

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

## FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

ITEM NUMBER: 18

DATE: November 18, 2003

STAFF: Tom Frazier

### SUBJECT

Public Hearing and Resolution 2003-126 Making Adjustments to Transfort and Dial-A-Ride Fares.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

The amount of new revenue will be determined by the impact of the fare change on ridership. The fare study consultants projected ridership reductions with the proposed fare increase without substantial increase in revenue. For Council's information, financial impacts are shown on the fixed route and Dial-A-Ride systems with no change in ridership and the projected reduced ridership.

	<b>RIDERSHIP</b>	<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b>
<b><u>Fixed-Route</u></b>		
No Drop in Ridership	1,477,735	Additional \$30,422
Reduced Ridership	1,435,848	Additional \$ 3,830
<b><u>Dial-A-Ride</u></b>		
No Drop in Ridership	75,033	Additional \$12,840
Reduced Ridership	69,030	Additional \$ 6,477

The fares for the FoxTrot transit service are not included in these proposed rate changes. The FoxTrot service is part of an Intergovernmental Agreement with Loveland and Larimer County, and those discussions are pending.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City Council requested the examination of the Dial-A-Ride eligibility criteria and the fees and fares for Transfort/Dial-A-Ride. At the October 14, 2003 study session, Council direction was to increase fares/fees for the fixed route and Dial-A-Ride transit services by 25% except for Youth fares and Dial-A-Ride Special low-income fare. The Youth fare will remain the same, at no charge.

Other items discussed at the study session but not included for Council action:

- Weekdays free for youth with fares charged for weekends
- Increasing Youth Fare to 25 cents
- No fare increase for Dial-A-Ride transit services.

This proposed Resolution would establish the fares and fees for 2004 as follows:

	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
<b>TRANSFORT FARES</b>		
10 Ride	\$ 7.00	\$ 9.00
Monthly Pass	\$ 19.00	\$ 25.00
Senior Annual Pass	\$ 19.00	\$ 25.00
Disabled Annual Pass	\$ 19.00	\$ 25.00
Single Ride		
Regular	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.25
Senior, Disabled	\$ .50	\$ .60
Youth	FREE	FREE
Transfers	FREE	FREE
CSU Student	\$ 12.19/semester	Flat fee of approximately \$540,000
Passfort Annual Pass	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
<b>DIAL-A-RIDE FARES</b>		
33 Ride Ticket	\$ 60.00	\$ 75.00
Regular	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.50
Lower Income	A. \$ 1.00	\$ 1.25
	B. \$ .50	\$ .50

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2001, City Council asked staff to: (1) look into the eligibility requirements for Dial-A-Ride service; and to (2) to determine if the fees and fares for Transfort/Dial-A-Ride are appropriate. These items were discussed at the May 28, 2002 study session. At that session, Council agreed that Dial-A-Ride eligibility should stay the same and fares and fees should increase by 25% and should include a Youth Fare of \$.25. At the July 19, 2002 City Council meeting, Council deferred the fare increase decision until staff completed the ASCSU/CSU negotiations.

Staff brought the item back to Council at the October 14, 2003 study session with the recommendation that the Youth Fare not be implemented due to the projected drop in youth ridership.

Staff sought input from the public and numerous boards and commissions. The general comments were that they were not opposed to the proposed fare increases. The Senior Transportation committee felt that youth should be charged a fare, and were not opposed to an increased senior/disabled fare.

