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Gary L. Gallegos
Executive Director, SANDAG



TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

→→ Thursday, September 20, 2007 ←←
→→ 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. ←←
→→ NCTD Board Room ←←
810 Mission Avenue
Oceanside

SPECIAL MEETING:

- **PUBLIC HEARING: COMPREHENSIVE FARE
ORDINANCE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING

**YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING BY VISITING OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.SANDAG.ORG**

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.

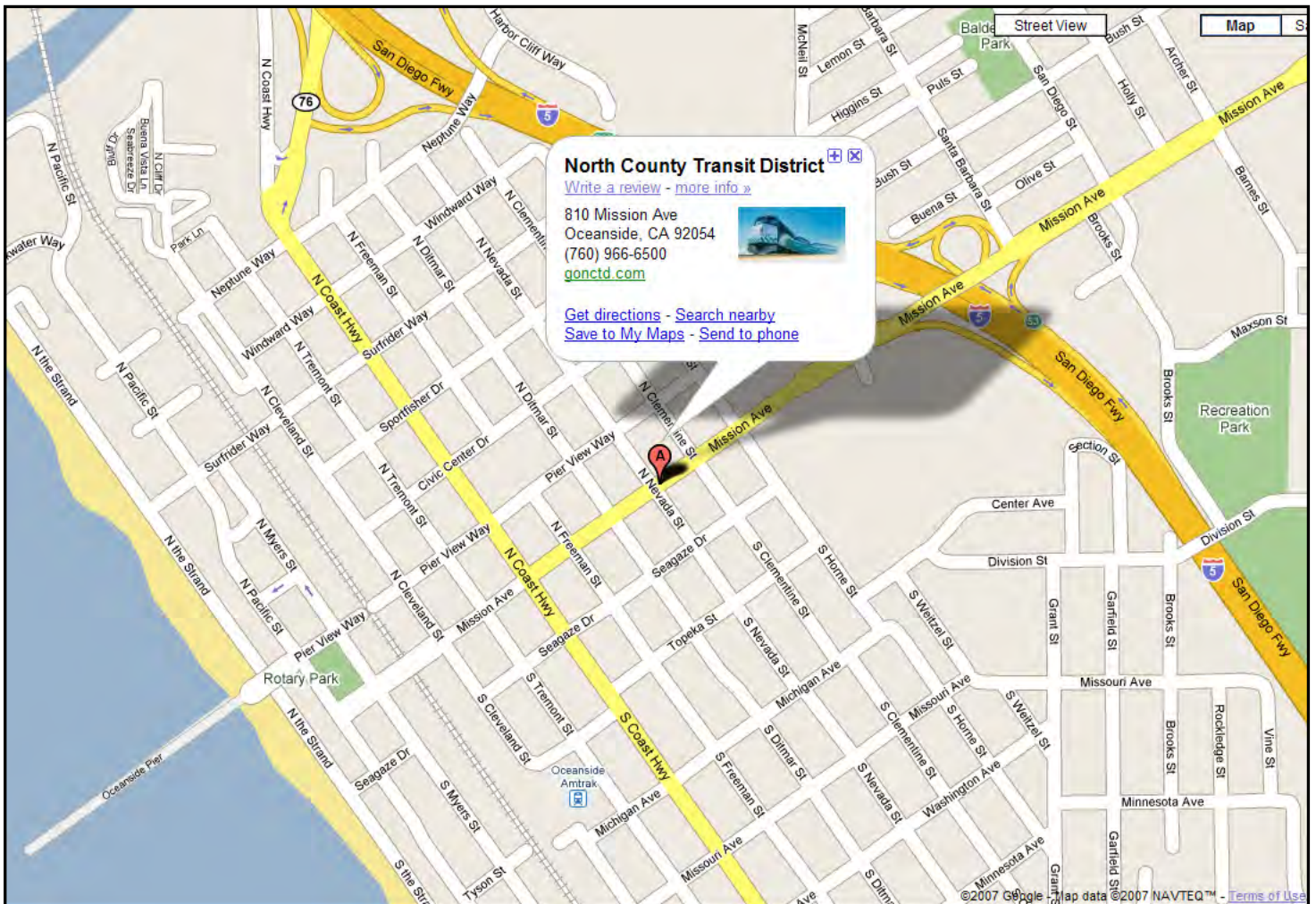


Welcome to SANDAG. Members of the public may speak to the Transportation Committee on any item at the time the Committee is considering the item. Please complete a Speaker's Slip, which is located in the rear of the room, and then present the slip to Committee staff. Also, members of the public are invited 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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Phone 1-800-COMMUTE or see www.sdcommute.com for route information.***



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SANDAG TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 20, 2007

ITEM #		RECOMMENDATION
1.	<p data-bbox="240 405 1049 432">PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS</p> <p data-bbox="240 478 1185 653">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.	<p data-bbox="240 688 1185 758">PUBLIC HEARING: COMPREHENSIVE FARE ORDINANCE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (Dan Levy)</p> <p data-bbox="240 804 1185 1010">The Transportation Committee is asked to conduct a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Fare Ordinance. Proposed fare changes include increasing the price of the Regional Monthly Passes, including the youth pass, and senior, disabled and Medicare pass; adding provisions for a SPRINTER fare; elimination of transfers and increasing cash fares within the Metropolitan Transit System; and reducing other fare discounts.</p>	<p data-bbox="1203 688 1430 758">HOLD PUBLIC HEARING</p>
3.	<p data-bbox="240 1052 532 1079">UPCOMING MEETINGS</p> <p data-bbox="240 1125 1185 1188">The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Committee is Friday, September 21, 2007, at 9 a.m. at SANDAG.</p>	<p data-bbox="1203 1052 1446 1079">INFORMATION</p>
4.	ADJOURNMENT	

+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

September 20, 2007

AGENDA ITEM NO.: **2**

Action Requested: Hold Public Hearing

PUBLIC HEARING: COMPREHENSIVE FARE ORDINANCE
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

File Number 3002300

Introduction

SANDAG has been responsible for setting all public transit fares in the San Diego region since 2003. The regional fare structure is outlined in the Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance.

This Ordinance needs to be updated to reflect a number of proposed changes, including the start up of the SPRINTER service by the North County Transit District (NCTD), various cash and Regional Monthly fare increases requested by the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), elimination of transfers, proposed modifications to the Juror Program, and reduction of other fare discounts.

The fare changes proposed by MTS are intended to bridge the recently identified \$9.2 million funding gap in the MTS FY 2008 Budget. Prior to requesting the fare increases, MTS reviewed and tested several options to reduce agency costs and to generate new non-fare revenue. However, MTS found that these alone could not meet the full extent of its budget need. The fare changes requested by MTS begin the process of fare simplification and unification. While the changes also will increase the complexity of interagency transfers, the Comprehensive Transit Fare Structure and Revenue Sharing Study, which is now nearing completion, will include strategies to eliminate these interagency barriers.

This public hearing is being held in accordance with SANDAG Board of Directors Public Participation Policy (Policy No. 025), and will provide an opportunity for members of the public in North San Diego County to comment on the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Fare Ordinance.

Discussion

Proposed Fare Changes

Prior to SANDAG assuming the responsibility for fare setting, the NCTD Board of Directors made a commitment to the residents of North San Diego County that SPRINTER fares would be the same as BREEZE fares when the service begins operation. SANDAG wishes to honor this initial commitment for the SPRINTER.

MTS has an urgent need to increase fares in order to fill a revenue gap created by the combined effects of the FY 2008 State Budget and less than expected sales tax revenues. MTS also has taken this opportunity to align its transfer policy with the policy that has been in effect at NCTD since 2004 and to simplify the regional fare structure by combining the Regional Monthly Pass with the

Recommendation

The Transportation Committee is asked to hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Fare Ordinance.

MTS Express Pass. SANDAG staff has now directed the regional fare study consultant to use the revised fare structure as the baseline scenario, and to ensure that all future fare options meet the minimum revenue requirements of MTS.

The table below provides a summary of the substantive proposed changes to the Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance.

