

\$1 ORCA LIFT Fare

Rider Experience and Operations Committee

01/19/23

Why we are here

- For recommendation to the Board: Reduce the ORCA LIFT fare for low-income riders from \$1.50 to \$1.00 on all Sound Transit Services

Overview

- Background
- Benefits
- Impacts and Public Input
- Sound Transit Fares Roadmap
- Recommendation

Background

Board Motion No. M2022-27:

- Authorized a \$1 ORCA LIFT fare for 6 months
September 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023
- Directed staff to conduct public outreach & Title VI fare equity analysis for a possible board decision
- Directed staff to undertake actions to help achieve a goal of enrolling 80% of the likely ORCA LIFT market estimate of 105,000

Benefits: Increased Enrollments, Boardings and Passengers

- ORCA LIFT enrollments in Pierce, King and Snohomish County have increased 22% since August 2022
- Staff are tracking ORCA LIFT boardings and the number of passengers on ST services
 - Insufficient time to determine trends resulting from this fare reduction

Impacts and Public Input

Financial Impact

- The proposed action is expected to reduce fare revenue by an estimated \$25 million through 2046 and is reflected in the Fall 2022 Financial Plan.

Title VI Fare Equity Impacts

- Reduced ORCA LIFT fare benefits low-income riders.
- No Disparate Impacts on minority riders or
Disproportionate Impacts on low-income riders.

Public Input

- Overwhelming support by survey respondents and those providing public comments.

Roadmap for Board Actions on Fares

Recent/Current Actions

Fare compliance:

- Policy update
- Subsidized annual pass extension
- Budget amendments for fare
- Compliance and reduced fare programs

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- Free Youth fares
- Establish T Line fares
- Establish \$1 ORCA LIFT fare

Future Actions

- Review farebox recovery policy
- Authorize daily paid parking
- Increase Link fares and/or change fare structure (distance-based vs. flat fare)
- Establish Stride fares and set farebox recovery target

Recommendation

- Recommend adoption of Resolution No. R2023-05 to lower the ORCA LIFT fare to \$1.00 effective March 1, 2023

Questions?



Thank you.



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