

Northstar Commuter Rail Fare and Tokens Permanent Fare Change



Transportation Committee
March 25, 2013

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Background

- July/August 2009 Council established permanent and introductory fares
- October 2010 Council approved permanent fare set
- July 2012 Council approved temporary fare change from August 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013

Ridership

- 2010 – 710,426
- 2011 – 703,427
- 2012 Original Forecast - 681,000 (3.2% below 2011)
- 2012 Final 700,276 (0.4% below 2011)

Today

Recommended Permanent Fare Changes:

Northstar

- Reflects current travel market conditions for commuter value of long-distance service
- Balances impacts on cost and subsidy per passenger
- Reflects customer survey comments on fare structure
- Forecast annual fare revenue loss of \$270k will be covered by cost savings in operating budget
- Title VI Fare Equity review found no disparate impact

Tokens

- Reflects support from organizations purchasing tokens
- Improves customer convenience/reduces disputes
- Forecast annual revenue loss of \$48k will be covered by cost savings in operating budget

Permanent Fare Change Effective May 1, 2013

One-way fares to/from downtown Minneapolis	Weekday (Rush Hour)	Weekend (Non-Rush Hours)	
	All customers except persons with disabilities	Adults	Seniors (65+), Youth (6-12) and Medicare card holders. Valid at all times for persons with disabilities.
Big Lake	\$6.00	\$5.25	\$1.75
Elk River	\$4.50	\$4.00	\$1.25
Ramsey	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$1.00
Anoka	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Coon Rapids-Riverdale	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Fridley	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$0.75
Station-to-Station	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$0.75

Northstar Commuter Rail Fare Temporary Fare Ridership Change

Ridership results:

- Pre-temporary fare forecast – 681,000 rides
- Final Ridership – 700,276

Increase (Decrease) from 681k forecast (Aug to Dec 2012)

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	5 Month YTD
Weekday	1.7%	0%	12.3%	15.7%	24.0%	9.4%
Total	1.5%	(0.7%)	11.0%	16.2%	8.9%	6.5%

Jan & Feb 2013

	Jan	Feb	2 Month YTD
With Ramsey:			
Weekday	14.4%	20.1%	17.2%
Total	16.0%	13.7%	14.8%
Without Ramsey:			
Weekday	7.4%	12.9%	10.1%
Total	9.1%	7.2%	8.2%

Financial Impacts of Temporary Fare Change

	2011 Actual	2012 Forecast July YTD	2012 Forecast Actual	2013 Annualized Temporary Fare 0% Growth	2013 Annualized Temporary Fare 7% Growth
Passengers	703,427	681,000	700,276	714,600	762,270
Cost per Passenger	\$22.69	\$24.25	\$23.20	\$23.45	\$21.99
Subsidy per Passenger	\$18.82	\$21.00	\$19.49	\$20.15	\$18.69

Recommendation

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the fare change for Northstar Commuter Rail as set forth in the preceding tables, effective May 1, 2013.
- Approve the fare change where the \$1.00 value of a bus issued transfer towards Northstar fares will no longer apply, effective May 1, 2013

Tokens Permanent Fare Change Effective May 1, 2013

- Annually over 850,000 tokens sold to social service and other organizations who provide to clients at no charge
- Organizations include Sharing & Caring Hands, St. Stephens Human Services
- Token valid for both local peak and off-peak fares at price of \$1.75
- Improve customer convenience
- Reduce operator fare disputes
- Supports simplification requests by social service organizations
- Over 92% support from survey of organizations purchasing tokens
- Fare revenue loss approximately \$48k, covered by cost savings in operating budget

Recommendation

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the fare change for Tokens where a single token will be valid for both local peak and off-peak fares for up to a value of \$2.25 with the token price set at \$1.75, effective May 1, 2013.

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