



Committee on Accessible Transportation
 Ad Hoc – TriMet Proposed Fare Increase
 January 30, 2023

Attendees:

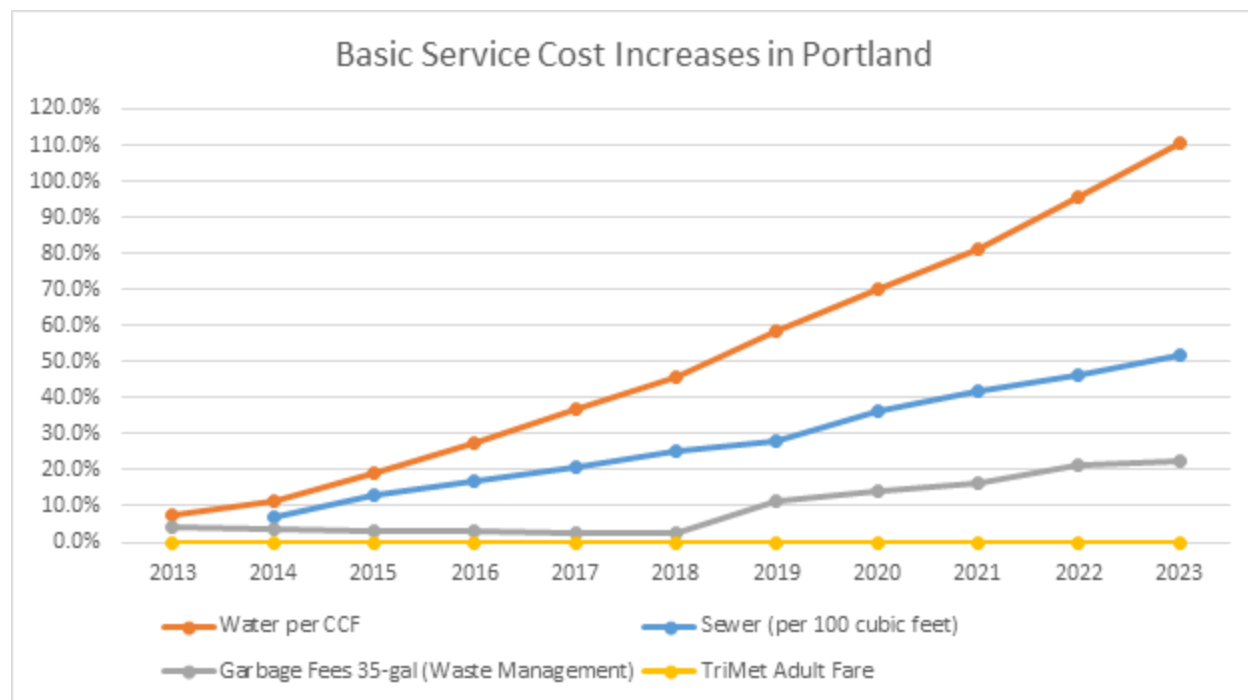
Jan Campbell, CAT Chair
 Adam Kriss, CAT
 Dave Daley, CAT
 Kris Meagher, CAT
 Kathryn Woods, Public
 JC Vanatta, TriMet

John Gardner, TriMet
 Inessa Vitko, TriMet
 Jamie Surface, TriMet
 Kim Keenan, TriMet
 Charlie Clark, TriMet
 Eileen Collins, TriMet

Background:

In Fall 2022, the TriMet Board of Directors asked TriMet staff to explore a fare increase that would be effective January 2024, and solicit feedback from the public regarding the impacts of the fare increase on them.

No increase in base fare in more than a decade



While costs have gone up for fuel, water, garbage, utility, grocery and other services and products over the last decade, TriMet's adult fare has stayed the same—at 2012 prices. That's despite inflation and a 37% increase in the cost of running and maintaining our transit system. Among the rise in costs we've experienced, TriMet's average cost for a gallon of fuel was 18% higher in the past year than in fiscal year 2018, and since mid-2021, we've seen a 10%-25% increase in prices for many of the parts and components for our buses and trains.

After holding off on increasing our adult fare for as long as possible, a fare increase will help stabilize our financial future so that TriMet can continue providing the transit service our community relies on.

