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North County Transit District

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Airport Authority**

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Gary L. Gallegos
Executive Director, SANDAG



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, May 18, 2006
2 p.m., NCTD Board Room
810 Mission Avenue
Oceanside

SPECIAL MEETING

- **NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT'S
PROPOSED FARE INCREASE PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING

MISSION STATEMENT

The 18 cities and county government are SANDAG serving as the forum for regional decision-making. SANDAG builds consensus, makes strategic plans, obtains and allocates resources, plans, engineers, and builds public transit, and provides information on a broad range of topics pertinent to the region's quality of life.

San Diego Association of Governments · 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101-4231
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Welcome to SANDAG. Members of the public may speak to the Transportation Committee on any item at the time the Committee is considering the item. Also, members of the public are invited to address the Committee on any issue under the agenda item entitled Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments. Speakers are limited to three minutes. The Transportation Committee may take action on any item appearing on the agenda.

This agenda and related staff reports can be accessed at www.sandag.org under meetings on SANDAG's Web site. Public comments regarding the agenda can be forwarded to SANDAG via the e-mail comment form also available on the Web site. E-mail comments should be received no later than noon, two working days prior to the Transportation Committee meeting.

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SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SANDAG TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 18, 2006

ITEM #	RECOMMENDATION
1. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS	
<p>Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Transportation Committee on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers are limited to three minutes each and shall reserve time by completing a "Request to Speak" form and giving it to the Clerk prior to speaking. Committee members also may provide information and announcements under this agenda item.</p>	
+2. NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT'S PROPOSED FARE INCREASE PUBLIC HEARING (Dan Levy)	RECOMMEND
<p>The North County Transit District (NCTD) has proposed a fare increase on buses and the COASTER to help balance its Fiscal Year 2007 budget. SANDAG is responsible for conducting public hearings for transit fare changes and for approving the changes. A public hearing will be conducted at a joint meeting of the NCTD Board of Directors and the SANDAG Transportation Committee to consider the fare increase proposal and hear public testimony. The SANDAG Transportation Committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the SANDAG Board of Directors regarding the proposed fare increase, if the NCTD Board recommends an increase following the public hearing. The public hearing has been noticed in seven newspapers and posted on NCTD buses and COASTER trains.</p>	
3. UPCOMING MEETINGS	INFORMATION
<p>The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for Friday, May 19, 2006, at 9 a.m. at SANDAG.</p>	
4. ADJOURNMENT	

+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 18, 2006

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

Action Requested: RECOMMEND

NORTH COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT'S PROPOSED FARE INCREASE
PUBLIC HEARING

File Number 3004800

Introduction

SANDAG is responsible for fare policy and fare setting (SANDAG Policy No. 029: Regional Comprehensive Fare Policy). In March 2006, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved the first Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance that consolidated the fare structures of the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and the North County Transit District (NCTD) into a single document. Any changes to the fare structure and/or fare levels must be approved by SANDAG and incorporated into the Fare Ordinance.

NCTD has proposed a fare increase on buses, the COASTER, and LIFT and special event services to help balance its Fiscal Year 2007 budget. In accordance with SANDAG policy, SANDAG is responsible for conducting public hearings for transit fare changes and for approving the changes. A public hearing is scheduled to be conducted at this joint meeting of the NCTD Board of Directors and the SANDAG Transportation Committee to consider the NCTD fare increase proposal and hear public testimony. If the NCTD Board recommends fare changes following the public hearing, the SANDAG Transportation Committee will be asked to make a recommendation to the SANDAG Board of Directors regarding the proposed fare increase. The public hearing has been noticed in seven newspapers and posted on NCTD buses and the COASTER.

Discussion

NCTD proposes to increase most fares for its COASTER, Breeze bus, and LIFT and special event services. These fare changes are estimated to increase total revenues by about \$926,000 annually and will help balance the agency's FY 2007 operating budget. The attached report from the NCTD Planning Committee provides the details of the proposed fare changes, including the proposed fares, the existing fares, and the difference.

Recommendation

The SANDAG Transportation Committee is asked to:

1. Conduct a public hearing and accept public testimony regarding the fare changes proposed by the North County Transit District (NCTD) for bus, COASTER, and LIFT and special events services (Attachment 1); and
2. Make a recommendation to the SANDAG Board of Directors regarding the proposed fare increase at the close of the public hearing if such an increase is requested by NCTD.

It also is recommended that the Transportation Committee request that the SANDAG Board of Directors approve amendments to the Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance that would implement the fare changes requested by the NCTD Board of Directors.

