Regional Fare Change Update

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Committee of the Whole – July 19th, 2017



Today's Presentation

- 1. Discuss fare increase options, alternatives and impacts
- 2. Low income fare discussion
 - a. Continue discussion on TAP
 - b. Address Metro Mobility low income riders
- 3. Program and pass price recommendations
- 4. Scenario ridership and revenue comparison
- 5. Fare Recovery Ratio Projections



2017 Fare Change Goals

- <u>Generate Additional Fare Revenues</u> Increase revenues across all modes and service (Metro Transit, regional and contract service, Metro Mobility and Transit Link) while minimizing any ridership impacts
- Promote Equity Price fares so that they account for an equitable portion of operating costs and reflect the ability of customers to pay
- **<u>Simplify</u>** Make the fare structure easier to use and understand

Success Factors Include:

- Ensure all residents and communities are partners in the decision making process
- Find ways to mitigate the impact of increased fares on those that are most transit reliant
- Simplify the "how to pay" question



Scenarios

- Scenario 1 increases fares \$0.25 at all fare levels with a similar increase to pass prices
- Scenario 2 increases fares \$0.50 at all fare levels with a similar increase to pass prices
- Scenario 3 increases fares \$0.25 at local fare levels and \$0.50 at express fare levels*

	Off Peak Local	Peak Local	Off Peak Express	Peak Express
Current	\$1.75	\$2.25	\$2.25	\$3.00
Scenario 1	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$3.25
Scenario 2	\$2.25	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$3.50
Scenario 3*	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.50



Base Fare Increase Option

- Increase of \$0.25 for all fare levels was preferred vs. \$0.50
- No support for \$0.50 increase
- Suburban Transit Providers (STPs) do not support different increases for local and express
- Public support for \$0.25 local/\$0.50 express is unknown
- Bulk of additional rides lost on scenario 3 are with STPs
 - STPs overall ridership losses increase by 4.5% vs. 0.7% for MT/Council*
- Scenario 3 creates more complexity in fare structure

Regional Annual First Year Estimates	Estimated Change in Ridership		Estimated % of F	Ridership Change		
	Local Express		Local Express		Est. Additional Revenues	
\$0.25 Increase Impacts	(3.1M)	(.7M)	-4.9%	-3.3%	\$6.7M	
\$0.50 Increase Impacts	(6.0M)	(1.1M)	-9.9%	-6.5%	\$12.8M	
\$0.25 Local/\$0.50 Express	(3.1M)	(1.1M)	-4.9%	-6.5%*	\$8.5M	



Scenario and Option Comparisons

Base Scenarios	Ridership	Revenues (Est.)	Equity	Simplicity
\$0.25 Fixed Route Increase (Scenario 1)	(3.8M)	\$6.7M	=	=
\$0.50 Fixed Route Increase (Scenario 2)	(7.1M)	\$12.8M	=	=
\$0.25 Local/\$0.50 Express Increase (Scenario 3)	(4.1M)	\$8.5M	=	_
Metro Mobility - \$0.50 Increase, \$0.75 Distance Surcharge	2% Growth*	\$1.3M	-	-
Transit Link - \$1.60 Avg. Increase, \$0.75 Distance Surcharge	No Change	\$265K	_	-



Transit Assistance Pass Review

	Population
Twin Cities Population, 18-64	2,220,487
Disability Population	146,675
Estimated Population under 185%	
Poverty Line	383,784
Estimated TAP Eligible Population	237,109

Opportunities

- Gets us started in working with individuals
- Leverages the agency/assistance program relationships already established
- Modeled after a peer agency program that has shown it works

Challenges

- Not everyone will be interested
- Service is not available for everyone
- Challenging market segment to communicate with

WHO IS GETTING HELP NOW?





