th RTA Public Hearing



Questions?



179 Cross Street, Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 781-4472 Fax (805) 781-1291
www.slorta.org

September 15, 2014

Re: **Proposal to Increase Runabout Fares**

Dear Runabout Rider:

At its September 10th meeting, the RTA Board of Directors asked me to conduct a series of public outreach meetings to obtain input on RTA's proposal to increase fares on the Runabout service. It is never an easy decision to consider raising fares, especially on a program that serves so many of our vulnerable community members. However, since the last Runabout fare increase in 2010, the Runabout service levels have doubled and the annual cost to provide Runabout service is now equal to that required to operate the fixed-route services – even though RTA's fixed-route service carries roughly 15 times the passengers that Runabout carries. I have attached a *Fact Sheet* that provides more details about why RTA is considering a new increased Runabout fare structure.

I encourage you to contact me to tell us how this Runabout fare increase proposal would impact you. I welcome written testimony mailed to the address above or emails to info@slorta.org. I would also welcome you to attend one of the public workshops listed below and to talk to us in person:

- Grover Beach Ramona Garden Park community center on October 14th
- Atascadero Council Chambers on October 15th
- San Luis Obispo Library Community Room on October 16th

We will conduct all three of these workshops from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. At those meetings, we will review large-print *Fare Tables* that list each and every possible Runabout fare in the county – both the *Current Fare Table* and the proposed *New Fare Table*. Our RTA reservationists (541-2544) can also help you to determine the new fares that we would charge under this proposal for trips that you often take. Finally, the RTA Board of Directors will consider testimony at a Public Hearing on November 5th in the SLO County Board of Supervisors Chambers. Our proposal is for the new fares to be effective on February 1, 2015.

I would appreciate your support to share more equitably in the cost to provide Runabout services so that we can both contribute to ensuring its long-term success in our region.

Sincerely,

Geoff Straw
RTA Executive Director

The Regional Transit Authority is a Joint Powers Agency serving residents and visitors of:

Arroyo Grande Atascadero Grover Beach Morro Bay Paso Robles Pismo Beach San Luis Obispo and The County of San Luis Obispo



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FACT SHEET:

1. Demand for Runabout is increasing dramatically & current revenues cannot accommodate it.
2. Runabout service levels have doubled in last seven years.
3. RTA fixed-route carries 760,000 passengers & Runabout carries 44,000. Annual costs equal.
4. Average public subsidy for each fixed-route trip is less than \$4. Runabout cost is \$60 per trip.
5. Both RTA fixed-route and Runabout services will need to be cut if we do nothing.
6. Federal law permits Runabout to charge twice the fixed-route cash fare.
7. Current Runabout fares lower than allowed, and in some cases lower than fixed-route fares.
8. Runabout fares last raised in 2010. This fare increase would be effective February 1, 2015.
9. Proposal is to increase Runabout fares to be twice the fixed-route fare; cap at \$10 per trip.

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Examples of most frequently used Runabout trips & resulting new fares:

Origin	Destination	% Total Runabout Trips	Current Runabout Fare	Twice Fixed Route Fare	Net Fare Increase
San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	24.41%	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$0.25
Atascadero	Paso Robles	4.61%	\$3.25	\$4.00	\$0.75
Paso Robles	Atascadero	4.74%	\$3.25	\$4.00	\$0.75
San Luis Obispo	Los Osos	4.61%	\$3.75	\$5.00	\$1.25
Paso Robles	Paso Robles	4.46%	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$0.75
Los Osos	San Luis Obispo	2.84%	\$3.75	\$5.00	\$1.25
Cuesta Area	San Luis Obispo	2.80%	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$1.25
San Luis Obispo	Cuesta Area	2.78%	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$1.25
Templeton	Paso Robles	2.52%	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$0.25
Morro Bay	San Luis Obispo	2.28%	\$3.25	\$5.00	\$1.75
San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay	2.29%	\$3.25	\$5.00	\$1.75
Paso Robles	Templeton	2.17%	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$0.25
San Luis Obispo	Grover Beach	2.02%	\$3.25	\$6.50	\$3.25
Atascadero	Atascadero	2.00%	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$0.75