



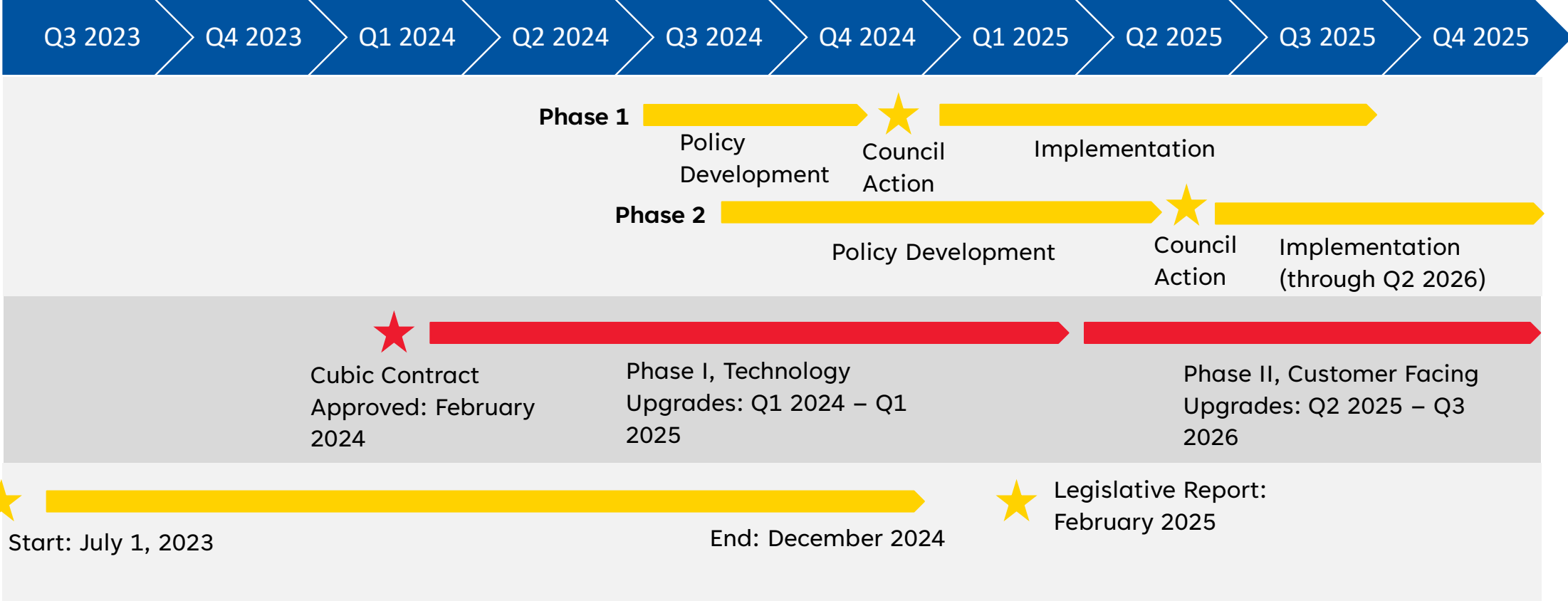
Proposed Fare Policy Changes

October 28, 2024

Fare Policy Change | Why Now?

- **Improve Customer Experience:** Overall fare payment will be easier for riders to understand
 - Improved experience for all customers (new or returning) region wide
- **Increase Ridership:** Peak-hour reduction in local fare costs will help respond to post-Covid ridership trends, and encourage riders back to transit
 - Allows customers to travel when they need to without considering cost (on local routes)
- **Improve Safety:** Helps support a safer system for both riders and operators
- **Equity:** Removal of peak surcharge for youth (ages 6-12), seniors (65+) and Medicare card holders

Fare Policy & System Upgrade Timeline



Proposed Fare Policy Changes | Two Phases

- **Phase 1 – Near-Term Fare Policy Opportunities**

- Collection of Metro Transit and Metro Mobility fare policy changes that will offer near-term rider benefits and address current ridership trends
- Timeline: Approve by the Council in November for implementation January 1, 2025

- **Phase 2 – Comprehensive Fare Policy Review**

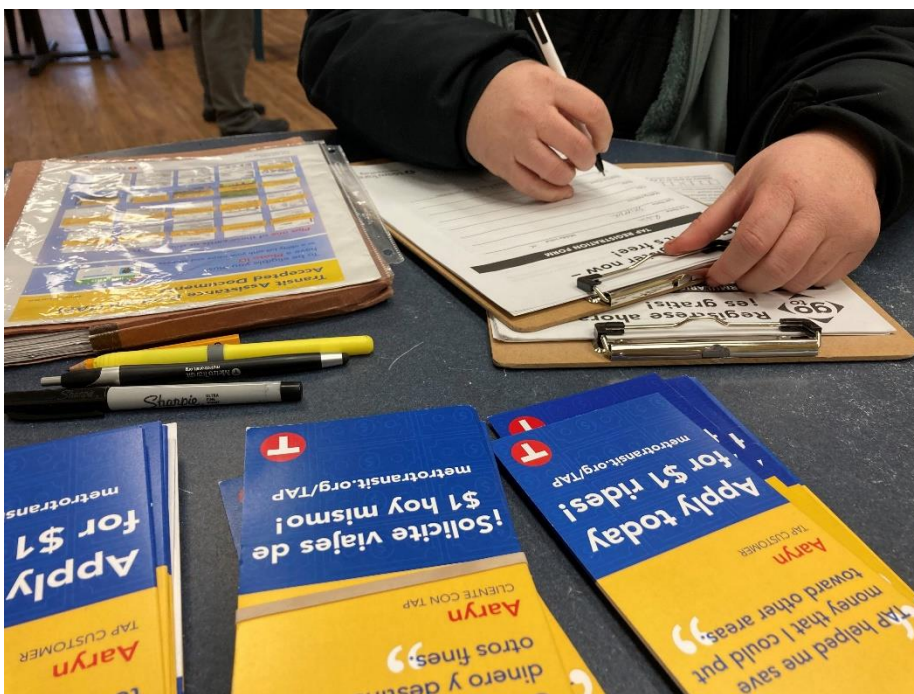
- In coordination with the fare collection system upgrade, Clever Consulting Group and Council stakeholders are currently undertaking a comprehensive fare policy review and assisting in the effort to align our fare policy with, (1) industry standards and trends, (2) technology upgrades and (3) schedule
- Possible changes include:
 - Open payment, transfer policy, fare capping, eliminate peak express, adjust Metro Micro fare, evaluate pass programs, and more.
- Timeline: Mid-2025

