

Metro Two-Year Fares Work Program

Recommendations to simplify fares, coordinate regionally, and make transit more affordable

Regional Transit Committee, September 27, 2017



King County

METRO

We'll Get You There

Purpose of 2017-18 Work Program

Guided by customer feedback and policy goals from Strategic Plan, Service Guidelines, Metro Connects, Fund Management Policies, ESJ Plan

Objectives



Make fares easier to understand and use



Increase affordability of and access to transit



Increase safety of operators and customers

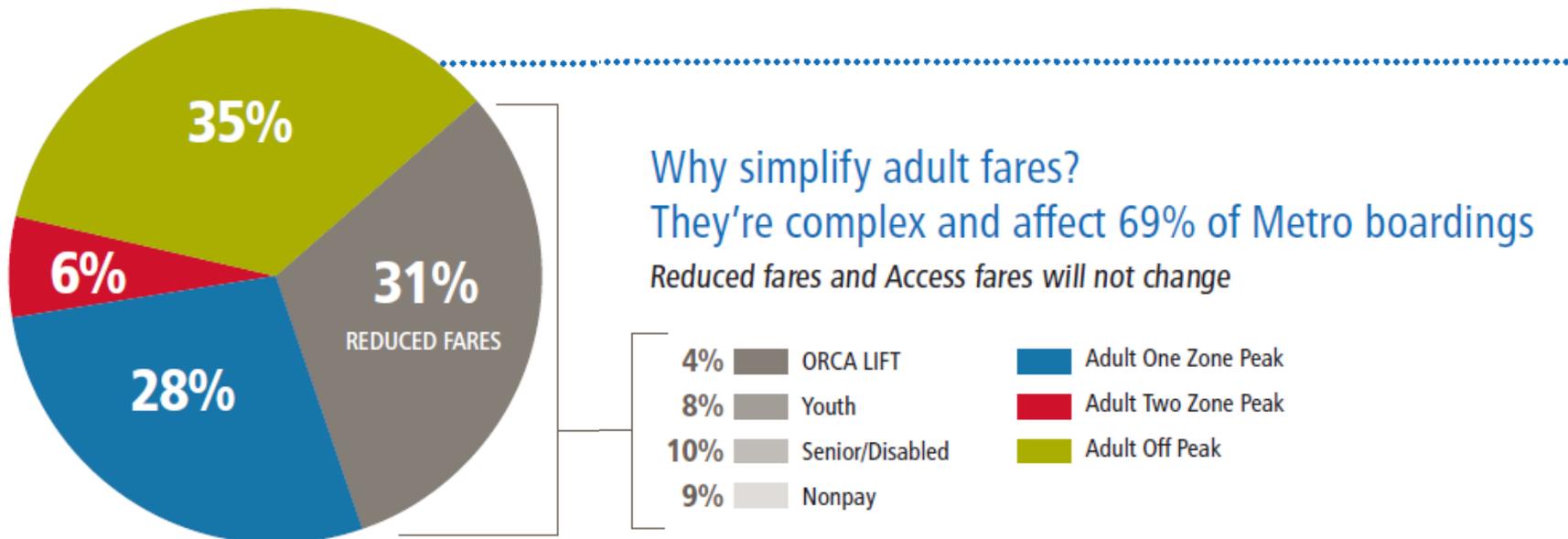


Speed up boarding to decrease travel time



Coordinate with regional partners

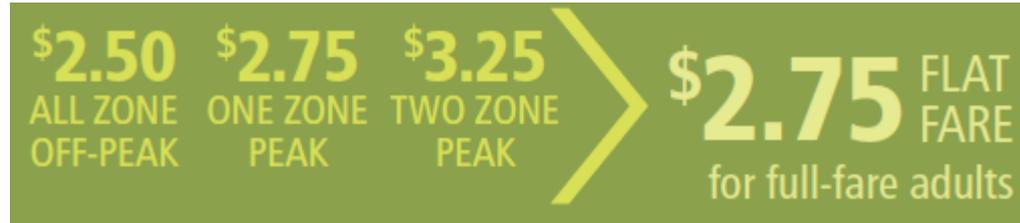
Customers Want Simpler Fares



Metro Boardings by Fare Category, 2016

Proposal

(No changes for ORCA LIFT, youth, seniors or riders with disabilities)



- Simplify fares: no zone and peak category for full-fare adults
- 80% of 6,656 survey respondents like a \$2.75 flat fare
- Follows recommendations of elected officials at 2016 Regional Fare Forum, including King County Council members