SANDAG will soon be initiating a study to conduct a regionwide review of the transit fare structure and fare levels with the objective of implementing a new countywide fare structure. The review is expected to be complete in the summer of 2007. The current financial needs of NCTD require this fare increase to be implemented ahead of the overall SANDAG fare review.

The proposed fare increase is generally \$0.25-\$0.50 per cash boarding for both buses and COASTER with corresponding monthly pass price increases for the COASTER of \$10.00. Attachment 1 is a copy of the April 6, 2006, staff report to the NCTD Planning Committee outlining the details of the fare proposals and the budget impacts. Attachment 2 is a copy of the public comments received by NCTD or sent directly to SANDAG in advance of the public hearing. NCTD also has received additional public comments, and these comments will be available at the joint meeting.

BOB LEITER

Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

Attachments: 1. NCTD Fare Adjustment Report
2. Public Comments received by NCTD or sent directly to SANDAG in advance of the Public Hearing

Key Staff Contact: Dan Levy, (619) 699-6942, dle@sandag.org

Agenda Item # 12



PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

TITLE: Review: FY 2007 Proposed Fare Adjustments for NCTD Services

STAFF CONTACT: Stefan Marks **TIME SENSITIVE:** YES NO
 E-mail: smarks@nctd.org Phone: 760/966-6539

Consent Action Information

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board confirm the recommended fare adjustments and authorize staff to formally notice SANDAG and the public, and set a public hearing date for May 18, 2006.

DESCRIPTION:

Confirmation of fare adjustments for BREEZE, FAST, COASTER, LIFT and Special Events services and setting a public hearing by NCTD to consider fare adjustments on May 18, 2006. SANDAG will hold a separate public hearing.

BACKGROUND:

The Planning Committee met on March 24, 2006 to review the preliminary FY 2007 Budget. The Committee directed staff to recommend fare adjustments for BREEZE, LIFT and COASTER services. The recommended fare changes will be reviewed at the Committee meeting and are described below.

The Committee requested a chronology of fare adjustments which is provided for the last three cycles since 1998. If approved by the Board and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), the fare adjustments would be implemented as soon as July 1, 2006.

BREEZE and FAST

September 1, 2005: BREEZE Day Pass increased from \$3.50 to \$3.75 and BREEZE Monthly Pass increased to \$54 from \$50. College Monthly Passes increased by \$4. The Social Service Day Pass 10-Pack was introduced. The Ten-Ride Token Pack is no longer sold by NCTD. For FY05-06, year to date, BREEZE ridership has increased 2.5%.

November 1, 2004: The Board authorized fare increase to be implemented July 1, 2003 but delayed due to new farebox implementation: BREEZE Day Pass implemented. Transfers eliminated except for transfers to MTS services. Cash fare increased from \$1.50 to \$1.75. BREEZE Monthly Pass increased to \$50 from \$46. Ten-Ride Ticket Book replaced with Ten-Ride Token Pack.

January 1, 1998: The cash fare increased from \$1.35 to \$1.50, a 10% increase. BREEZE Monthly Pass increased to \$46 from \$45, a 2% increase. The Senior and Disabled cash fare increased from \$0.65 to \$0.75, a 15.3% increase. This was the last time this fare category was increased.

COASTER

July 1, 2004: Fares increased in the range of 7% to 13% depending on travel zone, and monthly passes rose in the range of 10% to 12.5%. In FY 04, COASTER ridership grew 6%.

October 1, 2001: Fares increased in the range of 14% to 27% depending on travel zone and monthly passes rose in the range of 6% to 24%. In FY 2001, Coaster ridership grew 1.6% compared with FY 2000.

January 1, 1998: Monthly passes rose in the range of 5% to 6% depending on travel zone.

LIFT

July 1, 2005: NCTD introduced 10-Ride Ticket Books for \$35.

November 1, 2004: The Board authorized fare increase to be implemented July 1, 2003 but delayed due to new farebox implementation. LIFT fares increased to \$3.50 from \$3.00, a 16.6% increase. Non-peak fares were discontinued.

January 1, 1998: LIFT fares increased to \$3.00 from \$2.70, a 10% increase.

Special Event Fares

July 1, 2005 (effective with Chargers season): Round trip fares for adults increased from \$6 to \$10 and for children (12 and under) was decreased from \$3 from \$2.

January 1, 1998: Round trip fares for adults increased from \$5 to \$6 and for children (12 and under) \$3 from \$2.

