



Signature Report

October 9, 2017

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Ordinance

Proposed No. 2017-0350.2

Sponsors Dembowski and Balducci

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to public transportation,  
2 revising rates of fare and eliminating the regular fare peak,  
3 off-peak and zone fare differential; and amending  
4 Ordinance 13480, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C.  
5 4A.700.010 and Ordinance 12643, Section 9, as amended,  
6 and K.C.C 4A.700.090.

7 STATEMENT OF FACTS:

- 8 1. K.C.C. 4A.700.010 provides for separate off-peak, one-zone peak and  
9 two-zone peak fares for full fare adult riders, with zones as set forth in  
10 K.C.C. 28.92.030, and time of day limitations for peak and off-peak  
11 period trips as set forth in K.C.C. 28.92.115 and 28.92.100.
- 12 2. The King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2011-  
13 2021, 2015 Update, includes "Strategy 6.3.2: Establish fare structures and  
14 fare levels that are simple to understand, aligned with other service  
15 providers, and meet revenue targets established by Metro's fund  
16 management policies."
- 17 3. A recent peer comparison of thirty comparable bus transit agencies in  
18 the United States and Canada found that King County Metro was one of  
19 only two agencies with both zones and general time of day pricing.

20 4. Metro is the only ORCA transit agency with fares that vary by time of  
21 day.

22 5. The 2016 Regional Fare Forum (“Fare Forum”), made up of members  
23 representing the policy boards of each of the ORCA agencies, including  
24 members of the King County council, was convened last year with a  
25 mission to reaffirm agency commitments to regional fare coordination and  
26 discuss strategies to further integrate and simplify fares to allow customers  
27 to travel seamlessly throughout the region. Among other things, the Fare  
28 Forum recommended that ORCA agencies work to simplify fares by  
29 eliminating fares that vary by zone and time-of-day.

30 6. In a March-April 2017 survey to obtain public feedback on Metro's  
31 fares, thirty-two percent of respondents indicated they found Metro's fares  
32 confusing, or very confusing.

33 7. An extensive public outreach program conducted by Metro in spring of  
34 2017 found considerable public support for replacing Metro's current fare  
35 structure with a single regular adult fare of \$2.75 regardless of time of day  
36 and without zone boundaries.

37 8. As part of Metro's public engagement effort, more than six thousand  
38 four hundred people participated in an online survey about two fare  
39 simplification options (one a flat fare of \$2.75 applicable regardless of  
40 time of day or zone and the other a variable fare of \$2.50 for off-peak  
41 periods and \$3.00 for peak periods). Eighty percent of respondents liked  
42 the option of a single, regular adult fare of \$2.75.

43 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

44 SECTION 1. Ordinance 13480, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.010

45 are hereby amended to read as follows:

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

	<del>((Off- peak</del>	<b>One-zone Peak</b>	<b>Two-zone peak))</b>
Regular fare	<del>(((\$2.50)) \$2.75</del>	<del>(((\$2.75</del>	<del>(\$3.25))</del>
Child fare	No charge	<del>((No charge</del>	<del>No charge))</del>
Youth fare	\$1.50	<del>(((\$1.50</del>	<del>(\$1.50))</del>
Seniors and persons with disabilities fare	\$1.00	<del>(((\$1.00</del>	<del>(\$1.00))</del>
Low-income fare	\$1.50	<del>(((\$1.50</del>	<del>(\$1.50))</del>

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

- 50 1. ~~((The descriptions of transit zones are set forth in K.C.C. 28.94.030;~~
- 51 2. ~~The time-of-day limitations for peak period trips and off-peak period trips are~~  
 52 ~~in K.C.C. 28.92.115 and 28.92.100 except as to streetcar services, which may be priced at~~  
 53 ~~peak fares;~~
- 54 3.)) The child fare is available to persons up to six years old when accompanied  
 55 by a responsible person paying the proper fare as set forth in this chapter. Up to four  
 56 children may ride with each responsible person;

