



Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 7, 2017

Re: Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code relating to Transportation Fares

## Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance amending Section 22-29 of the City Code to establish a new fare structure for the Paratransit public transportation system. Staff is also proposing reductions in expenses and services for the fixed route system.

## Discussion

The last time that the Transit Division proposed a comprehensive fare increase was in October of 2011. At that time, staff proposed that all fares would increase; however, Council opted not to increase the Paratransit service fare.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations will not allow ADA transit fares to exceed twice the cost of a regular fare on the fixed route system, which is currently \$1.50. The current Paratransit fare is \$2.00 thus raising that fare by \$1.00, to the maximum of \$3.00, would recoup approximately \$57,000 in revenue. The proposed fare increase would not enable additional services, but would help to defray the rising costs to provide Paratransit service. If Council concurs with staff recommendation to increase Paratransit fares by \$1.00, the new rate would go into effect October 1, 2017.

Additionally, in order to reduce Transit's fixed route use of cash reserves to cover expenses and services, staff is recommending eliminating three underutilized routes: the Pink Route #6, the Dark Green Route #7 and the Light Green Route #8, at a savings of more than \$500,000. Staff presented the proposed routes elimination to PTAC at their regular monthly meeting held on July 20, 2017. The committee understood the need for the route elimination and didn't oppose staff's recommendation. Staff will also present the same information to the Disability Commission at their regular monthly meeting to be held on August 10, 2017. These reductions would not result in reduced matching grant funding from the FTA. Staff proposes the service reductions would go into effect October 30, 2017.

Staff also proposes to discontinue Transit support for the Roots 'n Blues Festival and the True/False Film Festival. These two events incur substantial employee overtime of approximately \$20,000/per year.

## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The increase of the Paratransit fare to \$3.00 would result in an annual revenue increase of approximately \$57,000. The fixed route service cuts would result in an annual expense and service reduction of \$575,634.



Long-Term Impact: Unknown at this time.

## Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

### Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Transportation, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Mobility, Connectivity, and Accessibility, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

## Legislative History

Date	Action
09/15/2008	Ord 20048-amending Chapter 22 relating to transportation fare increases.
09/19/2011	Ord 21073-amending Chapter 22 relating to transportation fare increases on fixed bus routes.
11/05/2012	Ord 21489-amending Chapter 22 to allow for reduced pricing of mid-semester bus passes.
08/04/2014	Ord 22154-amending Chapter 22 to add a section allowing youth to young adults 18 years of age or younger may ride for free when presenting a valid school identification card.
08/03/2015	Ord 22537-amending Chapter 22 to add a section relating to the downtown employee discount fare.

## Suggested Council Action

Following public input and Council discussion at the upcoming FY2018 budget public hearings, Council should approve the ordinance amending Section 22-29 of the City Code to establish a new fare structure for the Paratransit public transportation system, and direct staff to move forward with the elimination of the Pink Route #6, the Dark Green Route #7 and the Light Green Route #8, as well as discontinue Transit services for special events.