January 2024 fare increase proposal

Currently, the proposal calls for the following increases to begin Jan. 1, 2024:

- Adult 2 ½ Hour Ticket: up 30 cents to \$2.80
- Honored Citizen 2 ½ Hour Ticket: up 15 cents to \$1.40
- Youth 2 ½ Hour Ticket: up 15 cents to \$1.40
- LIFT paratransit Single Ride Ticket: up 30 cents to \$2.80

An all-day pass would still be the cost of two tickets, increasing accordingly:

- Adult Day Pass: up 60 cents to \$5.60
- Honored Citizen Day Pass: up 30 cents to \$2.80
- Youth Day Pass: up 30 cents to \$2.80

The proposal calls for no change to monthly and annual fares.

Public outreach and engagement underway through Feb. 25, 2023

TriMet is kicking off a robust outreach and engagement effort to gather feedback about the fare increase proposal and how it might impact riders. There are a number of ways to share your thoughts, including an online survey, which is available in 13 languages, and in-person and virtual open houses.

Feedback opportunities

- **Online:**
trimet.org/fareproposal

- **In-Person Open House:**

- Jan. 17, 4-6 p.m. – University of Oregon-Portland, 70 NW Couch St., Portland
- Jan. 18, 5-7 p.m. – St. Philip Neri Church, 2408 SE 16th Ave., Portland
- Jan. 19, 12-4 p.m. – Rosewood Initiative, 14127 SE Stark St., Portland
- Jan. 24, 5-7 p.m. – Clackamas Community College-Harmony, 7738 SE Harmony Rd., Milwaukie
- Jan. 25, 5-7 p.m. – Washington St. Conference Center, 102 SW Washington St., Hillsboro
- Jan. 26, 5-7 p.m. – Fairview City Hall, 1300 NE Village St., Fairview
- Feb. 1, 5-7 p.m. – Muslim Educational Trust, 10330 SW Scholls Ferry Rd., Tigard

Go to trimet.org/fareproposal for details about the open houses.

- **Virtual Open House:**

- Jan. 18, 8-9 a.m.
- Jan. 28, 9-10 a.m.
- Jan. 28, 1:30-3 p.m.
- Feb. 4, 9-10 a.m.

Go to trimet.org/fareproposal for details about the virtual events.

- **TriMet Board Meetings:**

- Sign up to speak at the public forum at the start of a monthly meeting of the TriMet Board of Directors.
- People will also be able to testify after the reading of the fare increase ordinance at the Board's April 26, 2023 meeting and during the public forum at the Board's May 24, 2023 meeting.

Go to trimet.org/meetings/board for details.

- **Phone:**

- 503-238-RIDE (7433)

- **Email:**

- hello@trimet.org.

- **Mail:**
 - TriMet Customer Service
4012 SE 17th Ave, Portland, OR 97202

January 2024 Proposed Changes	
Adult 2½-Hour Ticket	Increase 30 cents from \$2.50 to \$2.80
Adult 1-Day Pass	Increase 60 cents from \$5 to \$5.60
Honored Citizen 2½-Hour Ticket	Increase 15 cents from \$1.25 to \$1.40
Honored Citizen 1-Day Pass	Increase 30 cents from \$2.50 to \$2.80
Youth 2½-Hour Ticket	Increase 15 cents from \$1.25 to \$1.40
Youth 1-Day Pass	Increase 30 cents from \$2.50 to \$2.80
LIFT Paratransit single ride	Increase 30 cents from \$2.50 to \$2.80
Month Pass and Annual Pass	No change

Community partnerships, reduced fares help people afford transit

TriMet understands a fare increase may be challenging for those on low and limited incomes, and we will continue our reduced fare program and other Access Transit programs that have been helping people who are struggling financially for years now.

TriMet’s Honored Citizen reduced fare program allows seniors, those with disabilities and those who earn a low income to ride daily for half the cost of an adult fare, and up to 72% less a month. For frequent riders who use day passes five days a week, our Hop Fastpass™ monthly fare capping means they pay just 70 cents a day for the calendar month. In addition to that, those who qualify for the Honored Citizen reduced fare program based on their income level receive a free month of rides when they register for the program or re-enroll annually.