Regional Passes

Until 2003, the Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) had the authority to adjust the prices of regional monthly passes (regional, youth and senior/disabled). The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) now has this responsibility to set these regional fares but has honored previous actions by the MTDB Board to raise regional monthly passes over the last three years. The Senior and Disabled Monthly Pass and Youth Monthly Pass are pegged at a 75% and 50% discount, respectively, from the Regional Monthly Pass which is currently \$60. This is made possible through TransNet funding. There is no proposal to raise regional monthly passes at this time.

NCTD Proposed Fare Adjustments for BREEZE, FAST, LIFT and Special Event Services

BREEZE and FAST	Current FY06	Proposal FY07	Increase	% Increase
Cash Fare	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$0.25	14.3%
Senior & Disabled Cash Fare	\$0.75	\$1.00	\$0.25	33.3%
Day Pass	\$3.75	\$4.00	\$0.25	6.7%
Senior & Disabled Day Pass	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$0.50	33.3%
10 Pack - Day Pass	\$37.50	\$40.00	\$2.50	6.7%
LIFT	Current FY06	Proposal FY07	Increase	% Increase
Cash Fare	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$0.50	14.3%
10 Ride Ticket Book	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$5.00	14.3%
SPECIAL EVENTS	Current FY06	Proposal FY07	Increase	% Increase
Adult - - One Way Trip	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$1.00	20.0%
Adult - Round trip	\$10.00	\$12.00	\$2.00	20.0%
Child 12 and under - One Way Trip	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	100.0%
Child 12 and under - Round Trip	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$2.00	100.0%

Proposed Fare Adjustments for COASTER

Ticket Type	Current FY06	Proposal FY07	Increase	% Increase
ALL Zone Senior Pass	\$36.00	\$38.50	\$2.50	6.9%
ALL Zone Youth Pass	\$72.00	\$77.00	\$5.00	6.9%
1 Zone 1 trip	\$3.75	\$4.00	\$0.25	6.7%
1 Zone 2 trip	\$7.50	\$8.00	\$0.50	6.7%
1 Zone 10 trip	\$34.00	\$36.00	\$2.00	5.9%
1 Zone Monthly	\$105.00	\$115.00	\$10.00	9.5%
1 Zone 1 trip Senior & Disabled	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$0.25	14.3%
1 Zone 2 trip Senior & Disabled	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$0.50	14.3%
1 Zone 10 trip Senior & Disabled	\$15.75	\$18.00	\$2.25	14.3%
1 Zone Regular Transfer from Transit	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$0.00	0.0%
1 Zone Senior & Disabled Transfer from Transit	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	0.0%
2 Zone 1 trip	\$4.25	\$4.50	\$0.25	5.9%
2 Zone 2 trip	\$8.50	\$9.00	\$0.50	5.9%
2 Zone 10 trip	\$38.00	\$40.50	\$2.50	6.6%
2 Zone Monthly	\$116.00	\$126.00	\$10.00	8.6%
2 Zone 1 trip Senior & Disabled	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$0.25	12.5%
2 Zone 2 trip Senior & Disabled	\$4.00	\$4.50	\$0.50	12.5%
2 Zone 10 trip Senior & Disabled	\$18.00	\$20.25	\$2.00	11.1%
2 Zone Regular Transfer from Transit	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$0.00	0.0%
2 Zone Senior & Disabled Transfer from Transit	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$0.00	0.0%
3 Zone 1 trip	\$4.75	\$5.00	\$0.25	5.3%
3 Zone 2 trip	\$9.50	\$10.00	\$0.50	5.3%
3 Zone 10 trip	\$43.00	\$45.00	\$2.00	4.7%
3 Zone Monthly	\$132.00	\$142.00	\$10.00	7.6%
3 Zone 1 trip Senior & Disabled	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$0.25	11.1%
3 Zone 2 trip Senior & Disabled	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$0.50	11.1%
3 Zone 10 trip Senior & Disabled	\$20.25	\$22.50	\$1.75	8.6%
3 Zone Regular Transfer from Transit	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$0.00	0.0%
3 Zone Senior & Disabled Transfer from Transit	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.00	0.0%
4 Zone 1 trip	\$5.25	\$5.50	\$0.25	4.8%
4 Zone 2 trip	\$10.50	\$11.00	\$0.50	4.8%
4 Zone 10 trip	\$48.00	\$50.00	\$2.00	4.2%
4 Zone Monthly	\$144.00	\$154.00	\$10.00	6.9%
4 Zone 1 trip Senior & Disabled	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$0.25	10.0%
4 Zone 2 trip Senior & Disabled	\$5.00	\$5.50	\$0.50	10.0%
4 Zone 10 trip Senior & Disabled	\$22.50	\$25.00	\$2.25	10.0%
4 Zone Regular Transfer from Transit	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$0.00	0.0%
4 Zone Senior & Disabled Transfer from Transit	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$0.00	0.0%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of the proposed fare adjustments is to increase operating revenue by an estimated \$926,000 annually. The proposed fare increases for all modes are expected to increase operating revenues by 5.7% annually. Ridership is projected to dip 1.7% or 197,000 as a result of increasing fares.

