

April 21, 2005

**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON A PROPOSAL TO
INCREASE REGIONAL BUS, FERRY AND PARATRANSIT FARES**

Proposed Transit Fare Increase

At its meeting on March 25, 2005, the Board of Directors approved setting a public hearing on staff's proposal to increase regional Golden Gate Transit (GGT) bus, Golden Gate Ferry and inter-county paratransit fares by 5%, effective July 1, 2005. The program consists of a 5% increase in regional GGT bus fares with a 50% discount available for seniors/disabled passengers, a 25% discount for youth, and a 20% discount for Ride Value Discount Ticket users; a 5% increase in Golden Gate Ferry fares (including Frequent Rider Ticket books) with a 50% discount available for seniors/disabled passengers and a 25% discount for youth; and a 5% increase in inter-county paratransit fares. This proposal is in response to the need to raise operating revenues to meet operating expenses.

Summary

The District is in the midst of a financial emergency that has resulted in developing strategies to reduce costs and increase revenues. Since bridge and transit user fees represent the majority of District revenues, further increases in user fees are needed to offset increasing costs. It is recommended that regional bus, ferry and inter-county paratransit fares be increased 5%, effective July 1, 2005. The proposed fares are shown in the Attachment.

Past increases have typically been set at about 5%. An increase of 5% is proposed in light of the following:

1. District Financial Need – The current estimate of next year's (FY 2006) budget shortfall is \$8 million or \$108 million over 5 years.
2. Higher Transit Costs – Cost inflation occurs each year.
3. Low Fare Recovery – Transit ridership is still depressed due to continuing problems with the economy that has delayed job formation and reduced overall travel. Bus service reductions have resulted in decreased bus ridership. Current transit fare recovery is at 27% (22% for bus and 40% for ferry) and may fall further next year without a fare adjustment.
4. Delay to Development of a Comprehensive Five-Year Transit Fare Program – Staff continues to work on changes to the existing complex fare structure to reduce customer

confusion, improve customer convenience with TransLink implementation scheduled for the beginning of 2006, and develop a five-year strategy for achieving fare recovery and revenue-generation targets.

In summary, staff proposes a 5% fare increase for regional bus, ferry, and inter-county paratransit services to meet operating expenses for FY 2006. As a result, regional bus and ferry fares would increase by 5- to 35-cents, and inter-county paratransit fares would increase by 25- to 55-cents. Consistent with the District's contract with Marin County Transit District (MCTD) for local bus services, this proposal excludes fares for local Marin bus and paratransit rides. Staff has requested MCTD consider taking concurrent action to raise local Marin bus fares.

The proposed 5% fare increase is estimated to generate about \$600,000 added revenue. A 1-2% patronage loss could result from the fare increase and has been factored into the revenue generation estimate.

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

The Board of Directors will consider all public comments prior to any final decision on the proposed transit fare increase. Staff will make a recommendation to the Finance-Auditing Committee at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 12, 2005; the Board could take action the following day at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 13, 2005, which allows sufficient lead time for implementation on July 1, 2005. Both of these meetings will be held in the Board Room, Administration Building, Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza.

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Proposed Regional Golden Gate Transit Bus Fares

The following fare table shows adult zone-to-zone regional bus fares increased by 5% (excluding increase to **Marin Local** fares shown in **bold**).

From Zone	To Zone									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	\$2.85	\$3.25	\$3.95	\$4.80	\$6.90	\$7.60	\$5.60	\$6.35	\$3.95	\$6.35
2	\$3.25	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$4.75	\$5.50	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$3.95
3	\$3.95	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.95	\$4.80	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$3.25
4	\$4.80	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.25	\$3.95	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$3.95
5	\$6.90	\$4.75	\$3.95	\$3.25	\$2.85	\$2.85	\$6.90	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00
6	\$7.60	\$5.50	\$4.80	\$3.95	\$2.85	\$2.85	\$7.60	\$6.90	\$6.90	\$6.90
7	\$5.60	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$6.90	\$7.60	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$6.35
8	\$6.35	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$6.90	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$4.00	\$5.60
9	\$3.95	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$6.00	\$6.90	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$4.80
10	\$6.35	\$3.95	\$3.25	\$3.95	\$6.00	\$6.90	\$6.35	\$5.60	\$4.80	\$1.95

The following fare table shows senior or disabled zone-to-zone regional bus fares increased by 5% (excluding increase to **Marin Local** fares shown in **bold**).