Proposed Changes		Affecting	
		MTS	NCTD
1.	SPRINTER added to all relevant sections of the Fare Ordinance with the result that fares for the SPRINTER will be identical to fares for the BREEZE fares		X
2.	New provisions for Juror fares including conversion of Juror tickets to day passes, and establishing new pricing	X	X
3.	Eliminate all MTS to MTS transfers effective January 1, 2008, and offer the sale of a \$5.00 Regional Day Pass on board all buses and at all MTS Ticket Vending Machines	X	X
4.	MTS/NCTD interagency transfer policies may be adjusted (details to be provided at public hearing)	X	X
5.	Increase Regional Monthly Pass from \$60.00 to \$64.00 on January 1, 2008, and to \$68.00 on January 1, 2009	X	X
6.	Increase the cost of a Regional Senior Monthly Pass from \$15.00 to \$16.00 on January 1, 2008, and to \$17.00 effective January 1, 2009	X	X
7.	Increase the cost of a Regional Youth Monthly Pass from \$30.00 to \$32.00 on January 1, 2008, and to \$34.00 effective January 1, 2009	X	X
8.	Provide a free Regional Day Pass on demand to any MTS Premium Express or Rural passenger who must transfer to MTS Bus, MTS Express, MTS Trolley, BREEZE, or SPRINTER	X	X
9.	Eliminate the bulk discount for universal token purchases and sell all tokens at \$2.25 each effective January 1, 2008	X	X
10.	Eliminate the discounted MTS Social Service Day Tripper effective January 1, 2008	X	X
11.	Increase MTS Local bus fares from \$1.75 to \$2.00 effective January 1, 2008, and to \$2.25 on January 1, 2009	X	
12.	Rename Commuter Express to Premium Express and raise adult cash fare from \$4.00 to \$5.00 effective January 1, 2008	X	
13.	Rename Commuter Express Pass to Premium Express Pass and increase fare from \$84.00 per month to \$90.00 per month effective January 1, 2008	X	
14.	Increase the MTS College Monthly pass from \$45.00 to \$51.20 effective January 1, 2008, and to \$54.40 on January 1, 2009	X	
15.	Increase the MTS College Semester Pass from \$1.23 per day to \$1.34 per day effective January 1, 2008, and to \$1.43 effective January 1, 2009	X	
16.	Change the maximum discount for the MTS Eco-Pass program from 30 percent to 25 percent effective January 1, 2008	X	

Federal Requirements

The Federal Government requires a Title VI, Environmental Justice Analysis for Low-Income, Minority and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Individuals to be prepared for fare adjustments. The purpose of the Title VI analysis is to determine if there are disproportionate impacts on minority racial groups or people of limited means from the fare changes. The LEP assessment addresses how fare change information is going to be handled for populations of people who cannot speak English. In the San Diego region, the only group of non-English speakers that is sufficiently large enough to require an LEP assessment is people whose native language is Spanish. The Title VI Analysis and LEP assessment will be available at the public hearing.

SANDAG Public Participation Notice

Board Policy No. 025 requires that notice for this transit fare public hearing be posted onboard affected transit vehicles at least 15 days in advance of the public hearing. Notices were posted on board all affected NCTD vehicles nineteen days in advance of the meeting. In addition, a printed notice of the public hearing was provided, per Board Policy No. 025, at least 15 calendar days prior to the public hearing in newspapers of general circulation in the affected area, including appropriate minority and community publications.

Next Steps

In order for the proposed changes to be implemented, public hearings are required in MTS and NCTD service areas and the Comprehensive Fare Ordinance changes must include first and second readings at the SANDAG Transportation Committee. Following this public hearing, a second public hearing is scheduled at the October 5, 2007, Transportation Committee meeting at the SANDAG normal meeting location at 401 B Street, 7th Floor, in downtown San Diego. The first reading of the Comprehensive Fare Ordinance Amendments is scheduled to occur on October 5, 2007, after the second public hearing. The second reading of the Comprehensive Fare Ordinance Amendments is scheduled at the October 21, 2007, Transportation Committee meeting.

Following the second reading, the changes in the Ordinance may be implemented after a 30-day waiting period. The changes for the SPRINTER would take effect when the line begins operation in December 2007. All other changes would take effect on January 1, 2008, or January 1, 2009. The changes proposed for January 2009 are interim changes that could be revised further based upon future SANDAG action on the Comprehensive Transit Fare Structure and Revenue Sharing Study.

BOB LEITER

Director of Land Use and Transportation Planning

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



Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance

Transportation Committee

September 20, 2007

Background

- **SANDAG Board Policy #29 and the Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance establish the policy and fare levels for MTS and NCTD**



Overview of Changes

- **Changes are required for SPRINTER**
- **Changes required due to new Ticket Machines, and new fare media**
- **MTS has requested fare increases due to reductions in allocations from State and slower than expected growth in sales tax revenue**

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Changes for SPRINTER

- **The NCTD Board of Directors wish to open the SPRINTER with the same fares as the BREEZE**
- **The proposed changes to the Fare Ordinance will fulfill this request.**
- **The proposed changes to the Ordinance will initially make all fares accepted on the BREEZE applicable on the SPRINTER**

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Changes Required for COASTER TVMs

- **Proposed to updated to Ordinance to reflect that single trip and return tickets no longer need to be validated**
- **Proposed to update Ordinance to provided that COASTER tickets can only be used to board at buses or trolley at COASTER stations or on Sorrento Valley Coaster Connection**
- **Ability to purchase 10, single trip COASTER tickets will resume when TVMs begin to dispense Compass Cards**

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Justification for MTS Fare Increases

