



Committee: T&E
Committee Review: N/A
Staff: Glenn Orlin, Senior Analyst
Purpose: Final action – vote expected
Keywords: #transportationfees, transit fares

AGENDA ITEMS #5J, #7.5

September 28, 2021

Introduction & Public Hearing/Action

SUBJECT

Resolution to amend FY22 Transportation Fees, Charges, and Fares

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Introduction, public hearing, and action on September 28, 2021, as per Rule 4c of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Last May, the Council extended the fare holiday on Ride On through September 30, 2021. It also approved the County Executive's funding request to allow the Department of Transportation (DOT) to conduct a Fare Equity Study for Ride On. The Council's expectation was that the report and the Executive's recommendations would be transmitted in late August/early September 2021. At this time neither the study report nor the Executive's recommendations have been transmitted, although they are likely to be sent shortly.

This resolution would further extend the fare holiday through January 1, 2022, by which time the report and Executive's recommendations will have been transmitted, the Council will have set and held a public hearing on a proposed fare schedule, the Transportation and Environment Committee and full Council will have deliberated and approved a new fare schedule, and DOT will have had sufficient time to implement the fare changes.

This report contains:

Draft resolution

© 1-8

Letter from Montgomery Better Buses Coalition

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Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Lead Sponsor: Council President Hucker

SUBJECT: Setting Transportation Fees, Charges, and Fares

Background

1. Under Section 2-57A of the Montgomery County Code, as of July 22, 2004, all fees, charges, and fares for any transportation or transportation-related service or product provided by the Department of Transportation must be set by Council resolution adopted after a public hearing and approved by the Executive, unless any law expressly requires a different process. If the Executive disapproves a resolution within 10 days after it is adopted and the Council readopts it by a vote of six Councilmembers, or if the Executive does not act within 10 days after the Council adopts it, the resolution takes effect.
2. The fees, charges, and fares currently in effect are those in Council Resolution 19-856 adopted on May 19, 2021 and approved by the Executive on June 2, 2021.
3. The Council is extending the free fare policy for Ride On through January 1, 2022 to allow for it to consider the recommendations of the Department of Transportation's Fare Equity Study and for any final fare schedule approved by the Council to be implemented by the Department of Transportation.
4. A public hearing on this resolution was held on September 28, 2021.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

Transportation fares, fees, and charges in Resolution 19-856 are amended as described in Table 1. The free fare policy on Ride On will be extended through January 1, 2022.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq., Clerk of the Council

Date

Marc Elrich, County Executive

Date

TABLE 1: TRANSPORTATION FARES, FEES, AND CHARGES**I. Transit Fares***

Regular cash fare or token	\$2.00
Regular fare paid with SmarTrip	\$2.00
Route 70 cash fare or token	\$4.25
Route 70 fare paid with SmarTrip	\$4.25
Federal employees and contractors during a partial or general shutdown, upon presentation of a valid federal photo ID. This provision would be in effect only if authorized by the County Executive.	Free
VanGo Route 28 and Route 94 shuttles	Free
Designated routes in Free-Wheeling Days promotion	Free
Kids Ride Free Program	Free
Give and Ride Program	Free
MetroAccess – Certified and/or Conditional Customer with ID	Free
MetroAccess – Companion of Certified and/or Conditional customer with ID	Free
Children under age 5	Free
Local bus-to-bus transfer (SmarTrip only)	Free
Metrorail-to-Ride On bus transfer with SmarTrip	\$1.50
Metrorail-to-Route 70 transfer with SmarTrip	\$3.75
Local bus-to-Route 70 transfer with SmarTrip	\$2.25
MARC weekly, monthly, TLC passes transfer to Ride On	Free
MTA Commuter Bus Pass transfer to Ride On	Free
Ride on Monthly Pass	\$45.00
Boarding Route 70 with weekly or monthly pass	\$2.25
Youth SmarTrip Card (one-time fee)	\$2.00
‘C’ Pass (for current County employees)	Free
‘U’ Pass (for Montgomery College transportation fee-paying students)	Free
except express Route 70 bus	\$2.25
Seniors and persons with disabilities with identification card	Free

All transit fares are free from July 1 through [September 30, 2021] January 1, 2022.

