



600 S. Grand Central Parkway · Suite 350, Las Vegas, NV 89106 · 702-676-1500

Clark County School District
5100 West Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

March 23, 2012

Dear Administrator:

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) would like to inform the faculty, staff, students and parents about the RTC Fare Working Group's proposed recommendations to adjust the RTC fares and the service area in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Paratransit Services System. The public comment period extends through Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Like many government agencies, RTC's budget has been strained during the economic downturn. Due to these fiscal challenges, the RTC formed a Fare Working Group, comprised of local community stakeholders to provide policy and fare recommendations that would allow the RTC to address the long-range budget shortfall.

The Working Group's recommendations were presented to the RTC Board of Commissioners on March 8, 2012. The attachments included with this letter will provide faculty, staff, students and parents with information about the proposed recommendations and how they can provide input. Informational items include the following:

- Item 1. Proposed Fare Adjustment Recommendations
- Item 2. Align Paratransit Operating Hours with Fixed Route Operations Recommendation
- Item 3. Elimination of "Grandfather" Status of Riders based on the June 1, 2011 Fixed Route Service Cuts Recommendation
- Item 4. The Comment Process
- Item 5. Frequently Asked Questions

The RTC Board **has not made** a decision regarding the recommendations. The open public comment period is designed for the RTC to obtain community input about the fare and policy recommendations *before* any decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Tina Quigley
RTC Deputy General Manager

ITEM 1. PROPOSED FARE ADJUSTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed fare adjustments include modifications to the Paratransit and Fixed Route services that include:

RTC ADA PARATRANSIT FARE

FARES	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Monthly Pass	\$80.00	Eliminate
46 Single Rides Per Calendar Month	New	\$100.00
22 Single Rides Per Calendar Month	New	\$50.00

RTC FIXED ROUTE FARES

Residential Market Full Fare

FARES	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Single Ride	\$2.00	\$2.25
5-Day All Access	\$20.00	Eliminate
15-Day All Access	New	\$36.00
30-Day All Access	\$65.00	\$70.00

Residential Market Reduced Fare

FARES	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Single Ride	\$1.00	\$1.10
2 hour All Access	\$1.50	\$1.80
24 hour All Access	\$2.00	\$3.00
5-Day All Access	\$10.00	Eliminate
15-Day All Access	New	\$21.50
30-Day All Access	\$30.00	\$42.00

Strip & Downtown Express and Deuce on the Strip Services Fare

FARES	CURRENT	PROPOSED
2 hour All Access	\$5.00	\$6.00
24 hour All Access	\$7.00	\$8.00

Why is the RTC's Fare Working Group proposing a fare adjustment?

The RTC's revenues have decreased by the economic downturn. Forty-one percent of the RTC's revenue comes from sales tax, which has declined by \$40 million during the recession. In addition, the RTC has experienced soaring demand for its Paratransit service, which has increased by 30 percent over the last three years. This increased demand, coupled with a past decline in sales tax revenue, strained the agency's transit budget, creating a budget gap.

ITEM 2. ALIGN PARATRANSIT OPERATING HOURS WITH FIXED ROUTE OPERATIONS RECOMMENDATION

The RTC's Fare Working Group recommended that the Paratransit service be aligned to the time of day that the fixed route service operates.

Currently, the RTC's fixed route system has routes that do not operate during the overnight hours (approximately 1 a.m. to 5 a.m.). This recommendation seeks to align the span of service for both fixed route and Paratransit, eliminating the overnight Paratransit service in areas *where fixed route service does not operate overnight*, providing greater equity between both services.

The Paratransit service area would be reduced in the overnight hours for all areas within the current Paratransit service area, except for addresses, both residences and destinations, 3/4 of a mile around each of the fixed routes that currently operate service 24 hours. Those routes are:

<u>Identifier</u>	<u>Name</u>
Deuce	Deuce on The Strip
BHX	Boulder Highway Express
109	Maryland Parkway
110	Eastern
113	Las Vegas Blvd North/MAX
115	Nellis/Stephanie
201/201A	Tropicana
202	Flamingo
204	Sahara
206	Charleston
210	Lake Mead Blvd

Operating hours would reflect the start and stop times of the fixed routes closest to the addresses provided during the reservation process. While this appears to be a complicated process, RTC's scheduling software can be set up to provide this information as part of the initial call, and the RTC Customer Service staff would be able to assist customers in planning their trips. On average, less than 2.5 percent of all trips are taken between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. when service may be curtailed in some areas of the Valley.

