

A low-angle shot of a white and teal Sound Transit train. The train is moving from left to right. The teal stripe is prominent. The windows are dark, reflecting the sky. The train is under a glass and steel structure.

Sound Transit

Fare Change proposals for ST Express

Sound Transit Operations and Administration Committee

January 4, 2018

 **SOUNDTRANSIT**

Fare Change Purpose and Timing

- A series of regional fare simplification forums were held to develop recommendations intended to simplify fare structures for the next generation ORCA system
- One recommendation is to eliminate zone fares which affect Sound Transit Express, King County Metro and Community Transit
- KCM and CT have already approved simplified fare structures; PT, ET, KT, and WSF no recommended changes to current structure
- ST Express fare change implementation is proposed for July 2018 to coincide with King County's implementation of a \$2.75 flat fare

Steps to Simplify ST Express Fares

1. Release ST Express fare simplification proposals for public review and comment (January / February)
 - Customer Survey (January 16th launch)
 - Public Hearing (February 1st)
 - Stakeholder Meeting #2 (February 6th)
2. ST Board decision on proposal (March)
3. Update ST Fare Policy accordingly (March)
4. Fare Change Implementation (July 2018)

Fare Change Assumptions

- Options proposed should be as close to revenue neutral as possible
- Fare change options may increase or decrease fares/revenue by ST Express route
- Fares must be set in \$0.25 increments per Regional Fare Agreement

ST Express Zone Fare Structure Used Today

Rider Group	One-county fare	Multi-county fare
Adult (age 19-64)	\$2.75	\$3.75
Low-Income (ORCA LIFT)	\$1.50	\$2.75
Youth (age 6-18)	\$1.50	\$2.75
Senior/Disabled - RRF - (age 65+ or disabled)	\$1.00	\$1.75

Zone Boundary at county line



Proposal #1 Flat-Rate Fare

Flat fare = one fare for all ST
 Express routes based on passenger
 type

Flat fares modeled:

- \$2.75, \$3.00 and \$3.25 adult fares
- Current one-county fares for Low-Income, Youth and RRFP riders
- ***\$3.25 is the closest to revenue neutral (without a revenue loss)***
 - ***\$3.12 fare would be revenue neutral***

Route	Type	Flat Fare
510	Multi-County	Same
511	Multi-County	Same
512	Multi-County	Same
513	Multi-County	Same
522	One County (King)	Same
532	Multi-County	Same
535	Multi-County	Same
540	One County (King)	Same
541	One County (King)	Same
542	One County (King)	Same
545	One County (King)	Same
550	One County (King)	Same
554	One County (King)	Same
555	One County (King)	Same
556	One County (King)	Same
560	One County (King)	Same
566	One County (King)	Same
567	One County (King)	Same
574	Multi-County	Same
577	One County (King)	Same
578	Multi-County	Same
580	One County (Pierce)	Same
586	Multi-County	Same
590	Multi-County	Same
592	Multi-County	Same
594	Multi-County	Same
595	Multi-County	Same
596	One County (Pierce)	Same

\$3.25 Flat-Rate Fare

- Adult riders making one-county trips would see a **\$0.50 (18%) fare increase**. This would affect about 70% of ST Express adult boardings
- Adult riders making multi-county trips would see a **\$0.50 (-13%) fare decrease**
- Reduced fare riders making multi-county trips would see a **fare decrease of about 45%**

Rider Group	Proposed fare change by rider group			
	Fare		Change	
	Existing	Proposed	\$	%
Adult				
One-County	\$2.75	\$3.25	\$0.50	18%
One-County Override on M-C	\$2.75	\$3.25	\$0.50	18%
Multi -County (M-C)	\$3.75	\$3.25	(\$0.50)	-13%
Low-Income (ORCA LIFT)				
One-County	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.00	0%
One-County Override on M-C	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.00	0%
Multi -County (M-C)	\$2.75	\$1.50	(\$1.25)	-45%
RRFP				
One-County	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	0%
One-County Override on M-C	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	0%
Multi -County (M-C)	\$1.75	\$1.00	(\$0.75)	-43%
Youth				
One-County	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.00	0%
One-County Override on M-C	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.00	0%
Multi -County (M-C)	\$2.75	\$1.50	(\$1.25)	-45%

Proposal #2 Route Based Fare

(Eliminate One-County Override for full fare adult riders)

- No change for riders on routes serving one county
- The one-county fare override on multi-county routes would be eliminated for full-fare adults –
 - **\$1.00 (36%) fare increase for about 7% of adult boardings**
- Set fare for Low-Income, Youth, RRFPP riders on multi-county routes at one-county fare --
 - Reduced fare riders making multi-county trips would see a **fare decrease of about 45%**

Rider Group	Proposed fare change by rider group			
	Fare		Change	
	Existing	Proposed	\$	%
Adult				
One-County	\$2.75	\$2.75	\$0.00	0%
One-County Override on M-C	\$2.75	\$3.75	\$1.00	36%
Multi -County (M-C)	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$0.00	0%
Low-Income (ORCA LIFT)				
One-County	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.00	0%
One-County Override on M-C	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.00	0%
Multi -County (M-C)	\$2.75	\$1.50	(\$1.25)	-45%
RRFP				
One-County	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	0%
One-County Override on M-C	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$0.00	0%
Multi -County (M-C)	\$1.75	\$1.00	(\$0.75)	-43%
Youth				
One-County	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.00	0%
One-County Override on M-C	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$0.00	0%
Multi -County (M-C)	\$2.75	\$1.50	(\$1.25)	-45%

