

**KING COUNTY GENERAL MANAGER’S DIRECTIVE REGARDING  
TEMPORARY REDUCTION OF THE LOW-INCOME “ORCA LIFT” FARE TO  
\$1.00 PURSUANT TO KCC 28.94.020(B)(2)**

**Whereas**, K.C.C. 4A.700.010 provides for fares for regularly scheduled county public transportation service on buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles and streetcars, including fares for adults, children, youth, seniors and persons with disabilities and low-income riders;

**Whereas**, the current low-income fare (“ORCA LIFT fare”) is \$1.50 for buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles and streetcars;

**Whereas**, the ORCA LIFT fare is available to persons who apply for and are determined to meet the eligibility threshold of two hundred percent of the federal poverty level;

**Whereas**, Sound Transit will implement a \$1.00 low-income fare for a six-month period beginning September 1, 2022;

**Whereas**, the King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2021-2031, as adopted by Ordinance 19367, includes a strategy to "Align fares with other service providers, meet revenue targets, and advance equity through Metro's income-based approach to fares;"

**Whereas**, more than half of riders enrolled in ORCA LIFT who begin a trip on Sound Transit transfer to Metro services, highlighting the importance of fare alignment for the two agencies;

**Whereas**, the King County Code, Section 28.94.020(B)(2)(b), provides that if in the opinion of the General Manager, an emergency exists the General Manager may waive or discount fares otherwise established in King County Code Chapter 4A.700;

**Whereas**, the ability to pay a consistent fare and access both agencies’ transit systems is particularly important for ORCA LIFT enrollees, who are some of the region's most-vulnerable riders;

**Whereas**, public transportation is an essential service which enables the public to access healthcare, food, medicine and work;

**Whereas**, it is my opinion that while the King County Council considers a pilot of a \$1.00 ORCA LIFT fare as part of the 2023-2024 biennial budget, an emergency exists requiring a temporary reduction of the ORCA LIFT fare to \$1.00.

**NOW THEREFORE,**

1. The low-income “ORCA LIFT” fare on buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles and streetcars is temporarily reduced to \$1.00 beginning on September 1, 2022; and
2. This directive shall expire on December 31, 2022.

Signed this 22 day of August 2022 at Seattle, Washington



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Terry White

General Manager, King County Metro