


RTD FARES FOR LOW-INCOME RIDERS

Transportation Legislation Review Committee
November 2, 2015




2016 RTD Fare Study

Objective:
Simplify RTD's fare policy in an *equitable* and *cost-effective* manner to better serve the needs of the District and customers moving forward

Goals:

1. Simplicity (ease of use)
2. Acceptability/Marketability (implementable)
3. Affordability/Equity (cost of service and relationship between modes and services)
4. Achieve RTD revenue goals to avoid service reductions
5. Integrate 2016 transit line openings


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2016 RTD Fares

- Full Fare Options
 - One-way trip (\$2.60 – \$4.50)
 - Day Pass (\$5.20 – \$9)
 - Airport trip (\$9)
 - Smart Card Stored Value (provides a 25 cent discount on one-way trips)
 - Ten Ride Ticket Books (\$23.50 – \$40.50)
 - Monthly Pass (\$99 – \$171)
- Discount/Half Fares
 - Federally mandated: Seniors (65+), persons with disabilities, Medicare recipients
 - Students ages 6-19 (children 5 and under ride free)

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Public Feedback Regarding Affordability

- Fares are a challenge for some passengers
- Some passengers are not able to afford all of the trips they need to make in a day
- Some low-income passengers cannot afford the up front cost of a monthly pass
- Increasing number of low-income passengers are making longer trips from the suburbs that require a higher fare
- Desire for a low-income pass

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2016 Fare Policies: Day Pass

- RTD is introducing a low priced Day Pass in January as part of the new fare policies
- **Travel all-day for the price of one round trip**
- Day Passes will be available for purchase on the bus and at rail stations
 - Do not have to pre-purchase tickets to get the benefit of unlimited travel for a day

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RTD Nonprofit Agency Reduced Fare Program

- Program started more than 25 years ago
- Work with 240+ nonprofit and government agencies to provide discount fare media to low-income individuals
 - One-way tickets and monthly passes provided with multiple discount levels (25%, 40%, 60%)
- Nonprofit and government agencies are responsible for confirming income eligibility, not RTD
- Approximately \$6 million in fare media distributed to low-income riders at a discount each year

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2016 Fare Policies: Simplified RTD Nonprofit Program

- Simplifies administration
 - Eliminates quarterly reports and distribution log for all passes
- Provides a consistent 50% discount for all products
- Offers **Day Pass** Ticket Books as another fare option for the agencies
- Allows agencies to recover full reduced cost of the tickets from their clients

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2016 Fare Policy Summary

- Incorporated much of the feedback we received from the low-income community to develop the new fare policies for Jan. 1, 2016
 - Day Pass for the price of a round trip
 - Increased the number of trips that can be made with a Local fare
 - Streamlined nonprofit program
- Continue to provide half fares for seniors, passengers with disabilities, Medicare recipients and students (ages 6-19) on all fare products

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Continued Efforts

- The Mile High Connects led Affordable Fares Task Force requested a more widely available half fare for low-income individuals
 - Riders would not have to go to a nonprofit agency to get the discount fare media
 - Initial estimate: \$11 – \$12 million of lost RTD fare revenue each year which could result in significant service reductions
- Working together to determine the financial feasibility of implementing a broader based low-income fare program as requested by the Affordable Fares Task Force

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