

# Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority Proposed Fare Structure Changes

June 2008

# What we will cover today

- Need for a fare increase
- Recommended fares
- Next steps

# Why raise fares?

- A fare increase is part of a financially sustainable future for Capital Metro.
- Capital Metro needs to expand services to meet the demands of the area's growing population and ease traffic congestion.
- The cost of providing service has increased and is increasing.
  - Diesel fuel prices have increased 121% in the last 5 years.
  - Labor costs have increased 34% in the last 5 years.
- Without a fare increase Capital Metro would have to cut service by approximately 32,000 hours per year and cut peak vehicles by 152 over 20 years.

# Service Level and Fares

Capital Metro has significantly improved and expanded services, but has had the same fares for 23 years.

Since 1986

Ridership	Up 256%
Service Hours	Up 155%
Service Miles	Up 192%
Relative Value of Fare	Down 46%

# Fares, Fuel Costs, and Inflation

	1995	2000	2005	Today
Cost of Diesel	\$1.10	\$1.36	\$2.37	<b>\$4.49</b>
Cap Metro Fares	50¢	50¢	50¢	50¢
Relative Value of Fares due to Inflation	36¢	31¢	28¢	27¢

## 2007 Public Outreach – What we heard

- Overall, the community recognized the need for an increase
- Too much increase at one time; gradual increase preferred
- Concern for low and fixed income population
- Too much increase to STS ticket book price
- Keep the Stored Value Card
- Charge more for premium services (Express & Rail)
- Too many free fares (mostly about 'Dillos)

# Recommended Fares

## The Basics

- Possibly as early as this fall, the local bus fare would increase \$0.25, to \$0.75
  - Other cash fares and passes adjusted proportionally
  - Express & MetroRail fares to \$1.50 (Zone system also under consideration)
  - RideShare – \$37.50 monthly
- STS 10-ride Ticket Book to \$6.00
- Stored Value Card to \$8.00
- 'Dillo fare to \$0.25 & \$5.00 31-day pass
- STS-Certified Individuals, Children under 6, and Law Enforcement, Fire, & Military personnel in uniform - Free on Fixed Route, Express & Rail
- Reduced fare (half fare) - Fixed Route \$0.35/Express & Rail \$0.75
  - Disability Fare Card holders
  - Seniors (over 65) and Medicare Card holders
  - Students 18 years and under (with student ID)
  - Active duty and reserve military personnel (with ID)
- In fall 2010, local bus fare increases to \$1.00 with proportional increases to other fares

# Zones vs. Straight Fare Pricing

Two options for MetroExpress and MetroRail fares

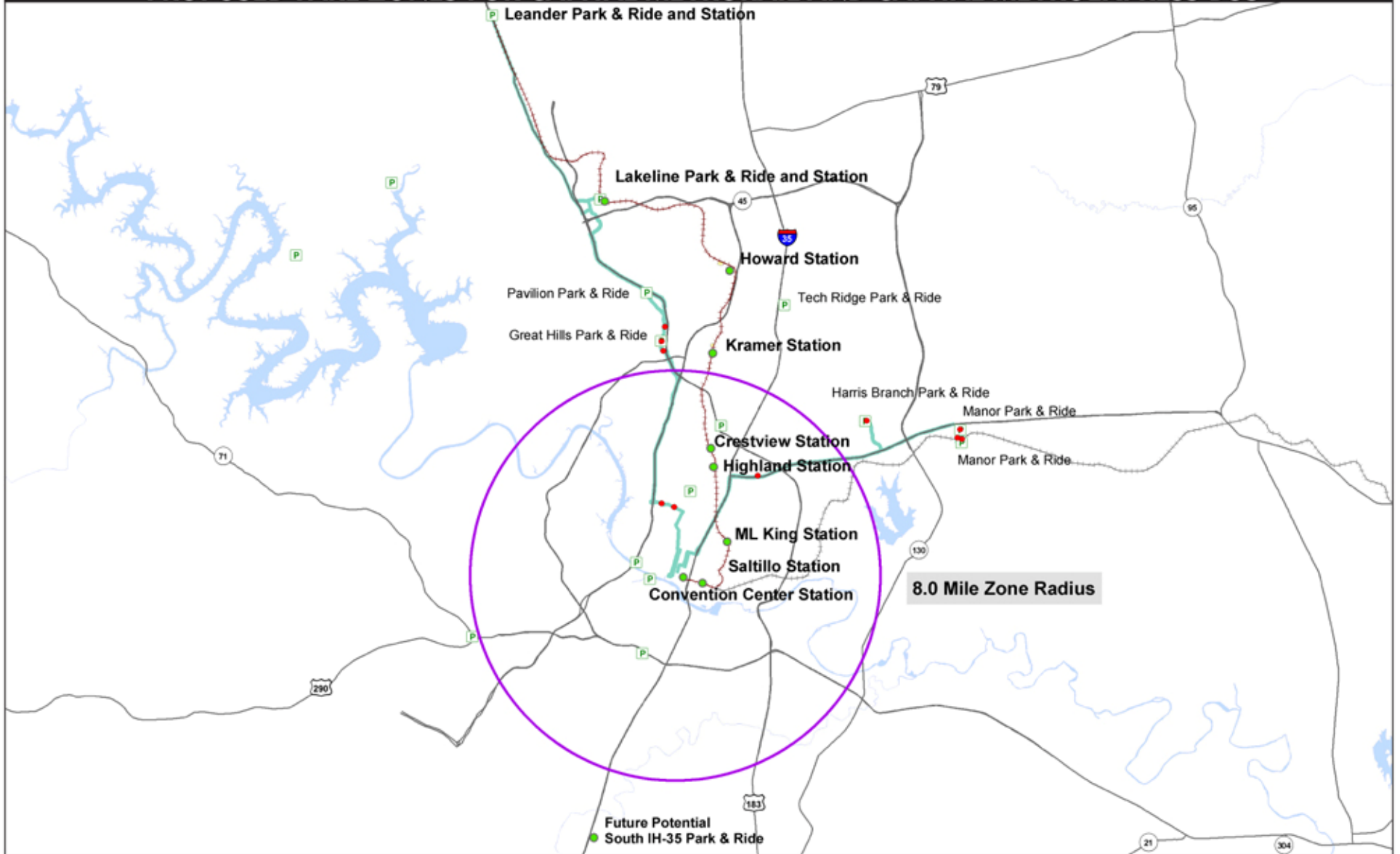
Option 1:

- Straight-fare, no-zone pricing

Option 2:

- Create two pricing zones in the Austin area. Trips that cross zones have a higher fare.

# PROPOSED FARE ZONES FOR CAPITAL METRORAIL AND CAPITAL METROEXPRESS BUS



# Social Service Agency Partnerships

- Capital Metro will continue to provide bus passes at a reduced cost to social service agencies to help their clients stay mobile.
- From 2000 thru April 2008, Capital Metro has provided more than \$1,835,208 worth of bus passes, at a 50 percent discount, to these partners.

# Next Steps for Fare Approval – Tentative Calendar

- Board approval to begin public outreach May 19
- Community Forums/Public Outreach May/June
- Public Hearing June 27
- Board approves fare structure to advance to Local Government Approval Committee “LGAC” June 30  
Committee composed of eleven members
  - 5 City of Austin Council members, 3 Travis County Commissioners, 3 Suburban City Mayors
- LGAC approval July/August
- Board approval to implement August 27
- Fare change effective\* Fall 2008

*\* MetroRail fares to begin with start of service, Oct./Nov. 2008*