RESOLUTION 2003-126  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO TRANSFORT AND DIAL-A-RIDE FARES

WHEREAS, the fares for the use of City's Transfort bus system and the City's paratransit service, Dial-A-Ride, have not been increased since July of 1999; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing Transfort and Dial-A-Ride services has continued to increase; and

WHEREAS, Transfort and Dial-A-Ride fares need to be increased to keep pace with inflationary costs of providing Transfort and Dial-A-Ride services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that effective January, 2004, the fares for Transfort and Dial-A-Ride shall be as follows:

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>NEW FEE/FARE</u>
<b><u>Transfort Fares:</u></b>	
10 Ride	\$ 9.00
Monthly Pass	\$25.00
Senior Annual Pass	\$25.00
Disabled Annual Pass	\$25.00
Single Ride	
Regular	\$ 1.25
Senior, Disabled	\$ .60
Youth	Free
CSU Student	Negotiated annual flat fee of approximately \$540,000
Passfort Annual Pass	\$35.00
<b><u>Dial-A-Ride Fares:</u></b>	
33 Ride Ticket	\$75.00
Regular	\$ 2.50
Lower Income:     A.	\$ 1.25
B.	\$ .50

Passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held this 18th day of November, A.D. 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

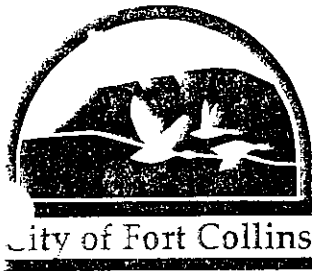
November 18, 2003

RE: Fare Increase for Transfort/Dial-A-Ride

The City of Fort Collins is proposing fare increases for Transfort/Dial-A-Ride bus service. The proposed fares are indicated below:

Transfort Fare: \$1.25  
Senior/Disabled Fare: \$.60  
Youth: Free  
Transfers: Free  
Transfort Monthly Pass: \$25.00  
Transfort 10-Ride Pass: \$9.00  
Transfort Disabled Pass: \$25.00  
Transfort Senior Pass: \$25.00  
Dial-A-Ride Fare: \$2.50  
Dial-A-Ride Lower Income A: \$1.25  
Dial-A-Ride Lower Income B: \$.50  
Dial-A-Ride 33 Ride Ticket: \$75.00

The proposed fare increases are needed to help defer increased transit operating costs. The proposal will be presented to City Council for a decision on November 18, 2003 at 6pm. If you have questions or comments about the proposed increases, you may call (970)224-6161 or send an email to [sgriffith@fcgov.com](mailto:sgriffith@fcgov.com)



**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 15, 2003

**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members

**THRU:** John F. Fischbach, City Manager  
Ron Phillips, Transportation Services Director

**FROM:** Marlys Sittner, Transfort/Dial-A-Ride Operations Manager  
Thomas L. Frazier, Transfort/Dial-A-Ride General Manager

**RE:** **OCTOBER 14, STUDY SESSION SUMMARY –  
TRANSFORT/DIAL-A-RIDE FEES AND FARES**

Council Members present: Mayor Ray Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem William Bertschy, and Council Members David Roy, Marty Tharp, Kurt Kastein, Karen Weitkunat, and Eric Hamrick.

Staff Present: John F. Fischbach, Ron Phillips, Diane Jones, Marlys Sittner, Thomas L. Frazier

The purpose of the study session was to determine if City Council wanted to change the fares/fees for riders on the fixed route/paratransit (Dial-A-Ride) bus system.

The Council direction was to increase fares/fees for the fixed route and Dial-A-Ride transit services by 25% except for Youth fares and Dial-A-Ride Special low income fare. The Youth fares will remain the same, no charge.

Council directed staff to prepare a report on “Youth Ridership to School”, documenting the cost for that service. Council plans to present this report to the school board.

Council asked staff to continue negotiations with the Associated Students of Colorado State University (ASCSU) and Colorado State University (CSU) administration to increase their payment for transit service.

Other items discussed but not included for Council action:

- Weekdays free for Youth with fares charged for weekends
- Increasing Youth Fare to .25 cents
- No increased fare for Dial-A-Ride transit services

Discussion was held on providing discounts to low income individuals. Currently and included as part of the proposed fare increases for 2004, discounts are provided for seniors, disabled, and persons who have a Medicaid Health card. Additionally, half-priced passes are sold to Foothills Gateway, Larimer County Workforce Center, New Bridges, Larimer County Probation Department, Larimer County Department of Health and Human Services, and Larimer County Corrections. As part of assisting people who are identified by agencies as "very needy", Transfort distributes free ride tickets (in 2002, 8400 tickets were distributed to 32 social service agencies).

