



July 22, 2005

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE YOUTH DISCOUNT FROM 25% TO 50% FOR LOCAL MARIN TRAVEL ON GOLDEN GATE TRANSIT BUS ROUTES

Proposed Transit Fare Change

At its meeting on July 8, 2005, the Board of Directors approved setting a public hearing on staff's proposal to increase the youth discount for local Marin travel on Golden Gate Transit (GGT) bus routes from 25% to 50% of the adult cash fare as requested by Marin County Transit District (MCTD). This will result in a youth fare of \$1.00 per ride.

Summary

On December 8, 2004, the District and MCTD executed an Agreement for Intra-County Public Bus Transit Service in Marin County, effective November 1, 2004, through April 30, 2006. Under the terms of this Agreement, MCTD is responsible for setting fares and service levels of 20 local bus routes operated by GGT. The Agreement also acknowledges the benefit to the public of having a highly coordinated local and regional bus network.

The District received a request from MCTD to make the following fare changes, effective with the beginning of the 2005/2006 school year on August 22, 2005:

- Reduce the GGT bus fare for local youth riders, age 6 to 18, by increasing the existing adult cash fare discount from the current 25% to 50%. The resulting local youth cash fare would be \$1.00
- Reduce the price of local Marin youth ticket books from the current \$1.50 per ticket, or \$30 per book, to \$1.00 per ticket, or \$20 per book

On August 2, 2005, MCTD will hold a public hearing on its fare and service proposal.

To coordinate local and regional bus fares, the District would concurrently increase the youth discount to 50%, or a \$1.00 fare, for local rides on regional bus routes. Since many local youth riders on regional bus routes, in particular on the transition local bus routes, have been using Ride & Roll tickets to ride free, and since MCTD has recently discontinued the Ride & Roll demonstration program, staff anticipates a modest increase in fare revenue of less than \$100,000 to the District resulting from the discounted \$1.00 youth cash fare proposed by MCTD.

The Board authorized staff to solicit public comment on this proposal via notices on transit services, newspapers, the District's website, and at this public hearing.

Next Steps

Following the District's public hearing on July 22, 2005, and after considering anticipated action by MCTD on August 2, 2005, staff would prepare a subsequent staff report for Finance-Auditing Committee consideration at its August 11, 2005, meeting. The Board of Directors will consider all public comments prior to any final decision on the proposed transit fare change. Final action by the Board of Directors to implement the local youth discount fare change would occur on August 12, 2005. Both these meetings will be held in the Board Room, Administration Building, Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza.