

# Metro Fares Work Program

Stakeholder Advisory Group

**Meeting #1**

# Purpose

- Two-year program
- Assess ways to improve Metro's fare structure
- Guided by existing fare policy, farebox recovery targets

# Goals

- Make fares easier to understand and pay
- Coordinate with regional partners
- Improve safety
- Speed operations by making fare payment faster
- Increase transit ridership and address affordability barriers

# Introductions

# Agenda for today

- Review work program scope and timeline
- Review/discuss existing fare system
- Discuss shared goals and criteria for evaluating proposals
- Next steps

# Role of this group

- Serve in advisory capacity
- Shape proposed fare changes in near-term
- Identify outstanding needs/opportunities for longer-term work
- Help support/facilitate public interest and engagement
- Provide a broad range of perspectives

## Timeline

### March

- **Meeting #1** - Introductions
- Public engagement Phase 1

### April

- **Meeting #2** – Reviewing options
- Public engagement Phase 2
- Draft proposal

### May

- **Meeting #3** – Refining options
- Metro, Executive review proposal

### June

- Communicate proposal to stakeholders and public
- Executive transmits proposal to King County Council

## Scope of our work

### Near-term: 2017

Topic	Work Elements	Advisory Group Role
Regional Fare Forum recommendations	Consider eliminating certain fare surcharges (peak/zone fares)	Provide input on options for making these changes
Transit ridership and affordability	Understand and address barriers to transit use	Provide input on options for pilot or demonstration projects that could be done within existing policy (identify key barriers, consider design options, and identify potential impacts)
Identify long-term scope	TBD	Identify other fares issues for consideration in the longer-term scope of work

## Scope of our work

### Longer-term: 2018

Topic	Work Elements	Advisory Group Role
Speeding boarding & improving safety	Study options for increasing ORCA market share and allowing payment off-board or at all doors	Potentially re-convene to provide input on options
Transit ridership and affordability	Based on findings from near-term pilots and additional research, develop proposals for programs or changes that address barriers to transit use	Potentially re-convene to provide input on options

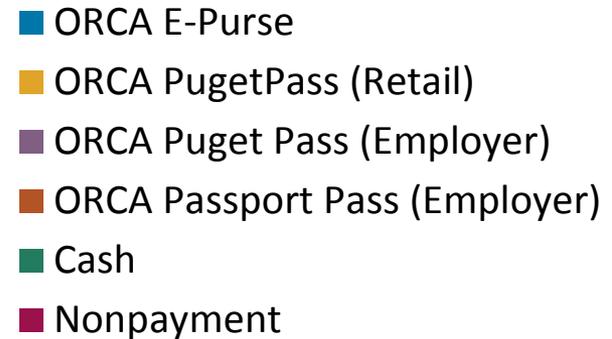
# Existing conditions: current fares

	Off-peak	One-zone peak	Two-zone peak	Monthly pass
Regular fare	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.25	\$90/\$99/\$117
Child (five years and under)	No charge			
Youth (six through 18)	\$1.50			\$54
Seniors and persons with disabilities	\$1.00			\$36
ORCA LIFT (low-income adult)	\$1.50			\$54
ACCESS	\$1.75			\$63
Vanpool	Variable based on distance and number of days traveled. In 2016 the average vanpool fare was \$104.50 per month.			

- Zone boundary = Seattle city limits  
(customers taking trips that cross this boundary during peak hours pay 2-zone fare)
- Peak hours: 6-9 a.m., 3-6 p.m.

## How riders pay fares

- One-third of riders use an employer pass
- Frequent riders are 4 times more likely to pay with ORCA
- One-sixth of riders use an RRF<sup>\*</sup> pass



\* Regional Reduced Fare Permit

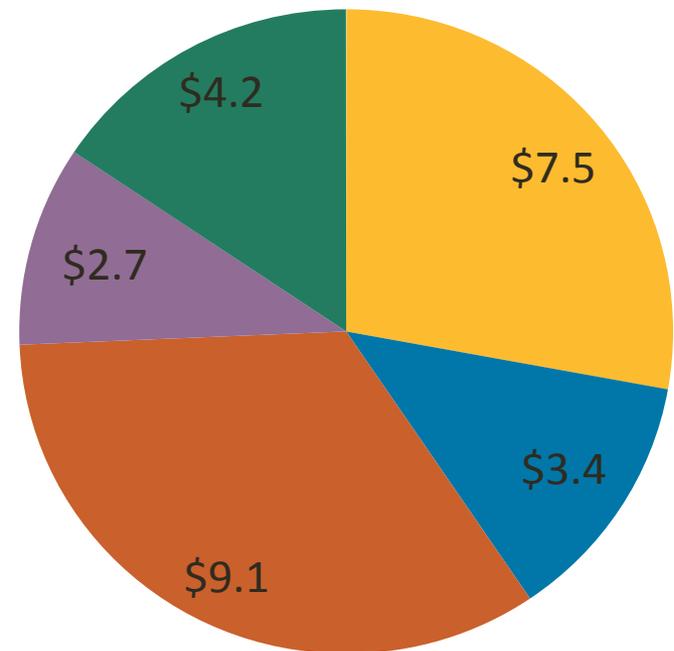
# How do the discounts we provide today affect fare revenues?

- Metro currently provides over \$27 million in discounted fares\*
- About 15% of total fare revenue

## Estimated retail value of discounted fares, 2016

(in millions)

- Youth compared to \$2.50
- ORCA LIFT compared to \$2.50
- Sr/Disabled compared to \$2.50
- Human service tickets compared to no subsidy
- Access fare compared to federal maximum



# What we've heard

- Fare system is too complicated, especially if you use multiple modes or transit agencies
- People want discounts for a variety of reasons – equity, promotional, to encourage institutional participation
- Getting cards and adding value pose limitations, especially for reduced-fare customers
- Concern about traveling short distances across two zones
- Access, alternative services, and regular bus fare systems don't “play well” together
- **What are we missing?**

# What guides our work?

(Facilitated activity)

- **Policy goals**

- Regional coordination
- Operational efficiency
- Easy for customers to understand
- Reduce costs
- Improve affordability for customers with low incomes
- Safety
- Increase ridership
- Reflect cost of service
- Meet cost recovery targets
- Comply with regulations

- **Additional goals or considerations?**

- **How should we evaluate options?**

# Public engagement