II. Parking Fees (Note: No payment is required for motorcycles in spaces or areas where only motorcycle parking is permitted. No payment is required for any vehicle at all public parking spaces on Sundays and County holidays.) The changes in parking fees and enforcement hours are effective January 1, 2022.

A. Bethesda Parking Lot District

1. Meters on-street from 9am to 10 pm, Monday through Saturday, and in lots and garages from 7am to 10 pm, Monday through Friday.

- a. Parking in spaces within right of way of public streets \$3.25 or Less Per Hr.
- b. Parking in spaces on a surface parking lot \$2.00 or Less Per Hr.
- c. Parking in spaces in a parking garage \$1.75 or Less Per Hr.

2. All Gated Garages

- Daily Maximum \$22.50 Per Day
- Lost Ticket \$22.50 Per Day

3. A Garage Specific

- Monthly Access Card \$195.00 or Less Per Month

4. Special Permits

- a. Parking permit
 - Monthly Permit (PCS) \$195.00 Per Month
 - Daily Parking Permit \$22.50 Per Day
 - AM/PM Parking Permit \$20.00 Per Month

b. Carpool Permits

- 2 Persons \$107.00 Per Month
- 3 and 4 Persons \$58.00 Per Month
- 5 or More Persons \$15.00 Per Month

c. Townhouse Resident Permit \$2.00 Per Month

5. Bethesda Library parking lot \$1.00 Per Hour

B. Silver Spring Parking Lot District

1. Meters on-street from 9 am to 10 pm, Monday through Friday, and in lots and garages from 7 am to 10 pm, Monday through Friday.

- a. Parking in spaces within right of way of public streets \$2.25 or Less Per Hr.
- b. Parking in spaces on a surface parking lot \$1.25 or Less Per Hr.
- c. Parking in spaces in a parking garage \$1.25 or Less Per Hr.

2. All Gated Garages

- Daily Maximum \$18.75 Per Day
- Lost Ticket \$18.75 Per Day

3. A Garage Specific

- Monthly Access Card \$195.00 or less Per Month

[5.] 4. Special Permits

a. Parking Permits

Monthly Permit (PCS)	\$132.00 or less Per Month
Daily Parking Permit	\$15.00 Per Day
“AM/PM” Permit	\$20.00 Per Month

b. Carpool Permits

2 Person	\$87.00 Per Month
3 and 4 Persons	\$49.00 Per Month
5 or More Persons	\$11.00 Per Month

c. Townhouse Residential Permits

\$2.00 Per Month

d. Permit in Garages 9 and 16 for residents in the area bounded by Blair Mill Road, Eastern Avenue and Georgia Avenue

\$95.00 Per Month

C. Wheaton Parking Lot District

1. Meters on-street from 9 am to 10 pm, Monday through Saturday, and in lots and garages from 7 am to 10 pm, Monday through Saturday.

a. Parking in spaces within right of way of public streets	\$1.25 or Less Per Hr.
b. Parking in spaces on a surface parking lot	\$1.00 or Less Per Hr.
c. Parking in spaces in a parking garage	\$1.00 or Less Per Hr.

2. Special Permits

Monthly Permit (PCS).	\$132.00 or less Per Month
Townhouse Resident Permit	\$2.00 Per Month

D. Area Outside Parking Lot Districts

1. Meters on-street and in lots not to exceed 7am to 10pm, seven days

Short-Term (First 4 hours)	\$2.00 or less Per Hour
Long-Term (More than 4 Hours)	\$0.65 Per Hour

2. Special Permits

Parking Convenience Sticker	\$123.00 Per Month
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E. Temporary Parking Meter Removal and Bagging

1. Temporary parking meter removal or re-installation	\$350 per meter
2. Parking Meter Bagging Fee related to construction activity	\$100 per meter for the first hour plus \$2 per meter per hour for each additional hour of meter bagging

III. Parking Fines and Other Charges (with County Code Section Citations)

A. Motor vehicles, traffic control and highways, generally

31-6(b)(2)	Snow emergency – Parked in Right-of-Way	\$85.00
31-7	Unregistered vehicle/parking prohibited	\$60.00
31-8	Impeding traffic, threaten public safety	\$60.00