This is a conservative estimate given that COASTER and LIFT ridership grew following the previous fare increases.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

04/06/06 Staff reviewed the detailed list of fare adjustments that resulted from the Committee's direction to staff during the previous Budget Workshop. Most of the adjustments are increases in the range of 5% to 7%, however some are higher due to the need to use logical coinage increments. For example, the Senior/Disabled BREEZE fare would increase from \$.75 to \$1.00, a 33% increase, however, this particular fare has not increased for several years and \$0.25 increments are generally preferable due to fare equipment operation and to minimize coin combinations required.

Staff clarified the zone system used on the COASTER and the dates of the last fare adjustments. The COASTER utilizes four zones, as follows:

- Zone 1: Oceanside Transit Center and Carlsbad Village Station
- Zone 2: Carlsbad Poinsettia, Encinitas, and Solana Beach
- Zone 3: Sorrento Valley
- Zone 4: Old Town and San Diego Santa Fe Depot

It was also pointed out that the COASTER fares are very reasonable by industry standards. For example, a Monthly Pass on Metrolink for a trip comparable to the 42 mile Oceanside-San Diego trip on the Coaster would cost \$217.25 per month, vs. the \$154 proposed for a Coaster pass. The Committee recommended forwarding the recommended adjustments for the public hearing on May 18 and asked staff to ensure that the hearing process is in accordance with the adopted SANDAG Fare Policy.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED BY E-MAIL, FAX, AND TELEPHONE

Notice of the proposed fare increase was published in seven newspapers and posted on all NCTD buses and COASTER trains. The public was invited to submit comments on the proposed fare increase by e-mail, fax, or telephone, in addition to speaking at the joint public hearing scheduled for May 18, 2006, at NCTD. The public was directed to send all advance written or verbal comments to NCTD for inclusion into the public hearing process. The following comments were received by NCTD or sent directly to SANDAG.

Julie Bishop
10090 Bordelon St
San Diego, CA 92124
April 28, 2006
SANDAG
Department of Transportation
Transportation Committee
401 B Street Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter to ask you to reject the proposal to increase the cost of cash fares and monthly passes for bus and train services. The public hearing for this issue will be on May 18, 2006.

Economic times are hard and I feel that approving such a measure will only put undue pressure on people who already have limited resources and who are forced by circumstances to utilize public transportation. I believe that increasing this fare would create an undue burden on those already struggling to survive in our current economic times.

The purpose of this public hearing is to discuss the fares increasing from 4% to 14%, depending on the travel zone. Per your website the public transit commutes over 77 million miles and provides over 33 million rides annually. At this particular time, your current passes range from \$15.00 to \$84.00 per month with individual rides costing \$1.00 to \$4.00. Based on your survey conducted in 2000, 36% of your riders earn less than \$30,000 dollars a year. This increase will significantly impact the riders in this income bracket.

Given the status of the economy, the continuing rise of gas prices and clear documentation that the users of your service earn a modest income, any increase in fares at this time will have a deleterious effect on their quality of life. These riders are left with no other alternatives except to utilize public transportation, therefore it is unfair of you to implement such a cost increase and have it currently supported by your riders. This proposed change will not improve services for your rides nor ensure that adequate services are available, based on these reasons noted above I strongly encourage you at this time to vote no to this fare increase.

Thank you for your support.
Sincerely, Julie Bishop

From: Chris Carmichael [<mailto:ccarmichael@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2006 9:29 PM
To: farechanges
Subject: Proposed fare changes

2 May 2006

I am a Coaster rider for over ten years. I always dread when "Fare Changes" are announced. This year, they are fair changes -- I am surprised despite the rising cost of energy, labor and the like, the proposed increase is acceptable.

Although I don't like paying more; however, every day when I'm on the Coaster and I see the traffic backed up on the 5 freeway, it's like the charge card commercial: Priceless.

