

AGENDA ITEM #9
February 9, 2010
Action

MEMORANDUM

February 5, 2010

TO: County Council

FROM: Glenn Orlin, Deputy Council Staff Director

SUBJECT: **Action**—resolution to amend FY10 transportation fees, charges, and fares

T&E Committee (and Council staff) recommendation (3-0): Approve a revised schedule of transportation fees, charges, and fares for FY10, reflecting the Executive's proposed increase to Ride On fares effective March 1 and the proposed parking fines effective on April 1, as shown in the resolution on ©12-18.

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On January 15 the County Executive transmitted a recommendation that the regular Ride On fares be increased by 10 cents per ride: from \$1.25 to \$1.35 for fares paid with a SmarTrip Card and from \$1.35 to \$1.45 for fares paid with cash or tokens. This increase would match the Metrobus fare increase approved by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) on January 28. The County's (and region's) policy for many years is to strive to have all the public bus systems charge the same fare. The Executive also proposes increasing the Metrorail-to-Ride On transfer from \$0.75 to \$0.85 and the Day Pass from \$3.00 to \$3.20. These increases would go into effect on March 1, the same day that the Metrobus increase will go into effect. The Department of Transportation (DOT) estimates that these fare increases would generate \$205,000 more revenue during the last four months of FY10. The Executive's transmittal memorandum is on ©1; the resolution introduced on January 19 is on ©2-8.

On January 29 the DOT Director recommended also increasing Ride On's express route fare for Route 70 (Milestone in Germantown to Bethesda) to be comparable with WMATA's fare increase for its express routes (©9). The fare would increase from \$3.00 to \$3.10 with a SmarTrip Card, and from \$3.10 to \$3.20 with cash or tokens. DOT believes the revenue due to this change will be minimal, and so it has not adjusted the \$205,000 revenue estimate. On ©10 is the public hearing notice DOT posted on Ride On buses, including Route 70.

On February 3 the Executive recommended increasing all parking fines by \$5, except the fines for parking in a fire lane or handicapped space and for illegal commercial parking (©11). DOT believes this will generate \$261,700 more revenue during the last three months of FY10. The Executive also recommended increasing Ride On fares further by 15 cents per ride starting July 4, but since that increase would not occur until FY11, action on it will be postponed until this spring, when the Council takes up this resolution again during its review of the Operating Budget.

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