ITEM 3. ELIMINATION OF “GRANDFATHER” STATUS OF RIDERS BASED ON THE JUNE 1, 2011 FIXED ROUTE SERVICE CUT RECOMMENDATION

What does “Grandfather” status mean?

In May of 2011, a policy change was approved that, after an open public comment period, specifically tied the RTC Paratransit Service area to the ADA mandated $\frac{3}{4}$ mile boundary around each fixed route. At that time, approximately 650 customers would have fallen outside of the new service area. To allow for an adjustment period, persons whose residences were no longer in the service area were allowed to continue to be picked up and dropped off at their home addresses. Other destinations that were no longer in the service area were no longer served. This status was announced as a temporary transition period, but no end date was identified in the original policy.

For any person who later moved from their “grandfathered” address to another address outside of the service area, the grandfathered status no longer applied.

Why did the RTC Fare Working Group recommend this change?

The grandfather status was provided as a temporary transition to allow individuals to determine how they would arrange transportation, over time, when they could no longer access RTC Paratransit service from their home address.

Since June 1, 2011, additional service reductions have been implemented and planned affecting approximately 117 riders. In order to maintain equity, an end date to the “grandfather” status was recommended that still provides an opportunity for persons to consider other transportation options, while assuring that the policy would impact everyone equally based on the ADA mandated requirement of the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile boundary around a fixed route.

ITEM 4. THE COMMENT PROCESS

How long is the public comment period and how do I submit my comment?

Public comments will be accepted from Friday, March 16, 2012 through Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

- Via email to diaza@rtcsonv.com
- Online at rtcsonv.com
- By phone at (702) 676-1558
- By fax at (702) 676-1589
- By U.S. Postal Service mail to: RTC Administration Office , 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106-4512, Attention: Proposed Fare Adjustment
- Comments can also be provided in person at the Bonneville Transit Center or the RTC Administration Office

For questions, contact 702-228-7433 (RIDE) or visit www.rtcsonv.com .

Where can I go to get more information and provide my public comment?

Interested members of the public are encouraged to attend any of the upcoming public outreach sessions to learn more about the transit fare proposals:

- Wednesday, March 28, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the RTC Administration Building, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway
- Thursday, March 29, 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. at the Bonneville Transit Center, 101 E. Bonneville Ave.
- Friday, March 30, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the South Strip Transfer Terminal, 6675 Gillespie St.
- Monday, April 2, 9 to 11 a.m. at Albertsons, 1300 E. Flamingo Road
- Saturday, April 7, noon to 2 p.m. at Albertsons, 5500 Boulder Highway
- Tuesday, May 1, 4 to 6 p.m. at Albertsons, 4850 W. Craig Road
- Friday, May 4, 5 to 7 p.m. at Albertsons, 2575 S. Maryland Parkway
- Wednesday, May 9, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Centennial Hills Transit Center, 7313 Grand Montecito Parkway

In addition, the RTC will hold two public hearings on the proposals:

- Wednesday, April 18, 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Bonneville Transit Center, 101 E. Bonneville Ave.
- Saturday, May 12, 3 to 5 p.m. at the Bonneville Transit Center, 101 E. Bonneville Ave.

RTC staff will also ride transit routes throughout the valley to obtain additional input and will provide comment cards to riders. The public may review the proposed fare adjustments online at rtcsonv.com. or call 702-228-7433 (RIDE).

ITEM 5. OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What else is the RTC doing to reduce expenses?

During the recession, the RTC reduced its operations costs, filled only critical employment positions, and froze salary adjustments for the management team and cost-of-living allowances (COLAs) for all employees. Employee salaries and benefits make up six percent of the overall RTC budget.

What happens if the RTC does not raise its transit fares?

If the budget shortfall persists, the board may consider service cuts, frequency reduction, selected trip deletion, modifications to existing routes, route restructuring or elimination, and reduction of other RTC services including Paratransit service. The level of cuts would be determined by the board based on the budget shortfall.

When will the RTC's Board of Commissioners vote to raise the transit fares?

The Board authorized the RTC to begin a 60-day public comment period to obtain input from the community about the recommendations. To date, the RTC's Board **has not approved** any of the proposed recommendations and the public comment period has been established to obtain community input *before* a decision is made.

Following the public comment period, all comments will be submitted to the RTC's Board of Commissioners. We anticipate receiving further direction from the board at its meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2012 at 8:45 a.m. at the Clark County Government Center, inside the Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89155.

If the decision is made to raise transit fares when will it be implemented?

The RTC Board will determine an effective date for any recommendations the Board approves; however, approved recommendations are not expected to go into effect until at least September 2012.