

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 13, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of: January 22, 2014

Subject: Approval of Public Comment Process and Proposed Fare for Metro Mobility Downtown Zone

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Public Accountability Policy 2-1, Public Hearings Procedure 2-1b; Transit Fare Policy Changes 3-2-6, Implementing Procedure 3-2-6a Council Policy 3-3

Staff Prepared/Presented:

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651)602-1754

Gerri Sutton, Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1672

Andrew Krueger, Senior Manager Metro Mobility (651) 602-1689

Division/Department: Transportation/Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) - Metro Mobility

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the attached public comment process and proposed Metro Mobility Downtown Zone fare adjustment for the purpose of public comment prior to Council adoption of a fare adjustment.

Background

- Under the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) the fare for paratransit services cannot exceed more than two times the local fixed route fare for a comparable trip.
- In both the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul there is a "Downtown Zone" for fixed routed. Fares for trips which begin and end within the Downtown Zone are \$0.50 on all fixed routes.
- The fare for all Metro Mobility trips which are wholly within either Downtown Zone should not exceed \$1.00.
- Metro Mobility trips which are wholly within either Downtown Zone are currently paying either the \$4.00 peak or \$3.00 off peak Metro Mobility fare.

Rationale

Although Council Policy does not require public hearings to reduce a fare, staff recommends a public comment process, including two public meetings, to allow for presentation of the proposed fare change to \$1.00 for peak and off peak Metro Mobility trips wholly within either of the Downtown Fare Zones.

While a fare lower than \$1.00 is allowable, staff recommends the \$1.00 maximum fare as permitted by the ADA given the 2013 Metro Mobility subsidy per ride of around \$23.

Funding

Using current ridership information, staff estimates that 2,190 trips (1,038 trips in Minneapolis and 1,152 in Saint Paul) per year are wholly within the Downtown Zones. With a \$1.00 fare this translates into approximately \$6,850 less in annual fare revenue. The 2014 Metro Mobility operating budget is \$59,694,929.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.

Public Comment Options

Public Comment Period: January 27th, 2014– February 24th, 2014

Meeting: Wednesday February 5th, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Fred T. Heywood Office Building Chambers

560 Sixth Ave North, Minneapolis MN

Served by Routes 5, 19, 22

Meeting held just prior to the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Meeting: Thursday February 20th 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Metropolitan Council Chambers

390 Robert St North

Saint Paul, MN 55101

Served by Routes 16,21,53,54,61,63,64,65,68,70,71,74,94

Other Comment Options:

Contact the Regional Data Center via:

- Mail: 390 N. Robert Street, St. Paul 55101
- Email: data.center@metc.state.mn.us
- Public Comment Line: 651.602.1500
- Telephone: 651.602.1140
- TTY: 651.291.0904
- Fax: 651.602.1464

Metro Mobility Fare Adjustment Proposal

Metro Mobility Demand Fares	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Off Peak	\$3.00	\$3.00
Peak	\$4.00	\$4.00
Downtown Fare Zone Off Peak*	\$3.00	\$1.00
Downtown Fare Zone Peak*	\$4.00	\$1.00

*Trips wholly within either the Saint Paul or Minneapolis Downtown Zone.