The next step is to present the above proposed fare increases to City Council for a decision on November 18, 2003. In conformance to federal policies, the fare increase item will be identified as a Public Hearing for citizens to voice their support or concerns.

DATE: October 14, 2003

STAFF: Tom Frazier  
Marlys Sittner

## STUDY SESSION ITEM

### FORT COLLINS CITY COUNCIL

#### SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

---

Establishing the Fees and Fares for Transfort/Dial-A-Ride for 2004-2005.

#### GENERAL DIRECTION SOUGHT AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED

---

Staff is seeking direction on increasing Transfort/Dial-A-Ride fares and fees. The City Council requested the examination of the fees and fares for Transfort/Dial-A-Ride in 2002. Fort Collins' existing fare policy and fare strategy was evaluated for consistency of goals, equity among ridership groups, and was compared to regional peer organizations.

At the May 28, 2002 Study Session, findings were presented from the fare/fee study conducted by KA Associates of Kansas City. Council all agreed that the Youth fare should be \$.25 with accommodations for youth who couldn't afford the new fare. Council agreed the Elderly/Disabled Annual Pass should increase and Council directed staff to increase the other fixed route fares by 25% to help cover the future cost for Dial-a-ride operational expenses. There was significant discussion regarding increasing the Dial-a-Ride fares, however, there was an interest in maintaining a reduced fare for individuals with financial limitations. Council also directed staff to pursue increasing the CSU student's transit fees for the next contract period.

Due to the ridership impact of the route changes and the potential impact of reduced ridership caused by major fare increase, staff proposed no significant changes in fares for 2003. In particular, staff did not support a youth fare increase because of the potential 59% reduction of youth ridership.

At the July 19, 2002 Council meeting, based on Council's direction, staff presented a Resolution that would increase fares and fees. Council tabled the issue until after the ASCSU/CSU negotiations were completed.

Staff has completed part of the ASCSU/CSU negotiations. The initial negotiations resulted in a one-year agreement for a flat annual fee equal to the payment from the previous contract year. In addition, staff renegotiated the night service agreement, which included redesigning the routes with ASCSU paying 100% of the night service costs. Staff is continuing negotiations to finalize a 3-year contract for 2004 through 2007 with a fee increase. ASCSU/CSU is opposed to any fee increase.

Public input was included as a significant part of the 2002 fare study and feedback was gathered from numerous impacted groups. A summary of the input is attached.



Pending Council direction, the new fares would be effective January 1, 2004. Proposed fares are as follows:

<b>TRANSFORT FARES</b>	<b>CURRENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
10 Ride	\$ 7.00	\$ 9.00
Monthly Pass	\$ 19.00	\$ 25.00
Senior Annual Pass	\$ 19.00	\$ 25.00
Disabled Annual Pass	\$ 19.00	\$ 25.00
Youth Monthly	FREE	\$ 10.00
Single Ride		
Regular	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.25
Senior, Disabled	\$ .50	\$ .60
Youth	FREE	\$ .25
Transfers	FREE	FREE
CSU Student	\$ 12.19/semester	\$ 12.19/semester
Passfort Annual Pass	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
<b>DIAL-A-RIDE FARES</b>		
33 Ride Ticket	\$ 60.00	\$ 75.00
Regular	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.50
Lower Income	A. \$ 1.00	\$ 1.25
	B. \$ .50	\$ .50

As noted in the previous presentation to Council, staff is projecting a decrease in ridership with a fare increase, however, a range from the projected decrease to no decrease is demonstrated in the following charts:

		Fare Increase to \$1.25	
Full Fare- Fixed Rt.	Current \$1.00	Reduced Ridership	Stable Ridership
Projected Ridership	111,188	91,174	111,188
Projected Revenue	\$111,188	\$113,968	\$138,985
<b>Variance</b>		<b>\$2,780</b>	<b>\$ 27,797</b>