Phase 1 | Fare Simplification

- Simplify regional fare for non-express routes including bus and light rail
 - End rush hour surcharge for non-express bus and METRO
 - Update relevant regular fare pass products
 - Update: All-day (\$4 adult, \$2 reduced), & Reduced Fare 7-day (\$20), 10-ride pass \$20
 - Eliminate: Peak 31 day & Visitor Pass
 - In Phase 1, we will not change fares for
 - Express bus, Northstar, Metro Micro / Transit Link or Downtown Zone

Metro Transit Proposed Fare Policy Changes		
	Current Peak	Proposed All Day
Adult Fare on Local bus/METRO	\$2.50	\$2.00
Reduced Fare (youth, seniors & Medicare)	\$2.50	\$1.00

Phase 1 | Transit Assistance Program Improvements



- Phase I TAP Improvements:

- Expand TAP program eligibility from one to two years
 - Will be implemented in 2025, once the fare technology has been installed
- Increased effort to improve TAP utilization
 - Added FTE to assist with growing the TAP program
 - Continued focus on signing charitable organizations and municipal TAP partner agreements
 - Increasing TAP tabling events to spread awareness
 - Training TRIP agents to sign up eligible customers while out on the system
 - 21 Additional partner TAP agreements signed in 2024

Phase 1 | MTS Proposed Changes

- Metro Mobility change peak fare and modify AM and PM peak hours
 - Proposed new AM Peak Hours: 6:30AM – 9:30AM (3 hours)
 - Proposed new PM Peak Hours: 2:00PM-5:30PM (3.5 hours)
- Add new Transit Link Circulator service with \$1 fare (\$2 round trip)
- Introduce a 6-month pilot of a deeply discounted fare (\$.01 per ride) for Metro Mobility customers on Fixed Route (start after 2024 pilot concludes)

MTS Proposed Fare Policy Changes		
	Current	Proposed
Peak Fare	\$4.50	\$4.00
Off Peak Fare	\$3.50	\$3.50
Transit Link Circulator Fare	-	\$1.00
Metro Mobility Certified rider on regular route bus/train	\$0.00 legislatively required through 12/31/2024	\$0.01 six-month pilot, 1/1/2025 – 6/30/2025

Phase 1 | Title VI

Target Date for Completion – October 28, 2024

Priority on analysis for removal of Peak Fares

Title VI Analysis Includes:

- Removal of Peak Reduced Fares
- Removal of Local Peak Fares
- End of Pilot Routes 32/62

Not included in Analysis:

- \$1 Transit Link Circulator
 - New service, Title VI not necessary
- Deep Discount for Metro Mobility on Fixed Routes
 - Pilot Program; exempt from Title VI for up to 12 months

Next Steps

- **Fare Policy Phase 1**

- November 13th: Council Item to approve fare adjustments
- January 1, 2025: Fare policy changes become effective, including six-month pilot for \$0.01 on regular route for Met Mo certified
 - TAP program changes will be implemented in 2025 as new technology comes on-line

- **Fare Policy Phase 2**

- Will return to the Council in mid-2025 with the results of consultant's work and possible comprehensive fare policy proposal

- **Free Fare Pilot**

- November: Begin communicating the end of the free fare pilot
- January 1, 2025: Discontinue free fares on Route 62 and 32
- February 15, 2025: Submit legislative report

Proposed Actions

Business Item: 2024-304, Fare Policy Changes

- That the Metropolitan Council approve the following fare policy changes:
 - Removal of local peak (rush hour) fares, reducing the fare from \$2.50 to \$2.00 and peak reduced fares from \$2.50 to \$1.00 for all regional transit providers participating in the regional fare structure and adjust the following fare products:
 - All Day Pass from \$5.00 to \$4.00; Reduced Fare All Day Pass from \$5.00 to \$2.00; 10 Ride Pass Full Fare from \$20.50 to \$20.00; Seven Day Pass from \$24 - \$20; Eliminate \$90.00 (31 Day) local peak and the \$5.00 visitor pass
 - Modify the Metro Mobility peak fare, from \$4.50 to \$4.00
 - Modify Metro Mobility peak fare hours to 6:30AM-9:30AM and 2:00PM to 5:30PM
 - Expand Transit Assistance Program (TAP) eligibility from one to two years, to be implemented in 2025, once the fare technology is available.
 - Approve a 6-month deeply discounted fare pilot for Metro Mobility customers to ride on regional fixed routes for \$.01, effective 1/1/2025 – 6/30/2025.
 - Provide a new fare of \$1.00 for Transit Link Circulator Service.
 - Unless otherwise noted, the fare change will be implemented in January 2025.

Business Item: 2024-305, Fare Policy Changes Title VI Analysis

- That the Metropolitan Council approve the results of the Title VI Service Equity Analysis for the removal of local peak fares (which subsequently impacts the peak fare offered by Metro Mobility), reduced peak fares and the end of the pilot on routes 32 & 62.