From Zone	To Zone									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	\$1.40	\$1.60	\$1.95	\$2.40	\$3.45	\$3.80	\$2.80	\$3.15	\$1.95	\$3.15
2	\$1.60	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$2.35	\$2.75	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$1.95
3	\$1.95	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.95	\$2.40	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$1.60
4	\$2.40	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.60	\$1.95	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$1.95
5	\$3.45	\$2.35	\$1.95	\$1.60	\$1.40	\$1.40	\$3.45	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
6	\$3.80	\$2.75	\$2.40	\$1.95	\$1.40	\$1.40	\$3.80	\$3.45	\$3.45	\$3.45
7	\$2.80	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.45	\$3.80	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.15
8	\$3.15	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$3.45	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$2.80
9	\$1.95	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$3.00	\$3.45	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$2.40
10	\$3.15	\$1.95	\$1.60	\$1.95	\$3.00	\$3.45	\$3.15	\$2.80	\$2.40	\$0.95

The following fare table shows youth zone-to-zone regional bus fares increased by 5%.

From Zone	To Zone									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	\$2.15	\$2.45	\$2.95	\$3.60	\$5.20	\$5.70	\$4.20	\$4.75	\$2.95	\$4.75
2	\$2.45	*	*	*	\$3.55	\$4.15	**	**	*	\$2.95
3	\$2.95	*	*	*	\$2.95	\$3.60	**	**	*	\$2.45
4	\$3.60	*	*	*	\$2.45	\$2.95	**	**	*	\$2.95
5	\$5.20	\$3.55	\$2.95	\$2.45	\$2.15	\$2.15	\$5.20	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50
6	\$5.70	\$4.15	\$3.60	\$2.95	\$2.15	\$2.15	\$5.70	\$5.20	\$5.20	\$5.20
7	\$4.20	**	**	**	\$5.20	\$5.70	*	**	**	\$4.75
8	\$4.75	**	**	**	\$4.50	\$5.20	**	*	**	\$4.20
9	\$2.95	*	*	*	\$4.50	\$5.20	**	**	*	\$3.60
10	\$4.75	\$2.95	\$2.45	\$2.95	\$4.50	\$5.20	\$4.75	\$4.20	\$3.60	\$1.45

* One "Marin County Youth Ticket" or adult cash fare

** Two "Marin County Youth Tickets" or adult cash fare

Proposed Golden Gate Ferry Fares

The following fare table shows ferry fares increased by 5%.

Zone 2 – Sausalito	\$6.45/\$3.20/\$4.85 Adult/Senior or Disabled/Youth Cash Fare \$3.45 with Frequent Rider Ticket Book or TransLink
Zone 3 – Larkspur	\$6.45/\$3.20/\$4.85 Adult/Senior or Disabled/Youth Cash Fare \$4.05 with Frequent Rider Ticket Book or TransLink

Senior or Disabled pay 50% of adult cash fare

Youth pay 75% of adult cash fare

Proposed Golden Gate Transit Ride Value Ticket Book Fares

The following fare table shows zone-to-zone Ride Value Ticket Book bus fares increased by 5%. These Ride Value Ticket Book fares represent a 20% discount of adult cash fares. These discounts are also available through TransLink.

