

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 10th, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 26, 2014

Subject: Adoption of Metro Mobility Downtown Zone Fare

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:

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve a \$1.00 fare effective Tuesday, April 1, 2014, for all Metro Mobility trips that are wholly within either the downtown Minneapolis or downtown Saint Paul fare zone, as established by Metro Transit.

Background

On January 22, 2014, the Metropolitan Council approved Business Item [2014-15](#) establishing a public comment period and two public meetings to gather public comment on the proposed Metro Mobility downtown fare. The first public meeting was held on Wednesday February 5, 2014 in conjunction with the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting. This meeting was attended by five members of the public and all comments were supportive of the change. The second meeting, originally scheduled for Thursday, February 20 at 5:30 p.m., was postponed due to hazardous weather conditions. The rescheduled meeting occurred on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. and no members of the public attended the meeting.

Rationale

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 Metro Transit customers pay only \$0.50 for trips wholly within the downtown fare zone. Therefore the fare for all Metro Mobility trips which are wholly within either Downtown Zone should not exceed \$1.00. The trips are currently \$3.00 or \$4.00 for non-peak and peak travel trips.

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 taken in the downtown zones. The reduction to fare revenues is estimated to be less than \$7,000. The 2014 Metro Mobility operating budget is \$59,695,000.

Known Support / Opposition

All comments received at public meetings and in writing support the change. The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota sent a letter "respectfully urging" the Council to adopt the fare as proposed.