



# County of Tuolumne

## Department of Public Works

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**Date:** July 14, 2009  
**To:** Board of Supervisors  
**From:** Peter M. Rei, Director of Public Works  
**Subject:** New Tuolumne County Transit Fare Structure and Service Modification

The County Department of Public Works requests the Board of Supervisors conduct a public hearing to consider public comment and adopt a new fare structure including fare increases for Tuolumne County Transit, changing the "Senior" category to 60 years of age and over, and the elimination of services after 7:00 p.m. effective August 17, 2009.

### Background

The current fare structure was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1997, and has not been modified since that time. This fare structure is based upon a \$1.00 fare for riding fixed route services and a \$2.00 fare for riding Dial-A-Ride (DAR). Discounts are available to youths (under 18), seniors (55+) and persons with disabilities. Day Passes and Monthly Passes are also available. The service area is divided into zones to adjust fares based on trip length. The purchase of a transfer (25¢ for Fixed Route, 50¢ for DAR) is required when passengers cross zone lines. Increases in fuel, labor and numerous other operating costs have risen 42% since 1997.

The farebox recovery ratio calculation is one of the main, bottom line, performance indicators evaluated for transit services to determine whether a service is viable. This calculation compares the total cost of operating a service to the revenue generated by that service. A 10% farebox recovery ratio is considered the minimum standard to meet. As recently reported to the Board, farebox recovery ratios for Tuolumne County Transit (TCT) services have been significantly lower in the past two years than previously experienced. Fixed Route services dropped from 18.8% in Fiscal Year 2005/06 to 10.8% in FY07/08. Fortunately, the ratio has increased some in FY08/09 to 14%. Overall services, when Fixed Route and Dial-A-Ride are combined, dropped from 15.4% in FY06 to 9.7% in FY08, and then increased to 12% in FY09.

In addition to the need to increase fares, the Transit Contractor requested the County adopt a more simplified fare structure that might include eliminating transfers to assist drivers in the day to day collection of fares from passengers and farebox calculation operations. The complexity of fares owed makes it difficult for drivers to ensure proper farebox deposit by passengers. Fare evasion appears to be a significant problem.

In response to public requests for expanded services, a major revision of the Fixed Route Schedules was implemented in August 2006, adding over 4,000 annual hours of

service. These new schedules not only improved the frequency of service, particularly in the core Sonora/East Sonora areas, but also added service to areas previously not served by transit (communities along Phoenix Lake, Campo Seco, Racetrack and Shaws Flat Roads). It also increased the number of connections provided at Columbia College to meet the Calaveras Transit bus to provide more opportunities for interregional travel.

Since 2006, daily ridership has risen 23% in support of service expansions. Unfortunately, improvements in evening services, including transit services at 9:00 p.m. from Columbia College, have not resulted in significant ridership and are, therefore, recommended for elimination.

Finally, staff recommends the Board change the "Senior" category from 55 years of age and over to 60 years and over to be more consistent with other transit agencies. This change will only impact those healthy seniors in the 55-60 year age bracket who should not have a problem utilizing Fixed Route services. Those individuals with mobility limitations would still qualify for Dial-A-Ride services.

After the presentation of the Mid-Year Performance Report on January 13, 2009, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to work on a simplified fare structure which might include a fare increase with the hopes of improving farebox recovery ratios. In consultation with Tuolumne County Transit management, Staff has developed the attached revised Fare Schedule. Changes have been highlighted for the Board's review. Information on fares charged by other agencies is also provided.

### **Financial Impact**

Based on the current ridership, the average fare needed to maintain the minimum ten percent (10%) farebox recovery ratio for Fixed Route services is \$.91 and \$2.31 for Dial-A-Ride services. To maintain at least a fifteen percent (15%) farebox recovery ratio, the average fare paid would need to be \$1.44 for Fixed Route and \$3.47 for Dial-A-Ride. The proposed Fare Schedule sets the Fixed Route fare at \$1.50 and Dial-A-Ride at \$3.00. Increases to Day Passes, Monthly Passes and Tickets Books, as well as the elimination of the charge for transfers, are also proposed in the attached Fare Schedule. If increases in ridership occur or costs for services decrease, farebox recovery ratios would further improve.

Even though an anticipated 25% increase in fare revenue is included in the Public Transportation Budget proposed for FY09/10, the full impact of the new fare schedule is really unknown at this time. Ridership may fluctuate in response to the fare increases, at least initially. Although, the general fixed route fares are still lower than those charged by our neighbor, Calaveras County, in their recent fare structure increase. Staff recommends the Board adopt the new schedule and then evaluate the farebox for a period of 6 months to one year. At that time, we should be able to determine whether the changes have been effective, and adjustments may be made if appropriate. A thorough evaluation of the fare structure for Tuolumne County Transit is included in the update to the five-year Transit Development Plan, which is due to be completed within this time frame. Staff will bring a report back to the Board on the results of this evaluation.

