

***Proposal to Lower ORCA  
LIFT, Youth, Senior and  
Disabled Fares on Sounder***

*12/17/2020*

# *Why we are here*

Requesting Board decision today on the proposal to lower ORCA LIFT, Youth, Senior and Disabled fares on Sounder – aligning these fares with Link and ST Express

# *Purpose of the Proposal*

- This proposal would lower Sounder reduced fares to the same levels as Link and ST Express – simplifying fares.
- Reduced fare passengers could travel anywhere in the ST District, on any mode, for \$1.00 or \$1.50.

# Proposal Lowers Reduced Fares

- ORCA LIFT / Youth fares would be discounted 54-74%
- Senior / Disabled fares would be discounted 69-83%

|                   | Link          | ST Express | Souder                               |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Adult             | \$2.25-\$3.25 | \$3.25     | \$3.25-\$5.75                        |
| ORCA LIFT & Youth | \$1.50        | \$1.50     | <del>\$2.50 - \$4.25</del><br>\$1.50 |
| Senior & Disabled | \$1.00        | \$1.00     | <del>\$1.50 - \$2.75</del><br>\$1.00 |

# *Revenue, Farebox Recovery and Ridership Impacts*

## *Revenue Loss of \$300,000 annually (2019 data)*

- This is 1.7% of Sounder fare revenue
- This is 0.3% of ST's \$97 million systemwide fare revenue

## *Farebox Recovery Rate 0.5% lower*

- Reduces farebox recovery from 31.2% to 30.7%. (Sounder farebox recovery policy is 23%)

## *Annual Ridership 20,000 higher (0.4% increase)*

# *Fare Equity Analysis*

This proposal would have no adverse impact on minority or low-income riders, therefore it will not result in any disparate impact or disproportionate burden on these riders.

# *Public Engagement*

- Public engagement process from November 19, 2020 through December 6, 2020, including a Virtual Public Hearing on December 3, 2020
- Information about the fare change proposal was provided to customers and stakeholders by a variety of methods and in 8 languages

## *Public responses*

- 571 completed on-line surveys
- 8 emails
- 1 letter
- 1 comment at Public Hearing

# Public Comment

*7 of 10 comments via email, letter, Public Hearing supported the proposal*

## *Online survey results:*

- Overall, 77% of respondents support the fare proposal
- 88% of ORCA LIFT, Youth, Senior and Disabled respondents support the fare proposal
  - 76% of those who responded said they would be more likely to ride
  - 81% of those who responded said it would make it easier to pay their fare



# *Timeline*

- **Board Briefing:** *October 22, 2020*
- **Public Comment Period:** *Nov. 19, 2020 – Dec. 6, 2020*
- **Public Hearing:** *December 3, 2020*
- **Board Action:** *December 17, 2020*
- **Implementation:** *March 1, 2021*

*Thank you.*



 [soundtransit.org](https://soundtransit.org)