B. Parking regulations generally -on-street

31-11(b)	Emergency/Temporary no parking sign	\$60.00
31-12	Violation of official sign (except residential permit parking)	\$60.00
31-12	Residential permit parking violation	\$50.00
31-13	Parking of vehicle – snow accumulation	\$60.00
31-14	Parking of heavy commercial vehicles, recreational vehicles, or buses	\$75.00
31-16	Over 24 hours	\$60.00
31-17	Within 35 feet of intersection	\$60.00
31-18	Posted time limit	\$60.00
31-19	Obstructing driveways (within 5 feet)	\$60.00
31-20	No person will:	
	(a) Stop, stand or park a vehicle whether occupied or not:	
	(1) Impeding traffic	\$60.00
	(2) On a sidewalk	\$60.00
	(3) Within an intersection	\$60.00
	(4) On a crosswalk	\$60.00
	(5) Alongside street repair	\$60.00
	(6) On bridge/ in tunnel	\$60.00
	(7) On any highway ramp	\$60.00
	(8) Official school board/Montgomery College sign	\$60.00
	(9) Rush hour restriction	\$60.00
	(10) Behind Official sign in Right-of-Way	\$60.00
	(b) Stand or park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except momentarily to pick up or discharge a passenger:	
	(1) within 15 feet of fire hydrant	\$60.00
	(2) within 20 feet of painted crosswalk	\$60.00
	(3) within 30 feet of traffic control signal/device	\$60.00
	(4) at a firehouse entrance clearance	\$60.00
	(5) at a No Standing sign	\$60.00
	(6) double parking	\$60.00
	(7) at a posted/marked fire lane	\$250.00
	(8) in front of theaters, posted	\$60.00
	(9) more than 12 inches from curb	\$60.00
	(10) opposite the flow of traffic	\$60.00
	(11) blocking another vehicle	\$60.00

(12) not within designated parking space	\$60.00
(13) at a posted bus stop	\$60.00
(14) at a posted taxi stand	\$60.00
(15) in a handicapped parking space	\$250.00

(c) Park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passenger:

(1) within 50 feet of a railroad crossing	\$60.00
(2) at an official No Parking sign	\$60.00

C. Off-street public parking regulations

31-25	(a) No person shall park a vehicle on a public parking facility:	
	(1) in violation of an official sign	\$60.00
	(2) in a No Parking zone	\$60.00
	(3) not within a designated parking space	\$60.00
	(4) in or on driving aisle/driveway/sidewalks	\$60.00
	(5) at a bagged meter/temporary sign/barricade	\$60.00
	(6) blocking another vehicle	\$60.00
	(7) over 24 hours where not authorized	\$60.00
	(8) vehicle unregistered/inoperative	\$60.00
	(9) in violation front-in-only posted	\$60.00
	(10) straddling marked parking spaces	\$60.00
	(11) unattended/running	\$60.00
	(12) impeding traffic	\$60.00
31-27	(b) Prohibited vehicle/weight/size/type	\$60.00
31-30(c)	(c) Snow/ice emergency	\$60.00

D. Parking meters generally

31-35	Expired parking meter	\$45.00
31-36	Overtime parking at parking meter	\$50.00
31-37	More than 3 feet from parking meter	\$45.00
31-38	More than 1 vehicle in parking space except motorcycles	\$45.00

E. Administration, enforcement, penalties, and collection

31-62(c)	Impoundment or immobilization fee	\$115.00
31-52(e)	Fee for withholding the registration of a vehicle	\$10.00
31-57(a)	First late penalty for failure to fully pay fine or appeal citation within 15 days	\$25.00
31-59	Second late penalty for failure to fully pay the original fine and penalties within 45 days of the original issuance of the citation	\$25.00

F. Residential Parking Permits

31-48(h)	Annual fee	\$20.00
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IV. Transportation Management District (TMD) annual fees

In this section Gross Floor Area (GFA) is defined as described in Section 52-47 of the County Code.