- **MTS informed SANDAG on Aug 17 that they faced a revenue shortfall of \$9.2 million dollars due to:**
 - The state budget appropriated transit spillover tax revenues for the general fund
 - Lower than forecast state revenues due to sales tax declines
 - Lower than forecast TransNet sales tax revenues

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MTS Budget Update

- **Action taken to increase advertising, concession and real estate revenue**
- **Staff reductions and reductions in benefits**
- **Service reductions in routes throughout system and removal of planned service increases**
- **Recommended to SANDAG a package of fare increases – the first in 4 years**
- **In FY 2008 about 14% of revenue shortfall met by fare increase.**
- **In FY 2008 & FY 2009 non-recurring revenue must be used to meet revenue gap**



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Proposed Changes – Cash Fares

- **Raise price of MTS local fare from \$1.75 to \$2.00 on 1/1/2008 and to \$2.25 on 1/1/2009**
- **Reduce price of MTS Express bus fare from \$2.50 to \$2.25 on 1/1/2009**
- **Change name from Commuter Express to Premium Express and raise cash price from \$4.00 to \$5.00**



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Proposed Change to Transfers

- **Eliminate all MTS to MTS cash fare transfers and replace with a Regional Day Pass and a Regional Premium Day Pass to be available on all MTS and NCTD Services effective 1/1/2008**
 - **Regional Day Pass to be sold on MTS and NCTD services and TVMs for \$5.00**
 - **Regional Premium Day Pass to be sold on MTS and NCTD services and TVMs for \$11.00**
 - **Regional Day Pass to be provided free on demand to all passengers on MTS Rural Services**

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Regular and Premium Monthly Passes

- **Raise Regional Monthly Pass from \$60 to \$64 on 1/1/2008 and to \$68 on 1/1/2009**
- **Raise Seniors Regional Monthly Pass from \$15 to \$16 on 1/1/2008 and to \$17 on 1/1/2009**
- **Raise Regional Youth Monthly Pass from \$30 to \$32 on 1/1/2008 and to \$34 on 1/1/2009**
- **Raise price of MTS Premium Express Monthly Pass from \$84 to \$90 on 1/1/2008**

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Proposed Changes – College Passes

- **Increase MTS College Semester wholesale price from \$1.23 to \$1.34 per day on 1/1/2008 and \$1.43 on 1/1/2009**
- **Increase MTS College Monthly Pass wholesale price from \$45.00 to \$51.20 on 1/1/2008 and \$54.40 on 1/1/2009**

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Other Changes

- **Eliminate MTS Social Service Day Tripper**
- **Eliminate bulk purchase discount for Universal Tokens sold by MTS**
- **Change maximum discount for regional Eco-Pass sold by MTS from 30% to 25%**
- **Convert Jury Ticket to Jury Day Pass and create Regular and Premium products**

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Interagency Transfers Between MTS/NCTD

■ **COASTER – Trolley/MTS Bus**

- No change to current transfer procedures for COASTER ticket holders boarding buses/trolley
- BREEZE Day Pass, Regional Day Pass & Regional Premium Day Pass valid for \$2.00 discount on COASTER ticket

■ **MTS Bus to/from NCTD Bus**

- BREEZE Day Pass and BREEZE Monthly Pass no longer accepted for any full or partial fare on MTS.
- Passengers from NCTD must purchase Regional Day Pass/Regional Premium Day Pass
- NCTD will now sell Regional Day Pass and Regional Premium Day Passes on buses and at stations

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Title VI Analysis & Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

- **Title VI of Federal Civil Rights code provides that the impacts of transit fare changes on low income individuals and racial minority groups must be identified**
- **FTA recipients must take reasonable steps to ensure that persons with LEP have access to information in their language**
- **The results of the analysis will be provided on October 5, 2007**

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Fare Study

- **SANDAG is conducting a Regional Fare and Revenue Sharing Study to develop a new fare structure for MTS & NCTD:**
 - Simplify existing structure
 - Take advantage of features of Compass Card
 - Unify fares across the region
 - Ensure that revenue needs are met, and Title VI and ridership impacts are minimized
- **Results of study are expected to be finalized early next year**

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Today's Action

- **Public Hearing to receive input from the Public on the proposed changes to the Fare Ordinance**
- **No action to be taken today**

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Next Steps

- **Second public hearing in MTS service area at SANDAG Transportation Committee on Oct 5, 2007**
- **First Reading of proposed changes to Fare Ordinance at SANDAG Transportation Committee scheduled for October 5, 2007**
- **Second Reading and approval of amendments to Fare Ordinance at Transportation Committee scheduled for October 19, 2007**

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Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to
Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance

Transportation Committee

September 20, 2007