ZONE TO ZONE	FY 2006 ADULT FULL CASH FARE	FY 2006 RIDE VALUE		
		VALUE OF 20 TICKETS	DISCOUNTED PRICE FOR 20 TICKETS	PRICE PER TICKET
2 -to- 1	\$3.25	\$65.00	\$52.00	\$2.60
3 -to- 1	\$3.95	\$79.00	\$63.20	\$3.16
4 -to- 1	\$4.80	\$96.00	\$76.80	\$3.84
5 -to- 1	\$6.90	\$138.00	\$110.40	\$5.52
5 -to- 2	\$4.75	\$96.00	\$76.80	\$3.84
5 -to- 3	\$3.95	\$79.00	\$63.20	\$3.16
5 -to- 4	\$3.25	\$65.00	\$52.00	\$2.60
6 -to- 1	\$7.60	\$152.00	\$121.60	\$6.08
6 -to- 2	\$5.60	\$112.00	\$89.60	\$4.48
6 -to- 3	\$4.80	\$96.00	\$76.80	\$3.84
6 -to- 4	\$3.95	\$79.00	\$63.20	\$3.16
7 -to- 1	\$5.60	\$112.00	\$89.60	\$4.48
7 -to- 5	\$6.90	\$138.00	\$110.40	\$5.52
7 -to- 6	\$7.60	\$152.00	\$121.60	\$6.08
8 -to- 1	\$6.35	\$127.00	\$101.60	\$5.08
8 -to- 5	\$6.00	\$120.00	\$96.00	\$4.80
8 -to- 6	\$6.90	\$138.00	\$110.40	\$5.52
9 -to- 1	\$3.95	\$79.00	\$63.20	\$3.16
9 -to- 5	\$6.00	\$120.00	\$96.00	\$4.80
9 -to- 6	\$6.90	\$138.00	\$110.40	\$5.52
10 -to- 1	\$6.35	\$127.00	\$101.60	\$5.08
10 -to- 2	\$3.95	\$79.00	\$63.20	\$3.16
10 -to- 3	\$3.25	\$65.00	\$52.00	\$2.60
10 -to- 4	\$3.95	\$79.00	\$63.20	\$3.16
10 -to- 5	\$6.00	\$120.00	\$96.00	\$4.80
10 -to- 6	\$6.90	\$138.00	\$110.40	\$5.52
10 -to- 7	\$6.35	\$127.00	\$101.60	\$5.08
10 -to- 8	\$5.60	\$112.00	\$89.60	\$4.48
10 -to- 9	\$4.80	\$96.00	\$76.80	\$3.84

Proposed Golden Gate Transit Paratransit Fares

The following table shows zone-to-zone inter-county and Sonoma County intra-county ADA paratransit fares increased by 5%.

From Zone	To Zone									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1		\$5.35	\$6.60	\$8.05	\$11.10	\$12.50	\$9.45	\$10.75	\$6.60	\$10.75
2	\$5.35				\$8.05	\$9.45				\$6.60
3	\$6.60				\$6.60	\$8.05				\$5.35
4	\$8.05				\$5.35	\$6.60				\$6.60
5	\$11.10	\$8.05	\$6.60	\$5.35	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$11.10	\$9.80	\$9.80	\$9.80
6	\$12.50	\$9.45	\$8.05	\$6.60	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$12.50	\$11.10	\$11.10	\$11.10
7	\$9.45				\$11.10	\$12.50				\$10.75
8	\$10.75				\$9.80	\$11.10				\$9.45
9	\$6.60				\$9.80	\$11.10				\$8.05
10	\$10.75	\$6.60	\$5.35	\$6.60	\$9.80	\$11.10	\$10.75	\$9.45	\$8.05	

The following table shows zone-to-zone inter-county paratransit fares increased by 5% and with the 50-cent Marin Extended Trip surcharge.

From Zone	To Zone									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1		\$5.85	\$7.10	\$8.55	\$11.10	\$12.50	\$9.95	\$11.25	\$7.10	\$10.75
2	\$5.85				\$8.55	\$9.95				\$7.10
3	\$7.10				\$7.10	\$8.55				\$5.85
4	\$8.55				\$5.85	\$7.10				\$7.10
5	\$11.10	\$8.55	\$7.10	\$5.85			\$11.60	\$10.30	\$10.30	\$9.80
6	\$12.50	\$9.95	\$8.55	\$7.10			\$13.00	\$11.60	\$11.60	\$11.10
7	\$9.95				\$11.60	\$13.00				\$11.25
8	\$11.25				\$10.30	\$11.60				\$9.95
9	\$7.10				\$10.30	\$11.60				\$8.55
10	\$10.75	\$7.10	\$5.85	\$7.10	\$9.80	\$11.10	\$11.25	\$9.95	\$8.55	