Current Programs



Metro is a national leader in offering reduced fares to those who can least afford transportation

\$1.50 FARE

ORCA LIFT for low-income adults, free ORCA card for their children

\$1.00 FARE

Regional Reduced Fare Permit for senior/disabled riders

\$1.50 FARE

Discounted Youth Fare, ages 6-18 (Demonstration program offers \$.50 ORCA fare and free ORCA card in summer 2017)

90% DISCOUNT

Human Services Ticket Program for agencies serving homeless and very-low-income clients

Access and Affordability Proposal



Subsidize more bus tickets for very-low-income riders by raising the subsidy cap for the Human Services Ticket Program by \$400,000. Also test use of ORCA cards in program



Work with partners to eliminate \$3 RRF fee and reduce adult and youth ORCA card fees from \$5 to \$3

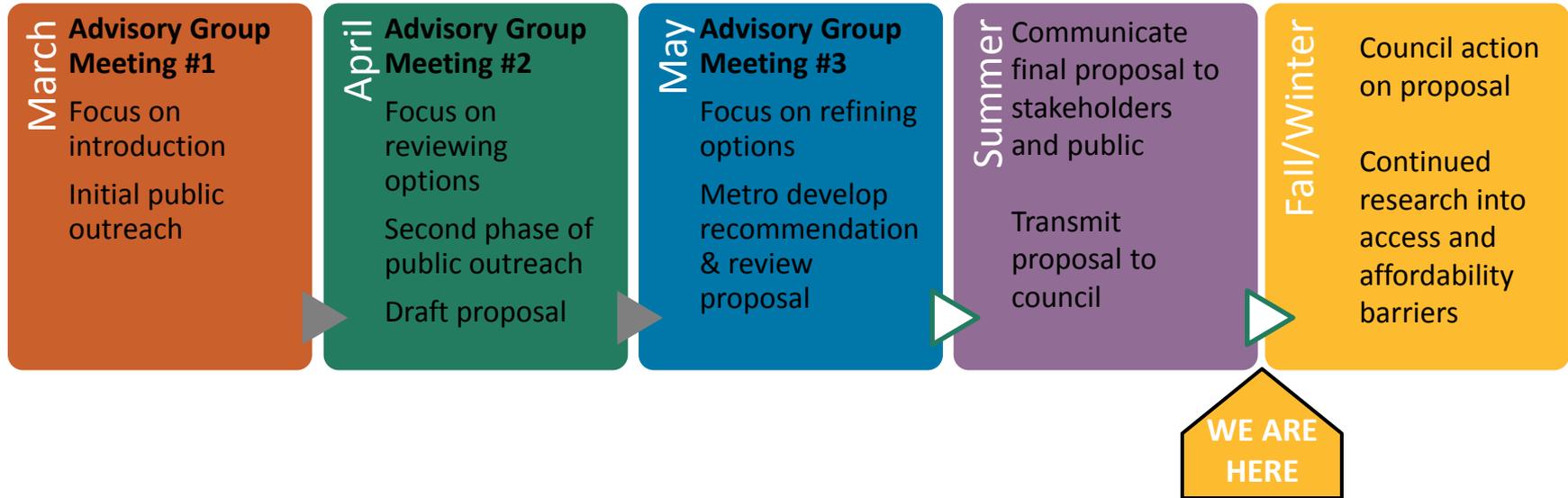


Increased promotion of ORCA LIFT



Continue working with colleges to enhance programs for college students

Public engagement (Phase 1)



Two-Year Work Program Timeline

PHASE ONE: 2017



Focus: Fare simplification, regional coordination, and increasing affordability



Product: Current recommendations to King County Council



Timeline

2017

- Transmit proposal to King County Council
- Communicate final proposal to stakeholders and the public
- Continued development of Human Service ORCA pilot plans and phase 2 research program

PHASE TWO: 2018



Focus: Increasing affordability (continued), increasing safety, speeding boarding



Timeline

2018

- Pilot ORCA for Human Services Ticket Program
- Evaluate pilot programs, conduct research and outreach, develop recommendations for King County Council
- Implement simplified adult fare
- Examine ways to increase operator safety
- Review fares of other services (Access, etc.)
- Consider additional options for very-low-income riders, off-peak riders, college students, and youth
- Implement Third Ave off-board fare payment
- Begin Next Generation ORCA development process

Contact Us

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