The elimination of transit services after 7:00 p.m. will reduce Fixed/Flex Route services by approximately 2 hours per day. This will be a reduction of 448 service hours for the year, and a cost savings of approximately \$23,000. The elimination of the 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. general public dial-a-ride, including the 9:05 stop at Columbia College, will result in a reduction of 672 annual service hours for the Dial-A-Ride System, and another \$35,000 in cost savings. These service reductions were included in the proposed Public Transportation Budget for FY09/10.

### **Requested Action**

Consider public comment and adopt the new Tuolumne County Transit Fare Schedule, including fare increases for Tuolumne County Transit, changing the "Senior" category to 60 years of age and over, and the elimination of transit services after 7:00 p.m. effective August 17, 2009.

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**Tuolumne County Transit**  
*Proposed Changes Included*

<b>Fare Schedule</b>			
	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed</i>	
<b>Fixed Route</b>			Passengers must have Tickets and Passes in hand at all times while on the bus, spot checks will occur. Driver will mark ticket and date stamp Day Passes upon boarding.
General (within zone)	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.50	
Discounted (ADA/Medicare)	\$ 0.75	\$ 1.00	
Zone Transfers	<del>\$ 0.25</del>	\$ -	
Day Pass (FR only)	\$ 2.50	\$ 4.00	
Children ride free	under 2-yr	under 12 yr	
<i>Children under 6 years of age must be accompanied by an adult or older child (12+ years)</i>			
<b>Dial-A-Ride</b>			
General (within zone)	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00	
Regular (outside zone)	<del>\$ 4.00</del>	\$ -	
Zone Transfer	<del>\$ 0.50</del>	\$ -	
Day Pass (DAR only)	\$ -	\$ 7.00	
<b>Monthly Passes</b>			
Fixed Route	\$ 36.00	\$ 50.00	
FR Discounted (ADA/Medicare)	\$ 28.00	\$ 36.00	
Dial-A-Ride/All-Services	\$ 72.00	\$ 100.00	
<b>All-Day All-Service Pass</b>			
Fixed Route & DAR	<del>\$ 5.00</del>	\$ -	
All Services & Ski Bus	\$ -	\$ 10.00	
<i>(includes Fixed Route, outside DAR service area, Groveland/Sonora DAR, Saturday DAR &amp; Ski Bus</i>			
<b>Ticket Books</b>			<b>Zone Rate</b>
Fixed Route (15 Tickets)	\$ 12.50	\$ 20.00	Fixed Route \$1.00
FR Discounted (15 tickets)	\$ 10.00	\$ 12.50	Dial-A-Ride \$2.00
Dial-A-Ride (15 tickets)	\$ 25.00	\$ 40.00	
Transfers (20 tickets)	<del>\$ 5.00</del>	\$ -	Each direction within a zone
<i>(Senior = 60 &amp; over)</i>			
<b>*All fares and scheduled times subject to change without advance notice. All purchases are final, refunds not available.</b>			