Thank you for your time,

Chris Carmichael
Oceanside 92056

Hello:

In response to the Rider Alert distributed this morning, I am writing to oppose the proposed increase in fares (near 8% for 3 Zone Monthly). While I realize the increase is likely due to increased operating costs, I am not clear how the proposed increase is justified in light of the proposed cutting of Coaster services on Friday evenings (Oct. - March).

Thank you for any additional information you can provide.

Kurt Harrington
Senior Marketing Manager, Rituxan Immunology
Biogen Idec
5200 Research Place
San Diego, CA 92122
858-401-8314 (direct)
kurt.harrington@biogenidec.com

From: Jomoma16@aol.com [mailto:Jomoma16@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, May 06, 2005 6:52 AM
To: farechange
Subject: Comments

Why is the Sandag Transportation Committee co-hosting this meeting and who are the members?

Could someone copies of the part of the legislation as to why Sandag seems to have taken charge of our system.....

Sandag's phone number..email and all other appropriate contact numbers should be on any flyer, etc that NCTD places on our buses and should be printed on our Bus schedule booklet.

Once again...the Public Meeting for fares and route changes is at 2 pm.....it does show that Sandag is no more aware than you are that the many bus riders these subjects effect cannot get to meetings.

I would like to have the Sandag literature mailed to my address at 645 Via Cantabria #206 Encinitas, Ca 92024.....Jo Moran

From: Bob Mikulka [mailto:bob-mikulka@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2006 10:13 AM
To: farechanges
Subject:
Importance: High

INCREASING THE COASTER FARE IS A BIG MISTAKE at this time.

* Rider ship is on the rise because the cost difference with driving is starting to outweigh the perceived inconvenience. Raising the fare will reverse this trend.

* The 7.1% increase is well above the published inflation rate of 3%.

* The increase is yet another example of the "GOUGE THE CONSUMER" trend.

* Use of public transit should be encouraged.

* The cost of riding the Coaster is already expensive when compared with the cost of

public transportation in other countries. In Germany, for instance one can purchase a

"family pass" for up to five family members that is good for an entire 24-hour period

anywhere in Munich. The cost of the pass is about 75% of a single round-trip 4-zone coaster ticket.

* Increased rider ship will offset the increase in operating cost due to fuel. This has to be

true since it is much more efficient to move people by train and the cost to add additional

capacity is incremental (i.e. more cars per trip).

I am glad that an alternative to driving exists. I firmly believe that mass-transit is a better approach for the future of the community. Mass-transit aids in reducing environmental issues, does not require as much real-estate, is safer and helps reduce our nations dependence on a limited resource however, it is difficult to get people to sacrifice individual independence. Community leaders and public officials should do all they can to promote mass transit.

Sincerely,
Bob Mikulka

From: Chris Carmichael [<mailto:ccarmichael@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 02, 2006 9:29 PM
To: farechanges
Subject: Proposed fare changes

2 May 2006

I am a Coaster rider for over ten years. I always dread when "Fare Changes" are announced. This year, they are fair changes -- I am surprised despite the rising cost of energy, labor and the like, the proposed increase is acceptable.

Although I don't like paying more; however, every day when I'm on the Coaster and I see the traffic backed up on the 5 freeway, it's like the charge card commercial: Priceless.

Thank you for your time,

Chris Carmichael
Oceanside 92056

From: DAVID.C.POWERS@saic.com [<mailto:DAVID.C.POWERS@saic.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 04, 2006 4:13 PM
To: farechanges
Subject: Raising Coaster Fares

Please don't raise the fares. Mass transportation is supposed to be cheaper and attract people away from their cars. I did not take the train for years as driving was cheaper. Now it costs about the same. Raising the fares might make me want to drive again.

David C. Powers

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) - SAIC Help Desk
Supervisor Phone (858) 826-3372 <http://www.saic.com>
<https://issaic.saic.com/helpdesk>

From: Jaelyn [<mailto:jaelyn@bluebottle.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 05, 2006 7:22 AM
To: farechanges
Subject: Coaster Fare Increase (Coaster Rider)

NCTD / SANDAG Customer Service Dept.:

As a Coaster monthly pass holder, I would like to voice my concern for this fare increase for the NCTD Bus and Train Services. I'm not quite sure what the reasoning is behind the fare increase, but believe that the general public who utilize this vital transportation service should NOT be responsible for paying the bid difference from the new contract that will take over the Coaster (Amtrak) on 01 July.

