

# A fare value for Central Texas

Proposed 2008 Fare Adjustments



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## Wanted: Your feedback on proposed 2008 fare adjustments for public transportation services.

Capital Metro seeks your input on proposed fare adjustments that will help assure a sustainable, cost-effective transit system that meets the future needs of a growing population.

If approved, fare adjustments for bus, RideShare and Special Transit Services would take effect in January 2008. New fares for Capital MetroRail service would be implemented when that service starts in late 2008. When Capital MetroRapid service starts, fares will be the same as Local fares.

The proposal would change Capital Metro's base bus fare from 50¢ to \$1. All other fares would be adjusted proportionately.

## Why adjust fares now?

Capital Metro's fares have remained the same since 1985 while operating costs have increased significantly. Our current fares are the lowest in the state of Texas and among the lowest in the country. We have improved and expanded our services substantially over the years with no additional cost to customers. Based on your feedback, we are continuing to expand to meet the needs of our growing population.

### SINCE 1986

- RIDERSHIP UP 257%
- SERVICE HOURS UP 101%
- SERVICE MILES UP 115%
- PRICE OF UNLEADED FUEL UP 122%

Capital Metro provides a vital community service, and our customers rely on us for transportation 365 days a year. Financial projections show that Capital Metro's expenses will exceed revenue in the near future. It is necessary to propose this fare adjustment now to help provide more and improved services in the future.

## Your opinion matters and we look forward to hearing from you.

Following the Community Forums, Capital Metro staff will present a summary of community comments to our Board of Directors in September. If the Board approves the fare adjustment, a Local Government Approval Committee (LGAC) comprised of five Austin City Council members, three Travis County commissioners and three suburban city mayors will convene in October to review the proposal. If the LGAC approves the adjustment, the new fares will take effect in January 2008. *Thanks for riding Capital Metro.*

CURRENT FARES:					PROPOSED FARES:*			
SERVICE	DILLO	LOCAL	EXPRESS	STS	DILLO	LOCAL/RAPID	ALL SERVICES	STS
Adults	Free	\$.50	\$1.00	\$.60	Free	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$1.20
Students	Free	\$.25	\$.50	\$.60	Free	\$.50	\$1.00	\$1.20
Seniors	Free	Free	Free	\$.60	Free	Free	Free	\$1.20
Medicare Card Holders	Free	Free	Free	\$.60	Free	Free	Free	\$1.20
Disability Fare Card (DFC)	Free	Free	Free	\$.60	Free	Free	Free	\$1.20
Attendants for DFC riders	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Children under 6	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Employees	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

  

SERVICE	LOCAL	EXPRESS	STS	LOCAL/RAPID	ALL SERVICES	STS
Adult Monthly Pass	\$10.00	\$17.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$30.00
Student Monthly Pass	\$5.00	\$8.50	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$30.00
Day Pass	\$1.00	\$2.00	N/A	\$ 2.00	\$ 4.00	N/A

  

DISCOUNT TICKETS & PASSES	PRICE	VALUE	PRICE
Half Price Rides Pass	\$5.00	\$10.00	(Discontinued)
STS 10 Ride Ticket Book	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$12.00

  

RIDESHARE	IN SERVICE AREA	OUT OF SERVICE AREA	IN SERVICE AREA	OUT OF SERVICE AREA
Monthly Fare (per person)	\$25.00	\$25.00 + Mileage Fee	\$50.00	\$50.00 + Mileage Fee

\* If approved, fares would take effect on Jan. 13, 2008.

Capital Metro is committed to an open, public process as we propose this fare adjustment. We will be out in the community to discuss this proposal and get your feedback. At the following meetings, you may simply come and go and leave your comments behind, or attend a brief, optional presentation and question and answer session:

### COMMUNITY FORUMS

- Aug. 23, 5:30-7:30 pm**  
**Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center,**  
 808 Nile Street, Bus Routes 2, 17 & 300
- Aug. 27, 5:30-7:30 pm**  
**Austin Public Library, Carver Branch,**  
 1161 Angelina, Bus Routes 2 & 320
- Aug. 28, 6-8 pm**  
**Austin Community College, Pinnacle Campus**  
 7748 Highway 290 West, Bus Route 333
- Aug. 29, 6-8 pm** **Pat Bryson Hall,**  
 201 N. Brushy Street, (Leander City Hall)

### PUBLIC HEARING

**CAPITAL METRO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Sep 17, 5 pm – Public Hearing**  
**Capital Metro Administration Building**  
 2910 E. 5th St., Bus Routes 17, 300, Silver Dillo

Or go online by September 3 to complete our comment card at [www.capmetro.org/fares.asp](http://www.capmetro.org/fares.asp)

For more information about meetings, the fare approval process, or to register a comment, please call our Comments Line at 512-385-0190. This line is staffed Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, and messages can be left after hours.



### 1. Why does Capital Metro want to adjust its fares now?

The adjustment will help assure a sustainable, cost-effective transit system that meets the future needs of a growing population. Capital Metro's fares have remained the same since 1985. Our current fares are the lowest in the state of Texas and among the lowest in the country. While costs for all goods and services have risen dramatically over the years, we have improved and expanded our services substantially over that time with no additional cost to customers. It is necessary to propose this fare adjustment now to help provide more and improved services in the future.

### 2. What are the proposed fares?

The proposal would adjust Capital Metro's base bus fare from 50¢ to \$1. All other fares would be adjusted proportionately, including Express, Vanpool, RideShare and STS.

### 3. Will there be more adjustments in the future?

The proposal also includes future fare adjustments in small increments (10 cents in two years, 15 cents two years later, 10 cents two years later) to allow fares to cover a sufficient level of operating costs.