**Effective August 17, 2009**

**Proposed TCT Fare Schedule Compared to Sample Agencies**

Tuolumne County Transit New Proposed Fare Schedule	Calaveras Transit	Amador ARTS	Lassen Co. Rural Bus	Oakdate ROTA	Modesto MAX	Merced THE BUS	San Joaquin SJRTD	Sac. RT & Paratransit
<b>Fixed Route</b>								
General \$ 1.50	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.25	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.25
Discounted (ADA/Medicare) \$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.50	\$ 0.75	\$ 1.10
Day Pass (FR only) \$ 4.00	\$ 4.00		\$ 3.00			\$ 6.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 6.00
Children ride free under 12 yrs	under 8 yrs		under 7 yrs	under 9 yrs	under 5 yrs		under 5 yrs	
Children under 6 years of age must be accompanied by an adult or older child (12+ years)	Commuter Rte: \$ 4.00		\$ 4.00					
<b>Dial-A-Ride</b>								
General \$ 3.00			\$ 1.75	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.00	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.50
Day Pass (DAR only) \$ 7.00				\$ 1.50				
<b>Monthly Passes</b>								
Fixed Route \$ 50.00	\$ 60.00				\$ 41.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 65.00	\$ 100.00
FR Discounted (ADA/Medicare) \$ 36.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 34.00			\$ 20.00	\$ 55.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00
Dial-A-Ride/All-Services \$ 100.00	\$ 40.00 (student)	senior/disab only						\$ 100.00
<b>All-Day All-Service Pass</b>								
All Services & Ski Bus \$ 10.00			\$ 5.00				10-Ride Pass \$ 14.00	
(includes Fixed Route, outside DAR service area, Groveland/Sonora DAR, Saturday DAR & Ski Bus)			doesn't incl DAR				Sen/Dis \$ 7.00	
							DAR \$ 27.50	
<b>Ticket Books</b>								
Fixed Route (15 Tickets) \$ 20.00	(Book of 15) \$ 26.00	(40-\$7 tickets) \$ 34.00		(Book of 10) \$ 10.00	(FR Book of 50) \$ 55.00	not available	not available	(Book of 10) \$ 22.50
FR Discounted (15 tickets) \$ 12.50	\$ 10.00			\$ 5.00	\$ 27.00			\$ 11.00
Dial-A-Ride (15 tickets) \$ 40.00				\$ 15.00	DAR for \$ 22.00			
(Senior = 60 & over)	55 & over	60 & over		65 & over	65 & over	60 & over	65 & over	62 & over
*All fares and scheduled times subject to change without advance notice. All purchases are final, refunds not available.	Fare increases eff. 7-1-09				Service reductions eff. 8-15-09	Fare increases eff. 3-1-09		

## Full Fare Schedules of Sample Agencies:

**Calaveras Transit** provides a fixed route system that will deviate off route for paratransit service.

**Amador Regional Transit System (ARTS)** provides fixed route services that will deviate off route for paratransit service.

**Riverbank-Oakdale Transit Authority (ROTA)** provides fixed route trolley and general public, door-to-door Dial-A-Ride services in Riverbank and Oakdale, with connections to Modesto.

**Modesto Area Express (MAX)** provides fixed route services and **Modesto Area Dial-A-Ride** provides paratransit services to the Modesto area.

Calaveras Transit	
<b>Fixed Route</b>	
\$ 2.00	General
\$ 1.00	Senior/Disabled
\$ 4.00	Day Pass
free	under 8 yrs
<b>Monthly Pass</b>	
\$ 60.00	General
\$ 40.00	Student
\$ 30.00	Senior/Disabled
<b>Ticket Books (15)</b>	
\$ 26.00	General
\$ 10.00	Senior/Disabled
(Senior = 55 & over)	

ARTS	
<b>Fixed Route</b>	
\$ 2.00	General
\$ 1.00	Senior/Disabled
\$ 1.00	Student w/ID
<b>to Sacramento</b>	
\$ 5.25	General
\$ 3.00	Senior/Disabled
<b>to Rancho Murieta</b>	
\$ 2.50	General
\$ 1.50	Senior/Disabled
<b>Rancho Murieta to Sac</b>	
\$ 2.75	General
\$ 1.50	Senior/Disabled
<b>Monthly Passes</b>	
\$ 34.00	Senior/Disabled
<b>Ticket Books (40-\$1 ea)</b>	
\$ 34.00	General
(Senior = 60 & over)	

ROTA	
<b>Trolley Service</b>	
\$ 1.00	General (4-64)
\$ 0.50	Senior 65+/Disab
free	under 9 yrs*
*Children under 9 yr must be with paying passenger 16+ yr. Each pass. allowed 2 children age 3 or younger. Each add'l child \$1.50.	
\$ 0.25	transfers to MAX, StaRT, MADAR, SJRTD
<b>Trolley Ticket Books (10)</b>	
\$ 10.00	General (4-64)
\$ 5.00	Senior 65+/Disab
<b>Dial-A-Ride</b>	
\$ 2.00	General (4-64)
\$ 1.50	Senior 65+/Disab
\$ 3.00	Zone serv*
\$ 0.25	transfers to MAX, StaRT, MADAR, SJRTD
<b>DAR Local FastTickets (10)</b>	
\$ 20.00	General (4-64)
\$ 15.00	Senior 65+/Disab
<b>DAR Zone FastTickets (10)*</b>	
\$ 30.00	General (4-64)
\$ 30.00	Senior 65+/Disab
*Zone service is to Orange Blossom Rd & Modesto Amtrak Station	
(Senior = 65 & over)	