57           ~~((4.))~~ 2. The youth fare is available to persons from six through eighteen years  
58 old and persons over eighteen years old who receive student passes under K.C.C.  
59 4A.700.450;

60           ~~((5.))~~ 3. The senior and persons with disabilities fare is available to persons who  
61 apply for and receive a regional reduced fare permit. The permits are available to persons  
62 at least sixty-five years old and persons with disabilities as provided in the regional  
63 reduced fare permit program authorized under K.C.C. 28.94.255;

64           ~~((6.))~~ 4. A person with a disability who has been issued an "attendant ride free"  
65 permit by the department may be accompanied by an attendant, who is not required to  
66 pay a fare; and

67           ~~((7.))~~ 5. The low-income fare is available to persons who apply for and are  
68 determined to meet the threshold eligibility requirements for the low-income transit fare  
69 program authorized under K.C.C. 4A.700.490 and receive a valid low-income transit fare  
70 product.

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

74           C.1. Regional and institutional passes, in various single-trip value denominations  
75 and for various effective periods, may be issued and sold in accordance with the terms of  
76 an agreement approved by the council and entered into with other public transportation  
77 providers in the region. Institutions include employers, groups of employers, educational  
78 institutions, transportation management associations and other organizations. The  
79 effective periods, single-trip values and prices for the regional and institutional passes

80 shall be established by the agreement. A valid regional or institutional pass may be  
81 presented an unlimited number of times during its effective period as full or partial  
82 payment of the applicable fare. To the extent the single trip value of the regional pass is  
83 not sufficient to cover the applicable fare, the rider shall pay the difference in cash or  
84 from an electronic stored value product, such as e purse.

85 2. For institutions entering into an annual institutional pass agreement, the  
86 following schedule of calculations shall determine the cost of the annual agreement for  
87 King County Metro'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 12 month periods):	$(TR \times \text{baseline trips}) + (TR \times \text{added trips})$

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

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

97 for changes in the number of eligible employees.

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

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

103 D. The rate of fare for paratransit service shall be \$1.75 per trip and \$63.00 for a  
104 monthly pass.

105 E. The rate of fare for customized bus service to residents of Center Park, a  
106 facility of the Seattle Housing Authority located at 2121 - 26th Avenue South, Seattle, is  
107 equal to the paratransit fares specified in subsection D. of this section.

108 SECTION 2. Ordinance 12643, Section 11, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.050  
109 are hereby amended to read as follows:

110 The following procedure and rate of fare shall be used for animals riding on  
111 coaches. For small animals that do not occupy space other than the lap of the person  
112 accompanying the animal and for assistive animals, there shall be no fare charged. For  
113 all other animals, a fare equivalent to the fare paid by the individual accompanying the  
114 animal shall be charged and a transfer issued upon request (~~except that no zone fare shall~~  
115 ~~be charged~~). Animals riding on coaches shall be leashed or otherwise restrained and  
116 shall not pose a problem of health, injury to property or persons or disturbance to other  
117 passengers.

118 SECTION 3. Ordinance 12643, Section 9, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.090 is  
119 hereby amended to read as follows:

120           The director is authorized to establish rates of fare for limited service to special or  
121 seasonal activities or events, but only if the rates of fare and any contributions are  
122 established at a level reasonably estimated to recover at least twenty-five percent of the  
123 marginal cost for the service hours provided. In addition, the rates of fare for limited  
124 service shall be established at a level at least equal to the rates of fare for equivalent  
125 regularly scheduled service. If, however, the limited service is not equivalent to any  
126 regular service, then the rates of fare shall be no less than one-half of the (~~one zone, off-~~  
127 ~~peak full~~) regular fare set forth in this chapter. The limited services shall be on an  
128 individual fare-paying basis and be scheduled according to such routes, schedules and

129 dates as are determined by the director.

130 SECTION 4. This ordinance takes effect July 1, 2018.

131

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

---

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

---

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

---

Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** A. Fare Simplification Ordinance Report, B. Title VI Analysis dated September 19, 2017, C. Public Engagement Report