I am disappointed about the new contract and company that will service the Coaster, but moreso apprehensive about the service and lack of experience that the new conductors will provide. I feel that you cannot train 25+ years of conductor experience that Amtrak conductors provided.

With this expressed, to raise the fare to pay for questionable service and safety along with making up the contract bid difference, I do NOT agree with the fare increase.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Jaelyn Sibley

I work for the Navy and am the transportation coordinator for the Broadway Complex, downtown San Diego. I was just informed by one of your riders of the "proposed" increase and was told that if it is implemented it will be effective 1 July. When will we find out if it is approved? We are on the voucher system and it will affect some of our Coaster riders (senior and disabled). Why can't the proposed fare be an even \$38.00? Our vouchers do not come in 50 cent increments. Can we be notified of the fare increase in advance so we can accommodate our people that are participating in the program. We won't be able to accommodate them if we find out the end of June and it takes effect 1 July. I would appreciate some feedback and a POC that I can talk to.

V/r, Barbara Cooke
NRSW Business Office
Competitive Sourcing (N02H1R)
barbara.cooke@navy.mil
(619) 532-4739, DSN 522
Fax (619) 532-2917

Dear NCTD,

I recently was informed that the NCTD was going to raise it fares for the Coaster. The issue here is the amount of the increase. A monthly pass for two zones, which is already expensive on a per-mile basis compared to commuter rail/mass transit lines in other cities, is increasing 8.6%, more than that for a single-ride ticket. While riding the Coaster is pleasurable compared to driving, it is not a cheaper alternative. These are reasons why the fare should only increase less than proposed, or not at all:

1. There has been a significant increase in rider-ship but no increase in services: i.e. extra cars on a train or extra routes, in spite of the extra revenue from the increase in rider-ship. Many evenings, there is only standing room on the train.
2. The trains are poorly maintained. They are dirty (inside and out) and often smell. The stations are also dirty.
3. Parking at some stations is very limited. Perhaps having "park-n-ride" commuters park at already designated park-n-ride lots near the freeway exits, not at the Coaster stations would alleviate that issue as they are not paying the additional Coaster expense. Several monthly pass holders have had to drive to work because they could not get parking at Encinitas.
4. Service reliability due to Amtrak's problem with staying on schedule and switch issues. A double track has been needed for some time and the track signaling system needs to be improved.
5. Perhaps Zones should be redrawn to make the fares more reasonable.(?)

Remember, we want to increase rider-ship, not scare people away due to the high cost (per mile). Also, NCTD needs to accommodate the new commuters. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Neil Grodsky
Daytime Phone: (858) 622-7978

From: Liu, Zhengyu [<mailto:Zhengyu.Liu@pfizer.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2006 4:30 PM
To: farechanges
Subject: Against Fare Increase

NCTD,

The fare increase will put people back to the highway. I am against it.

Thanks,

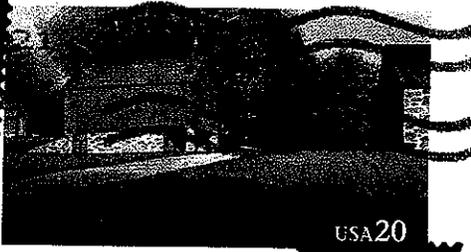
Coaster Commuter.

NCTD:

Hope you won't eliminate bus service in lieu of increasing fares, much as I hate to see fares increase.

And please don't eliminate the bus stop at North Way and Buena Hills on the 312 route. So many seniors no longer drive and this is our only link to "the outside world" for us living in Costa Serena. It's bad enough having to deal with no Sunday service, but horripping to think on no service at all. Would be very nice if the 302 could swing up here instead. I live by hope.
Donna Clendenning

Donna T. Clendenning
3664 Mira Pacific Dr
Oceanside, CA 92056



USA20



NCTD
810 Mission Ave
Oceanside CA
92054

Attn: Fax Department

Comments/Comentarios

I'm 20 years old and I use the bus to get to work. I also use the bus to get home most of the time. I work 40 hours a week for roughly 10 dollars an hour. for someone with a schedule like me, it is nearly impossible for me to participate in a public hearing. I barely make enough money to eat and pay rent. Any Raise in charges of bus fare will effect my budget. I take two buses both ways and I couldn't even finish my writing here because my bus was leaving!

Name/Nombre Eric Fritchard

Address/ Dirección 2729 Harriet St.

Phone/ Número de teléfono (760) 716-0135

Email _____

Thank you/Gracias