Since July 2018, when TriMet expanded the reduced fare program to those making up to 200% of the federal poverty level, more than 46,000 people have signed up. Learn more at trimet.org/income.

Since 2013, TriMet's [Access Transit programs](#) have provided fare assistance and fare relief grants to eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit and community-based organizations. We give more than 100 [organizations](#) fares at a reduced cost or at no cost, so they can get them into the hands of those who need them, along with other support the organizations provide. Since 2015, TriMet has provided those community partners with more than \$12.2 million in fares. Learn more at trimet.org/accesstransit.

While TriMet's youth fare for those ages 7 through 17 is half the cost of an adult fare, we also have programs for high schools to provide students free or discounted fares. Learn more at trimet.org/accesstransit. Youth age 6 and under ride free with an accompanying adult.

Timeline for proposed fare increase

The first reading of the ordinance for the fare increase proposal will occur at the TriMet's Board's April 26, 2023 meeting, with a second reading and vote at its May 24, 2023 meeting. All public comment will be shared with the Board before then.

Why fares are required

TriMet fares are an important source of funding for operations, and it is why we are able to provide extensive transit service across a 533-square-mile section of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties nearly 22 hours a day, 7 days a week.

TriMet more often hears from riders who want more service, rather than free service. In addition to operations, fares help pay for the buses and trains you ride in, the maintenance of those vehicles and the tracks our MAX trains run on, the shelters and benches at stops and stations, the information about when your bus or train will arrive, and so much more.

(JC referred to this chart regarding Fare Capping under each fare category.)

Fare Category	2.5 Hrs Fare	1-Day Fare Cap	1-Month Fare Cap	# of Paid Trips to Reach 1-Month Fare Cap	# of Days to Reach 1-Month Fare Cap*
Current Fares					
Adult	\$2.50	\$5.00	\$100	40.0	20
Honored Citizen	\$1.25	\$2.50	\$28	22.4	12
Youth	\$1.25	\$2.50	\$28	22.4	12
LIFT	\$2.50	N/A	\$74	29.6	N/A
Proposed Fares					
Adult	\$2.80	\$5.60	\$100	35.7	18
Honored Citizen	\$1.40	\$2.80	\$28	20.0	10
Youth	\$1.40	\$2.80	\$28	20.0	10
LIFT	\$2.80	N/A	\$74	26.4	N/A

Minutes:

JC Vanatta: We have a strong commitment we have made to the Board of Directors in communicating fare subsidy opportunities and getting the word out. We need to do more work to communicate the subsidies available, where they are available (which partners) and the multitude of low- and reduced-fare programs.

Adam Kriss: There are concerns with carrying change; coin is heavy. There are frustrations that changes/decisions are made, feedback is sought, but it seems the decision is already made, and out feedback is irrelevant.

JC Vanatta: that is a concern we have heard from others, but nothing has been decided yet. All the feedback from all of the outreach events is being compiled and will be part of John Gardner’s Title VI analysis. Please attend the upcoming Board meetings and provide feedback. The constituents you are hearing from need to provide that feedback to the Board. The first reading is in April and the final vote is in May.

Kathryn Woods: What about LIFT Fare? Are they able to do a means tested half fare as fixed route has for Honored Citizen fares? SNAP, subsidized housing, etc.,

as qualifiers. Keeping the program accessible, but “accessibility” also relates to fare. Why can’t LIFT have a day pass? It might be worth it to consider. LIFT should examine.

JC Vanatta: WE used to have a LIFT day pass, but it was eliminated. Kathryn, you should bring these thoughts to the Board.

Kathryn Woods: In the Seattle area folks with incomes at or below 80% of the Federal Poverty Level and paratransit-qualified riders, get free fare on fixed route with the same electronic fare card. A program like that would save TriMet \$50+ dollars per trip on LIFT. A Win/Win for everyone. If a person is able to ride both fixed route and LIFT, transfers are honored on-board fixed route.

Next steps:

- 1) Eileen will make a list of the options mentioned today and circulate to the committee to decide if we want to draft a letter from CAT.
- 2) Additional options are to consider creating videos for the Low-Income Fare program and Honored Citizen Fare.
- 3) Draft an email to CAT and friends of CAT including the TriMet Board Meeting public testimony process, Board Meeting Dates, and fare proposal survey link and send out.