A. Bethesda Transportation Management District

Commercial space occupied before July 1, 2006 where payment of TMD fee was a condition of subdivision or optional method approval	\$0.10/square foot GFA
Commercial space first occupied on or after July 1, 2006*	\$0.10/square foot GFA

B. Friendship Heights Transportation Management District

Commercial space occupied before July 1, 2006 where payment of TMD fee was a condition of subdivision or optional method approval	\$0.10/square foot GFA
Commercial space first occupied on or after July 1, 2006*	\$0.10/square foot GFA

C. North Bethesda Transportation Management District

Commercial space occupied before July 1, 2006 where payment of TMD fee was a condition of subdivision or optional method approval	\$0.10/square foot GFA
Commercial space first occupied on or after July 1, 2006*	\$0.10/square foot GFA

D. Silver Spring Transportation Management District

Commercial space occupied before July 1, 2006 where payment of TMD fee was a condition of subdivision or optional method approval	\$0.10/square foot GFA
Commercial space first occupied on or after July 1, 2006*	\$0.10/square foot GFA

E. Greater Shady Grove Transportation Management District

Commercial space occupied before July 1, 2011 where payment of TMD fee was a condition of subdivision or optional method approval	\$0.10/square foot GFA
Commercial space first occupied on or after July 1, 2011*	\$0.10/square foot GFA

F. White Oak Transportation Management District

Commercial space occupied before July 1, 2015 where payment of TMD fee was a condition of subdivision or optional method approval	\$0.10/square foot GFA
Commercial space first occupied on or after July 1, 2015*	\$0.10/square foot GFA

* Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, 2.5 cents/sf GFA will be charged for each full quarter after a use and occupancy permit has been issued.

September 24, 2021

Montgomery County Council
Stella Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

Re: Ride On Fare Collection

Council President Huckler and County Councilmembers:

The Montgomery Better Buses coalition is grateful for the Montgomery County Council's support of Ride On's continued fare holiday up to this point, as well as instituting permanently free fares for kids, seniors, and persons with disabilities. **We would like to formally request clarification on when Ride On's fare collection will resume, and for the County Council to direct Ride On to not resume fare collection until the County Council has had a chance to review and deliberate the findings from the Fare Equity Study and hold a public hearing on any changes.**

The Fare Equity Study was originally intended to be complete by early September, given that fare collection was scheduled to resume on October 1, 2021. Senior Analyst Glenn Orlin's May 17, 2021 [memorandum](#) states that the Fare Equity Study "needs to be completed by early September to allow time for: (1) the Council to advertise and hold a public hearing on the transportation fees and fares resolution; (2) the Council to make a decision on how (or whether) to change any fares; and (3) DOT to make the preparations necessary to initiate the new fares by October 1." The Council concurred with this recommendation.

However, the Fare Equity Study has not been transmitted to the Council or published publicly yet, and if fares are to resume on October 1, there has been no communication to riders to forewarn them of this change. The Ride On website's Fares webpage states that fares will remain free on all MCDOT buses "at least" through September 2021. Additionally, in the Ride On [September 2021 Newsletter](#), Ride On Chief of Gaithersburg Depot, Allan Watts stated in an interview that "fare collection was expected to begin in the Fall of 2021, but no date for collecting fare on Ride On buses has been officially established."

Resuming fares before the Council can make an informed decision, as was the intention of the study, would be a disservice to riders – many of whom are still struggling financially due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even prior to the pandemic, 47% of Ride On riders made less than \$30,000 a year. Our riders largely cannot handle a reintroduction of fares in their household budgets without adequate warning.

Therefore, we request that the County Council direct Ride On to forgo resuming fare collection until the Fare Equity Study can be formally reviewed and deliberated by the County Council and until a public hearing can be held on any changes to Ride On fares.

Sincerely,

350 MoCo

Action Committee for Transit

Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County

Audubon Naturalist Society

CASA

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Environmental Justice Ministry

Coalition for Smarter Growth

Community Development Network of Maryland

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization

Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland

Housing Unlimited

Identity

Institute for Policy Studies, Climate Policy Program

Interfaith Works

League of Women Voters of Montgomery County

Manna Food Center

Montgomery County Democratic Socialists of America

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Montgomery County Food Council

Shepherd's Table

Sierra Club, Montgomery County Group

Takoma Park Mobilization, Montgomery County

Transit Alternatives to Midcounty Highway Extended (TAME) Coalition

The Climate Mobilization

UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO

Washington Area Bicyclists Association

Young People for Progress

CC: County Executive Marc Elrich

Chris Conklin, MCDOT Director

Phil McLaughlin, MCDOT Ride On Chief for Planning & Implementation

Hannah Henn, MCDOT Deputy Director for Policy