

# Recommendations to Simplify Fares, Make Transit More Affordable for Many Customers

**\$2.50** ALL ZONE OFF-PEAK   
 **\$2.75** ONE ZONE PEAK   
 **\$3.25** TWO ZONE PEAK   
 **\$2.75** FLAT FARE for full-fare adults

1

**\$2.75** FLAT FARE

## Simplify Fares

Reduce three adult full fares to a flat \$2.75—no more zone and peak surcharges



Easier to understand



Easier to pay = faster boarding



Fewer fare disputes = improved safety on buses



Lower cost for many riders



Better coordinated with other transit agencies

### How will this affect riders?



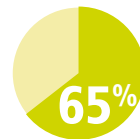
50¢ decrease for 2-zone peak riders



No change for 1-zone peak riders



25¢ increase for off-peak riders



65% of Metro's boardings would see no change or a 50¢ decrease in fares



2-zone peak riders—including the many low-income residents moving to suburbs—will benefit the most



Other proposed changes will offset impact on off-peak riders

2

## Enhance Programs for very-low-income riders



### Subsidize more bus tickets

Raise Human Services Ticket Program subsidy in 2018 by \$400,000, to \$4 million, so agencies can buy more tickets for homeless and very-low-income clients. Also test the use of ORCA cards for this program.



### Work with ORCA partners

Eliminate \$3 fee for Regional Reduced Fare Permit, benefitting senior and disabled riders, and reduce adult and youth ORCA card fees from \$5 to \$3.



Metro is a national leader in offering reduced fares to those who can least afford transportation

**\$1.50** FARE

ORCA LIFT for low-income adults, free ORCA card for their children

**\$1.00** FARE

Regional Reduced Fare Permit for senior/disabled riders

**\$1.50** FARE

Discounted Youth Fare, ages 6-18 (Demonstration program offers \$.50 ORCA fare and free ORCA card in summer 2017)

**90% DISCOUNT**

Human Services Ticket Program for agencies serving homeless and very-low-income clients

### Other actions to offset impact on off-peak riders



Increase promotion of ORCA LIFT (reduced fare for people with income below 200% of federal poverty level)



Continue working with schools to enhance programs for students

[www.kingcounty.gov/metro/farereview](http://www.kingcounty.gov/metro/farereview)



# Metro's Two-Year Fares Work Program

Using customer feedback, Metro is working on a two-year fares work program with these key objectives:

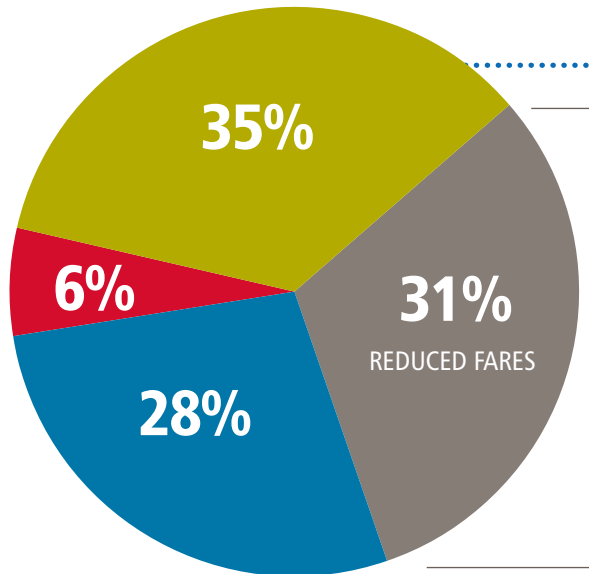
Make fares easier for customers to understand and use

Increase affordability of and access to transit

Increase safety of bus operators and customers

Speed up boarding to decrease travel time

Coordinate Metro's fare structure with regional partners



Metro Boardings by Fare Category, 2016

**Why simplify adult full fares?**  
 They're complex and affect 69% of Metro boardings  
 Reduced fares and Access fares will not change



## PHASE ONE: 2017



**Focus:** Fare simplification, regional coordination, and increasing affordability



**Product:** Current recommendations to King County Council



### Timeline

#### 2017

- Transmit proposal to King County Council
- Communicate final proposal to stakeholders and the public
- Continued development of Human Service ORCA pilot plans and phase 2 research program

## PHASE TWO: 2018



**Focus:** Increasing affordability (continued), increasing safety, speeding boarding



### Timeline

#### 2018

- Pilot ORCA for Human Services Ticket Program
- Evaluate pilot programs, conduct research and outreach, develop recommendations for King County Council
- Implement simplified adult fare
- Examine ways to increase operator safety
- Review fares of other services (Access, etc.)
- Consider additional options for very-low-income riders, off-peak riders, college students, and youth
- Implement Third Ave off-board fare payment
- Begin Next Generation ORCA development process