MAX	
<b>Fixed Route</b>	
\$ 1.25	General
\$ 1.00	Student w/ID
\$ 0.60	Senior/Disab
\$ 0.60	Medicare
\$ 2.75	Day Pass
free	under 5 yrs must be with parent/guardian
<b>Monthly Passes</b>	
\$ 41.00	General
\$ 31.00	Student w/ID
\$ 20.00	Senior/Disab
\$ 20.00	Medicare
<b>Ticket Books (50)</b>	
\$ 55.00	General
\$ 47.00	Student w/ID
\$ 27.00	Senior/Disab
\$ 27.00	Medicare
<b>Modesto Area Dial-A-Ride</b>	
\$ 2.50	Cash fare
\$ 22.00	Ticket Book (10)
free	under 5 yrs must be with parent/guardian
(Senior = 65 & over)	

## Full Fare Schedules of Sample Agencies:

**Merced County Transit (THE BUS)** provides both fixed route and dial-a-ride services.

**San Joaquin Regional Transit District (SJRTD)** provides fixed route, commuter, downtown trolley, deviated fixed route and dial-a-ride services.

**Sacramento Regional Transit (RT)** provided fixed route services and **Paratransit, Incorporated** provides door-to-door, shared ride, paratransit services in the greater Sacramento area to those who are unable to use RT buses and light rail due to disability.

THE BUS	
<b>Fixed Route</b>	
\$1.00 - \$10.00	fare charged based on trip destination
Half fare	Seniors & Medicare from 10am-2pm
\$ 6.00	Day Pass
\$ 20.00	7-Day Pass
\$ 45.00	Monthly Pass
<b>Dial-A-Ride</b>	
\$ 2.00	fare charged based on destination/length of trip
\$ 4.00	
\$ 6.00	
<b>All-Service Monthly Passes</b>	
\$ 55.00	Regular
\$ 45.00	Car-Less Commute*
*Car-Less Commute is employee based transit for businesses in Merced. Includes a guaranteed ride home for personal emergencies.	
<b>No tickets available</b> (Senior = 60 & over)	

SJRTD	
<b>Fixed Route</b>	
\$ 1.50	Gen (18-64)
\$ 1.25	Student (5-17)
\$ 0.75	Senior/Disab/Medicare
free	under age 5
Up to 3 children under age 5 allowed with paying adult. Each addtl child \$1.25.	
\$ 0.50	Trolley
\$ 2.00	Intercity Express
\$ 2.00	Special Events
\$ 2.00	Transfers
\$ 1.00	Hopper* Deviations
*Hopper - fixed route that will deviate up to 3/4 mi. for paratransit service	
<b>Monthly Passes</b>	
\$ 65.00	Gen (18-64)
\$ 40.00	Student (5-17)
\$ 30.00	Senior/Disab/Medicare
<b>10-Ride Bus Passes</b>	
\$ 14.00	Gen (18-64)
\$ 12.00	Student (5-17)
\$ 7.00	Senior/Disab/Medicare
<b>Day Passes</b> good on day issued	
\$ 4.00	Gen (18-64)
\$ 3.00	Student (5-17)
\$ 2.00	Senior/Disab/Medicare
must be purchased from Operator	
<b>Dial-A-Ride</b>	
\$ 3.00	Each one-way trip
\$ 27.50	10-Ride Bus Pass
(Senior = 65 & over)	

RT & Paratransit, Inc	
<b>Fixed Route</b>	
\$ 2.25	General (19-61)
\$ 1.10	Student (5-18)
\$ 1.10	Senior (62+)/Disab
<b>Central City Shuttle</b>	
\$ 1.10	General (19-61)
\$ 0.55	Senior/Disab/Student
<b>Neighborhood Ride</b>	
\$ 1.10	General (19-61)
\$ 0.55	Senior/Disab/Student
<b>Route Deviations</b>	
\$ 1.10	additional charge
<b>Transfers</b>	
\$ 0.50	General (19-61)
\$ 0.25	Senior/Disab/Student
<b>Day Passes</b>	
\$ 6.00	General (19-61)
\$ 60.00	Book of 10
\$ 3.00	Senior/Disab/Student
\$ 30.00	Book of 10
<b>Monthly Passes</b>	
\$ 100.00	General (19-61)
\$ 50.00	Semi-Monthly Pass
\$ 50.00	Senior/Disab/Student
\$ 25.00	Semi-Monthly Pass
\$ 20.00	addtl allows transfers to/from RT & Yolo Express
<b>Ticket Books (10)</b>	
\$ 22.50	General (19-61)
\$ 11.00	Senior/Disab/Student
<b>Dial-A-Ride (Paratransit, Inc)</b>	
\$ 4.50	Each one-way trip
\$ 100.00	Monthly Pass
(Senior = 62 & over)	