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

**1. 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

**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.

**3. Reduce ORCA Card Fees**
- **Work with ORCA partners**
  - Eliminate $3 fee for Regional Reduced Fare Permit, benefiting 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
  - Discounted Youth Fare, ages 6-18 (Demonstration program offers $.50 ORCA fare and free ORCA card in summer 2017)

- **$1.00 FARE**
  - Regional Reduced Fare Permit for senior/disabled riders

- **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
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

### 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

### 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

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**Why simplify adult full fares?**

*They’re complex and affect 69% of Metro boardings*

Reduced fares and Access fares will not change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fare Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult One Zone Peak</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Two Zone Peak</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORCA LIFT</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>RRFP (Senior/Disabled)</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nonpay</td>
<td>9%</td>
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Metro Boardings by Fare Category, 2016

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