



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Ordinance 19858

**Proposed No.** 2024-0317.1

**Sponsors** Zahilay

1                   AN ORDINANCE relating to public transportation,  
 2                   revising the low-income fare rate; amending Ordinance  
 3                   19705, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.010 and  
 4                   establishing an effective date.

5                   **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6                   1. K.C.C. 4A.700.010 provides for fares for regularly scheduled county  
 7                   public transportation service on buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride  
 8                   vehicles, and streetcars, including fares for adults, children, youth, seniors  
 9                   and persons with disabilities and low-income riders.
- 10                  2. The King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2021-  
 11                  2031, as adopted by Ordinance 19367, includes a strategy to "Align fares  
 12                  with other service providers, meet revenue targets, and advance equity  
 13                  through Metro's income-based approach to fares."
- 14                  3. As part of an income-based approach to fares, the Metro transit  
 15                  department offers a reduced low-income fare available to persons who  
 16                  apply for and are determined to meet the threshold eligibility requirements  
 17                  for the low-income transit program authorized under K.C.C. 4A.700.490  
 18                  and  
 19                  receive a valid low-income transit fare product.

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20 4. At the beginning of 2022, both the Metro transit department and Sound  
21 Transit charged a \$1.50 low-income fare for passengers riding buses and  
22 Link light rail.

23 5. In 2022 the Sound Transit Board approved a six-month pilot to lower  
24 ORCA LIFT fares for Link light rail, Sound Transit express buses, and  
25 Sounder commuter rail from \$1.50 to \$1.00, effective September 1, 2022.

26 6. To ensure alignment between services, the Metro transit department's  
27 general manager issued an emergency directive on August 22, 2022,  
28 lowering the Metro transit departments ORCA LIFT fare for buses,  
29 trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles, and streetcars from \$1.50 to  
30 \$1.00 for the period from September 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

31 7. Ordinance 19532 then approved a \$1.00 ORCA LIFT fare as a  
32 temporary pilot for the duration of 2023. The temporary reduction was  
33 extended for the duration of 2024 in Ordinance 19705.

34 8. Since 2022, regional partner transit agencies, including Everett Transit,  
35 Kitsap Transit, Seattle Streetcar, Sound Transit, and Pierce Transit have  
36 set a flat \$1.00 rate of fare for low-income riders.

37 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

38 SECTION 1. Ordinance 19705, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.010

39 are hereby amended to read as follows:

40 A. Except as may otherwise be provided by ordinance, the following fare  
41 categories and rates are established for regularly scheduled county public transportation  
42 service on buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles, and streetcars:

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<b>Regular fare</b>	<b>\$2.75</b>
<b>Child fare</b>	<b>No charge</b>
<b>Youth fare</b>	<b>No charge</b>
<b>Seniors and persons with disabilities fare</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Low-income fare</b>	<del><b>(\$1.50)</b></del> <b><u>\$1.00</u></b>

43 The fare categories and rates are subject to, and defined by, the following:

44 1. The child fare is available to persons up to six years old when accompanied by  
 45 a responsible person paying the proper fare as set forth in this chapter. Up to four children  
 46 may ride with each responsible person;

47 2. The youth fare is available to persons from six through eighteen years old and  
 48 persons over eighteen years old who receive student passes under K.C.C. 4A.700.450;

49 3. The senior and persons with disabilities fare is available to persons who apply  
 50 for and receive a regional reduced fare permit. The permits are available to persons at least  
 51 sixty-five years old and persons with disabilities as provided in the regional reduced fare  
 52 permit program authorized under K.C.C. 28.94.255;

53 4. A person with a disability who has been issued an “attendant ride free” permit  
 54 by the department may be accompanied by an attendant, who is not required to pay a fare;  
 55 and

56 5. The low-income fare is available to persons who apply for and are determined  
 57 to meet the threshold eligibility requirements for the low-income transit fare program  
 58 authorized under K.C.C. 4A.700.490 and receive a valid low-income transit fare product.

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59           B. A fare in subsection A. of this section is paid when a person pays the  
 60 appropriate amount in cash or presents an appropriate pass, transfer, or other fare payment  
 61 media established under and used in accordance with this chapter.