### 4. Can I expect better services for paying more?

Absolutely. The fares you pay help supplement the revenue Capital Metro receives from local sales taxes and federal contributions. Capital Metro has already improved and expanded its service substantially over the past several years. Our on-time-performance rate is up, and we have added new routes, services and facilities as we continue to make progress on the All Systems Go Long-Range Transit Plan that you helped us design. All Systems Go is Capital Metro's 25-year vision for new and expanded services to address the transportation challenges in the rapidly-growing Central Texas region.

### 5. What is the process for adjusting fares? Is the public involved?

Capital Metro is committed to an open, public process as we propose this fare adjustment. We will be out in the community to discuss this proposal and get your feedback. See the other side of this brochure for a list of meeting dates and locations. In addition, you can register your comments online by September 3 at [www.capmetro.org/fares.asp](http://www.capmetro.org/fares.asp), or call our Comments Line at 512-385-0190, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm.

After we have heard from you, Capital Metro staff will present a summary to our Board of Directors in September. If the Board approves the fare adjustment, a Local Government Approval Committee (LGAC) comprised of five Austin City Council members, three Travis County commissioners and three suburban city mayors will convene in October to review the proposal. If the LGAC approves the adjustment, the new fares will take effect in January 2008.

### 6. What about people who are economically disadvantaged or receive social services, won't this be a hardship for them?

Capital Metro has been a generous partner for many non-profit groups in central Texas. We have provided more than \$50,000 worth of bus passes to the community through local non-profit organizations since 2000. We will continue these efforts to provide assistance to organizations that serve those who need financial assistance or receive social services.

### 7. Will seniors or those with disabilities have to pay more?

Senior citizens, Medicare card holders and Disability Fare Card holders will ride bus and rail service for free under the new fare proposal as outlined under their respective guidelines.

### 8. What about Special Transit Services (STS) customers?

The base fare for STS will be adjusted to \$1.20. This adjustment will help offset rising operational costs for STS service.

### 9. Are all RideShare costs seeing the same increases?

Yes. Fares for all of Capital Metro's services, including RideShare vanpool and carpool services, will be adjusted proportionately. Vehicle and fuel costs for vanpool services have been rising over the years, so the proposed rates of \$50 per month for existing RideShare customers will help offset those costs. To meet the growing demand for more RideShare service, Capital Metro is researching different approaches for new RideShare customers. It is likely that these new RideShare services will require higher fees, however, current RideShare members will be "grandfathered" if they elect to stay in the program.

### 10. Doesn't Capital Metro already get funding from sales taxes and federal grants? Can't you use that money to keep fares low?

Capital Metro's largest source of funding is sales tax revenue and we also receive federal funds. These funding sources fluctuate. It is necessary for Capital Metro to ensure that a sufficient amount of our operating costs are covered by fares and that we can continue to expand and improve our services as the region grows.

### 11. Are fares going up because of increased costs for the new urban commuter rail service?

No. Capital Metro's proposed fare adjustment is not related to costs associated with any current or future service. We are focused on our entire operation, and as stewards of the public's investment, we take our fiscal responsibilities very seriously. Capital Metro provides a vital community service, and our customers rely on us for transportation 365 days a year. Based on your feedback, we are continuing to expand our services to meet the needs of our growing population. Financial projections show that Capital Metro's expenses will exceed revenue in the near future. It is necessary to propose this fare adjustment now to ensure our level of services in the future.

The new monthly All-Services pass is not being increased due to the addition of rail services. The fare for the former Express monthly pass was adjusted to provide the same level of discount as the monthly Local service pass – 50 percent (for riders who make 20 round trips per month).

### 12. When will the new fares take effect?

If accepted by the Local Government Approval Committee, which is expected to convene in October, the new fares would take effect in conjunction with our next service change on January 13, 2008. Prior to that date, Capital Metro staff will be reaching out to educate our customers and community groups about the new fares.

### 13. Will Capital Metro honor previously purchased monthly passes? For example, if I buy a monthly pass on January 2, will it be valid after January 13, 2008?

Yes. If you have purchased a monthly pass prior to the new fare increase date, it will be honored at our fare boxes.

### 14. Why are you proposing to eliminate the existing \$17 Express monthly pass?

Capital Metro is proposing a new All-Services monthly pass for \$40 in place of the existing Express monthly pass. This adjustment makes the costs of the monthly passes consistent with other fare adjustments, yet still offers more services for a discount over daily fares. With our services expanding, we want to provide our customers with a simple monthly purchase option that can be used on many different services (Local, Express, Rapid, Rail). By offering a monthly All-Services pass, customers will have the option to select the service of their choice without having to make a separate purchase. If you will not need to use Express or rail service, you will have the option to purchase a Local and Rapid monthly pass for \$20.

The \$40 All-Services pass still offers a great value over purchasing individual all-service daypasses for a month's worth of weekday trips. For example, 20 All-Service daypasses would cost you \$80, while you get unlimited trips for 31-days for just \$40 with the monthly pass.

### 15. Will there be a Half Price Ride Pass for fixed route under the fare proposal?

The existing Half Price Ride Pass for fixed route bus service will be discontinued under the proposed fare structure. Customers still will have a wide variety of discount pass options, including a stored value card for the occasional rider:

Unlimited Monthly Pass (Adult) All Services	\$40
Unlimited Monthly Pass (Adult) Local/Rapid	\$20
Unlimited Monthly Pass (Student) All Services	\$20
Unlimited Monthly Pass (Student) Local/Rapid	\$10
Unlimited Day Pass All Services	\$4
Unlimited Day Pass Local/Rapid	\$2

