



Fare Policy Revisions: Draft Recommendation - Zero-Fare For Youth

June 2, 2022

Background

- Move Ahead Washington Legislation introduces New Transit Support grant program which creates a financial incentive for fare policy changes
 - To be eligible, transit agencies must enact a zero-fare policy for riders ages 18 years old and younger
 - Based on programmed expenditures, STA could receive \$6.46 million annually to improve and expand transit in the region
- In April 2022, Board directed staff to begin draft policy revisions for STA to be eligible for this new Transit Support grant
- In May 2022, staff shared its preliminary proposal with the Board to revise fares and conduct outreach on zero-fare for youth

Draft Policy & Action Recommendations

- STA recommends updating its fare structure to reflect a zero-fare for youth (tables on the following slides), adding ages 13-18 to those eligible for zero-fare
 - A valid fare media (Connect Card) will be required for youth ages 13-18 to qualify for the zero-fare consistent with zero-fare pass for youth ages 6-12
 - Organizations issuing passes to youth (including school districts and universities) will be responsible for verifying age of the pass recipient
- Verification of zero-fare policy for youth ages 18 and younger must be submitted to WSDOT
 - To receive a grant allocation within the current biennium, verification must be submitted by October 1, 2022

Current Fares in Effect

GENERAL PUBLIC Fare Type	Adult (1)	Reduced Fare (2)			Paratransit (3)
		Youth (Ages 6-18)	Student	Reduced Fare	
Two-Hour Pass / Cash	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00
Day Pass	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	N/A
7-day Rolling Pass	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	N/A
31-day Rolling Pass	\$ 60.00	\$ 40.00	N/A	\$ 30.00	N/A
Monthly Pass (4)	N/A	N/A	\$ 52.00	N/A	N/A
Paratransit Monthly Pass	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 60.00
Summer Youth Pass (5)	N/A	\$ 60.00	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shuttle Park (6)	\$ 40.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(1) Up to three children under age six ride free with an adult, youth, student, reduced fare or paratransit passenger - children under age six are not permitted to ride unaccompanied

(2) Reduced Fare programs require verification of eligibility

(3) Personal Care Assistant (PCA) rides free on Paratransit or Fixed Route with paid paratransit rider (needs no identification, however, the person with whom they are traveling must have "PCA" on their ADA paratransit identification card)

(4) Monthly Student Pass is priced as a 31-day adult pass with discount applied, subject to enrollment and verification by STA in a accredited educational program

(5) Three-month youth pass valid June through August (currently piloted at no cost to rider)

(6) Includes parking at a designated parking lot, as stipulated in the Shuttle Park pass agreement

Draft Fares with Zero-Fare for Youth

GENERAL PUBLIC Fare Type	Adult (1)	Reduced Fare (2)			Paratransit (3)
		Youth (Ages through 18) (5)	Student	Reduced Fare	
Two-Hour Pass / Cash	\$ 2.00	Zero Fare	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00
Day Pass	\$ 4.00	Zero Fare	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00	N/A
7-day Rolling Pass	\$ 17.00	Zero Fare	\$ 17.00	\$ 17.00	N/A
31-day Rolling Pass	\$ 60.00	Zero Fare	N/A	\$ 30.00	N/A
Monthly Pass (4)	N/A	N/A	\$ 52.00	N/A	N/A
Paratransit Monthly Pass	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 60.00
Summer Youth Pass (5)	N/A	Zero Fare	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shuttle Park (6)	\$ 40.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(1) Up to three children under age six ride free with an adult, youth, student, reduced fare or paratransit passenger - children under age six are not permitted to ride unaccompanied

(2) Reduced Fare programs require verification of eligibility

(3) Personal Care Assistant (PCA) rides free on Paratransit or Fixed Route with paid paratransit rider (needs no identification, however, the person with whom they are traveling must have "PCA" on their ADA paratransit identification card)

(4) Monthly Student Pass is priced as a 31-day adult pass with discount applied, subject to enrollment and verification by STA in a accredited educational program

(5) Through the Washington State Transit Support Grant, all Youth Fares to Age 18 will be at no-cost to rider so long as the Transit Support Grant is in place. If the Transit Support Grant is rescinded or not renewed, Youth Fares will be reinstated at their previously approved levels

(6) Includes parking at a designated parking lot, as stipulated in the Shuttle Park pass agreement

New Fare Collection System

- In January 2022, Board approved, by resolution, revisions to STA's fare policy encompassing:
 - New fare types enabled by the new fare collection system
 - Broadening of discount programs
 - Simplification of the policy document
- The new fare collection system will be implemented in October 2022

Draft Fares with Zero-Fare for Youth with new Fare Collection System

GENERAL PUBLIC Fare Type	Standard Fare (1)	Reduced Fare (2)					Paratransit (3)
		Rider-In-Training (Ages 6-12)	Rider's License (Ages 13-18) (7)	Student	Honored Rider	Stars & Stripes	
One Ride (4)	\$ 2.00	Zero Fare	Zero Fare	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00
Farecapping - Daily (5)	\$ 4.00	N/A	Zero Fare	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00
Farecapping - Monthly (6)	\$ 60.00	N/A	Zero Fare	\$ 48.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 60.00
7-day Rolling Pass	\$ 17.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Summer Youth Pass (7)	N/A	N/A	Zero Fare	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shuttle Park (8)	\$ 40.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

GROUP SALES (9) Fare Type	Standard Fare (1)	Reduced Fare (2)	Paratransit (3)
Two-Hour Pass	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00
Day Pass	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00
7-day Rolling Pass	\$ 17.00	N/A	N/A
Monthly Pass	N/A	N/A	\$ 60.00
31-day Rolling Pass	\$ 60.00	\$ 30.00	N/A

(1) Up to three children under age six ride free with an adult, youth, student, reduced fare or paratransit passenger - children under age six are not permitted to ride unaccompanied

(2) Reduced Fare programs require verification of eligibility

(3) Personal Care Assistant (PCA) rides free on Paratransit or Fixed Route with paid paratransit rider (needs no identification, however, the person with whom they are traveling must have "PCA" on their ADA paratransit identification card)

(4) Allows for travel up to two (2) consecutive hours after initial validation

(5) Maximum fare charged per day when paid with a smart card or mobile app

(6) Maximum fare charged per calendar month when paid with a smart card or mobile app

(7) Through the Washington State Transit Support Grant, all Youth Fares to Age 18 will be at no-cost to rider so long as the Transit Support Grant is in place. If the Transit Support Grant is rescinded or not renewed, Youth Fares will be reinstated at their previously approved levels

(8) Includes parking at a designated parking lot, as stipulated in the Shuttle Park agreement

(9) Limited use fare types available for quantity purchases only and not available to the general public

Fare Policy Outreach: Title VI Requirements

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Required when any fare change, including changes to fare payment type or media, occurs
- Evaluate whether the change results in
 - disparate impacts to minorities
 - disproportionate burden to low-income populations
- Identify appropriate mitigation measures if impacts are unavoidable
- Preliminary Analysis:
 - No disparate impacts
 - No disproportionate burden

Timeline for Implementation

Timing	Activity
June 16, 2022	Public hearing at STA Board Meeting
July 21, 2022	Board resolution amending fare policy
October 1, 2022	Implement revised fare policy