62           C.1. Regional and institutional passes, in various single-trip value denominations  
 63 and for various effective periods, may be issued and sold in accordance with the terms of  
 64 an agreement approved by the council and entered into with other public transportation  
 65 providers in the region. Institutions include employers, groups of employers, educational  
 66 institutions, transportation management associations, and other organizations. The  
 67 effective periods, single-trip values, and prices for the regional and institutional passes shall  
 68 be established by the agreement. A valid regional or institutional pass may be presented an  
 69 unlimited number of times during its effective period as full or partial payment of the  
 70 applicable fare. To the extent the single trip value of the regional pass is not sufficient to  
 71 cover the applicable fare, the rider shall pay the difference in cash or from an electronic  
 72 stored value product, such as e purse.

73           2. For institutions entering into an annual institutional pass agreement, the  
 74 following schedule of calculations shall determine the cost of the annual agreement for the  
 75 Metro transit department's portion of the agreement:

First twelve months:	$TR \times \text{baseline trips}$
Second twelve months:	$(TR \times \text{baseline trips}) + [(TR \times \text{added trips}) \times 1/3]$
Third twelve months:	$(TR \times \text{baseline trips}) + [(TR \times \text{added trips}) \times 2/3]$
Fourth twelve months (and subsequent twelve-month	$(TR \times \text{baseline trips}) + (TR \times \text{added trips})$

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periods):

76 For purposes of this formula, "added trips" means those trips taken during the prior  
77 twelve months, determined either from surveys or electronic counting of actual institutional  
78 pass use, that exceed the number of baseline trips established at the execution of the  
79 institutional pass agreement. Electronic counts of one month or more will be annualized  
80 and used in lieu of survey results if available.

81 For purposes of this formula, "baseline trips" means the estimated number of transit  
82 trips taken by the contracting party's covered population of students, employees or others,  
83 or any combination thereof, in the twelve months preceding execution of the institutional  
84 pass agreement. Baseline trips may be adjusted on an annual basis to account for changes  
85 in the number of eligible employees.

86 For purposes of this formula, in the event a party terminates or does not renew an  
87 institutional pass agreement, any subsequent institutional pass agreement entered into with  
88 that party shall be priced as if in the "fourth twelve months and thereafter" category.

89 For purposes of this formula, "trip revenue" or "TR" means the weighted average  
90 fare per trip determined by the department.

91 D. The rate of fare for paratransit service shall be \$1.75 per trip and \$63.00 for a  
92 monthly pass, except that a no-charge youth fare shall be available to persons from six  
93 through eighteen years old and persons over eighteen years old who receive student passes  
94 under K.C.C. 4A.700.450.

95 E. The rate of fare for customized bus service to residents of Center Park, a facility  
96 of the Seattle Housing Authority located at 2121 - 26th Avenue South, Seattle, is equal to

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97 the paratransit fares specified in subsection D. of this section.

98 SECTION 2. This ordinance takes effect January 1, 2025.


Ordinance 19858 was introduced on 10/1/2024 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/19/2024, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Mosqueda, Perry, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahiray

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:  
  
E76CE01F07B14EF...  
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
8DE1BB375AD3422...  
Melani Hay, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of 12/2/2024, \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed by:  
  
4FBCAB8196AE4C6...  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None

## Certificate Of Completion

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 Subject: Complete with Docusign: Ordinance 19858.docx  
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 SEATTLE, WA 98104  
 Cherie.Camp@kingcounty.gov  
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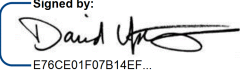
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Dave Upthegrove  
 dave.upthegrove@kingcounty.gov  
 Chair  
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

## Signature


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 Signed: 11/22/2024 8:38:37 AM

**Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:**  
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 ID: 33ec0ae1-69cf-40a4-ae19-65db30bcf336

Melani Hay  
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 ID: 639a6b47-a4ff-458a-8ae8-c9251b7d1a1f

Dow Constantine  
 Dow.Constantine@kingcounty.gov  
 King County Executive  
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 Signed: 12/2/2024 12:52:23 PM

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In Person Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Certified Delivered	Security Checked	12/2/2024 12:52:09 PM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	12/2/2024 12:52:23 PM
Completed	Security Checked	12/2/2024 12:52:23 PM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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