Estimated Revenue & Ridership Impacts of Fare Options

Projected Impact on ST Express bus ridership and revenue

Fare Option	\$3.25 Flat Fare		Route-based Fares	
	Low*	High	Low*	High
Ridership (millions)	-0.3	-0.1	-0.02	0.02
Percent of total	-1.8%	-0.4%	-0.1%	0.1%
Revenue (\$ millions)	\$0.8	\$1.3	\$0.1	\$0.2
Percent of total	2.1%	3.6%	0.3%	0.7%

* Low estimates include Passport riders in elasticity calculations,
high estimates exclude Passport riders from elasticity calculations

Fare Change Options Recommended for Public Review

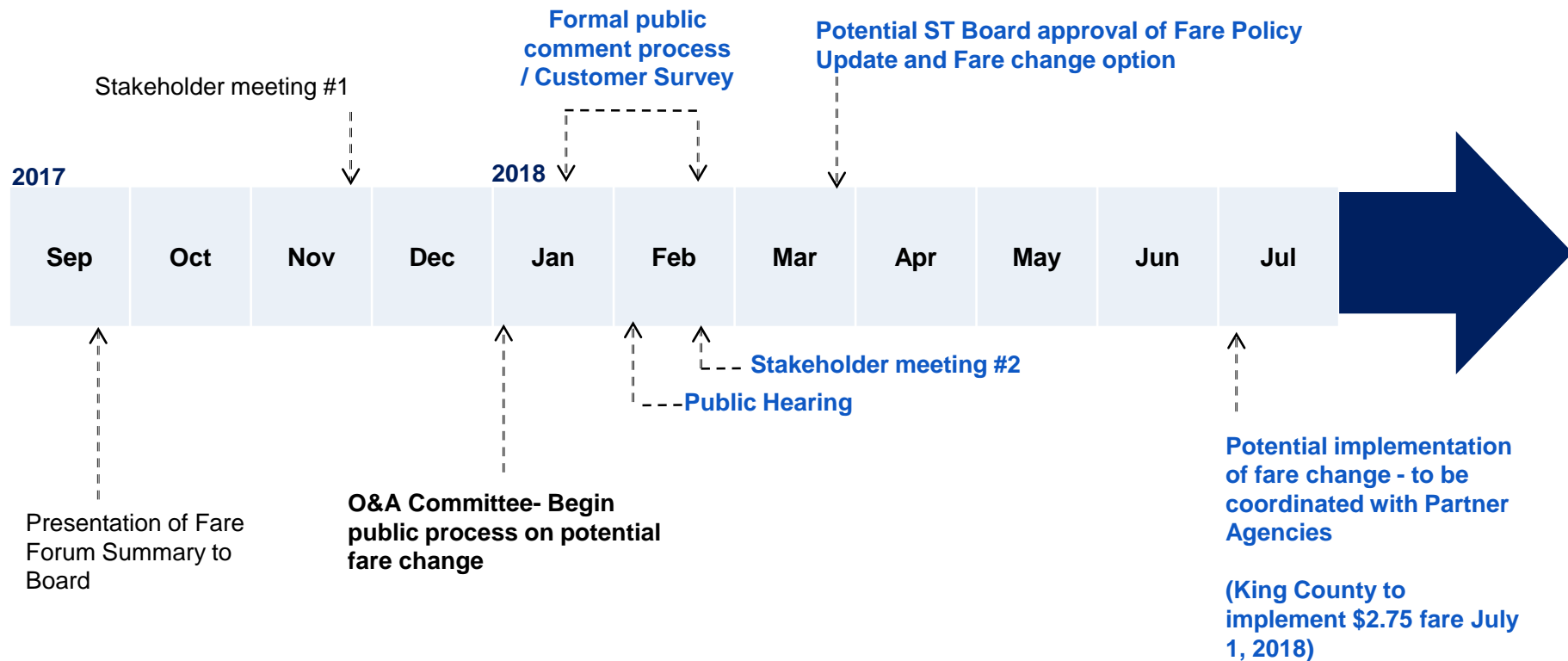
1. Flat-rate adult fare of \$3.25
 - Meets fare simplification goals
 - As close to revenue neutral as possible with no revenue loss, given fare change can only be done in \$0.25 increments
 - Fare structure consistent with KCM – although different adult fares
 - Reduces fares for multi-county, low-income, youth and RRFP riders

2. Route-Based Fares (Eliminate the One-county Override for Adult Riders)
 - Meets fare simplification goals
 - Almost revenue neutral while still being positive
 - Fare structure consistent with CT – although different fares
 - Aligns one-county fare levels with KCM
 - Reduces fares for multi-county, low-income, youth and RRP riders.

Options Compared with Other Agencies' Fares

		ST Fare Options			Metro (July, 2018)	CT - South Commuter (Oct., 2018)	CT - North Commuter (Oct., 2018)	CT Local	PT Local
		Flat Fare	Route-Based						
Rider Group	Current ST Fares	\$3.25 Flat Fare	One- County Route	Multi- County Route					
Adult									
One-County Zone	\$2.75	\$3.25	\$2.75	\$3.75	\$2.75	\$4.25	\$5.50	\$2.25	\$2.00
Multi-County Zone	\$3.75								
Low-Income									
One-County Zone	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50		\$1.50				
Multi-County Zone	\$2.75								
Youth									
One-County Zone	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50		\$1.50	\$3.00	\$4.00	\$1.50	\$1.00
Multi-County Zone	\$2.75								
RRFP									
One-County Zone	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00		\$1.00	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$1.00	\$1.00
Multi-County Zone	\$1.75								

Timeline and Next Steps





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