Looking At Our Peers

 TAP program most closely matches King County (Seattle) ORCA Lift Program

Key Figures

King County Metropolitan Area Population (18-64)	2,464,142
Minneapolis - St. Paul Population (18-64)	2,220,487

King County Poverty Level	10.2%
MSP Poverty Level	9.3%

King County First Year Results

Est. Eligible Population	346,800
Total Number of Participants	25,000 (14%)
Total Trips - ORCA Lift	3,700,000



TAP Estimated Revenue Impacts

- Estimated full penetration of 20% (50K participants)
- Pilot test shows two out of five cards used each month (20k cards projected)
- Fare paid was \$1 vs. average retail fare of \$1.96 (based on original boardings)
 - Revenue loss per ride of \$0.96
- Average of 16 original boardings per month, per card (2nd pilot test)
- Annual est. revenue loss:
 - At \$1.25 fare: \$3M \$4M
 - At \$1.00 fare: \$3.5M \$4.5M
- Figures don't include for ridership growth
 - New riders AND more rides!



Metro Mobility Fare Increase Mitigation

Reduced Fare for Transfer to Fixed Route

- New Transfer Option: Significantly reduced fare to connect with fixed route
 - Geared towards customers able to transfer and ride fixed route
 - Option is for connection at strategic transfer locations
 - Voluntary transfer for customers
- Why this option will work
 - Customers have more flexibility and independence
 - Quicker trip than shared ride service
 - Improves efficiency of Metro Mobility service
- Potential market for connecting to fixed route
 - About 26% of customers are conditionally certified and account for 29% of rides
 - Estimate 100,000 trips annually could be provided through fixed route connections
- Implementation in Spring 2018

Fare Increases Not Borne by All Riders

 Estimate 40%-50% of customers would be minimally impacted by a fare increase because their fares are supported by 3rd party payors



Information on Program Passes

Program Description	Who's Eligible?	Current Price	Billing Cycle	Recommended Price - \$0.25 Increase	How is it priced?	Program Goal	# of Users (2016)	Total Revenues (2016)
Metropass	Organizations with 5+ Members	\$76	Monthly with Annual Agreements	\$83	Actual Usage (Revenue Neutral); based on partnership agreements	Provide alternatives to daily commuting	36K (333 companies)	\$31.3M (32%)
Student Pass (Minneapolis)	MPS Students	\$75	Quarterly (school based quarters)	\$82.50	Negotiated discount based on partnership agreements	Grow life long transit users;	10К	\$3.9M
Student Pass (All Others)	High School Students	\$87.50	Quarterly (school based quarters)	\$97	Usage w/40% Discount	alternative to yellow bus service		(3.6%)
College Pass	Area Colleges and Universities	\$175/\$140	Semester	\$165	Usage w/30% Discount	Grow life long transit users; provide alternatives to daily commuting.	12.5K	\$1.7M (1.6%)
Upass	University of Minnesota Students	\$100	Semester	\$114	Usage w/40% Discount	Grow life long transit users; provide alternatives to daily commuting.	19k (Fall 2016)	\$2.8M (2.6%)



Scenario and Option Comparisons

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\$0.50 Fixed Route Increase (Scenario 2)	(7.1M)	\$12.8M	=	=		
\$0.25 Local/\$0.50 Express Increase (Scenario 3)	(4.1M)	\$8.5M	-	-		
Metro Mobility - \$0.50 Increase, \$0.75 Distance Surcharge (non-ADA) > 15 Miles	2% Growth*	\$1.3M	-	-		
Transit Link - \$1.60 Avg. Increase, \$0.75 Distance Surcharge > 15 Miles	No Change	\$265K	-	-		
Fare Policy Options	Ridership	Revenues (Est.)	Equity	Simplicity		
Eliminate Stored Value Bonus	-	\$1.9M	+	=		
Transit Assistance Program (TAP)	+	(\$3.0M)	+	=		
One Fare for Reduced Fares (Sr., Youth and Medicare)	+	(\$.6M)	+	+		





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