



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item  
Meeting of April 24, 2010**

**DATE:** March 8, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Authorize Advertisement of Public Hearing on an Ordinance Amending the Arlington Transit (“ART”) and Specialized Transit for Arlington Residents (“STAR”) Cash and Token Fares.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize advertising of a public hearing to be held on May 22, 2010 to revise Arlington Transit (“ART”) fares and Specialized Transit for Arlington Residents (“STAR”) fares by adoption of a non-codified ordinance amending and reenacting such fares, effective July 1, 2010.

**ISSUES:** County Board approval is needed to advertise potential increases in transit fares consistent with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”).

**SUMMARY:** Arlington Transit bus fares historically coincide with the WMATA Metrobus rate by regional convention concerning fare simplification and the practice of honoring transfers using SmarTrip cards from other local public transit services. With WMATA preparing to raise rates, Arlington staff proposes advertising maximum possible fare increases consistent with WMATA proposed fare increases. Staff-recommended fare increases will be reduced if WMATA fare increases are adopted at lesser amounts. Increased revenue from fare increases will be used to help offset the cost of providing these transportation services, including increased contractual costs for operation and maintenance and the cost of cash revenue collection. For Paratransit services, the Zone 1 STAR fare historically coincides with WMATA MetroAccess rate, set at double the Metrobus rate. As a result of proposed WMATA MetroAccess increases, staff is also proposing fare increases for the STAR program.

**BACKGROUND:** Arlington County has operated a transit system since FY 1987 when State Transit Funds were approved for an eight-month pilot period to operate the Arlington Trolley in Crystal City. In FY 1989, the County Board approved annual funding for the mass transportation service. All service changes and fare increases have since been approved by the County Board.

**DISCUSSION:** The proposed non-codified ordinance (Attachment A) addresses the amount of ART and STAR fares. ART and STAR fares are proposed to be increased to coincide with

County Manager: BND/mna

County Attorney: JLM/LAM

Staff: Steve Yaffe, Transit Services Manager, Dept. of Environmental Services – Transportation Division

31.

WMATA's proposed fare increases expected to be effective June 27, 2010, as shown in the table below.

<b>Fare Category</b>	<b>Current ART/STAR Rate</b>	<b>Proposed ART/STAR Rate (maximum)</b>	<b>Comments on the Proposed Rates</b>
ART Cash Fare	\$1.35	\$1.70	This would be the maximum proposed Metrobus cash fare.
ART SmarTrip Fare	\$1.25	\$1.60	This would be the maximum proposed Metrobus SmarTrip fare
SmarTrip Fare Discount after transferring from Metrorail	\$0.50	\$0.75	This increase has been proposed by WMATA
ART fare for senior citizens and people with disabilities	\$0.60	\$0.85	This would be half the maximum proposed Metrobus cash fare
ART fare for MetroAccess-Certified Riders	\$0.60	\$0.00	Providing free transit riders to people with disabilities and their personal care attendants will divert trips from STAR and MetroAccess and consequently avoid operating costs for those services.
ART i-Ride fare for middle and high school students	\$0.60	\$0.85	This would be half the maximum proposed Metrobus cash fare
Packet of 10 i-Ride tokens	\$5.00	\$7.50	A \$1.00 discount would be maintained on a packet of ten tokens.
STAR Zone 1 Fare	\$2.50	\$3.20	This would be twice the proposed maximum Metrobus SmarTrip fare and equal to the MetroAccess fare.
STAR Zone 2 Fare	\$3.00	\$4.00	This would preserve the differential between local trips and those between Arlington and the District of Columbia as well as Northern Virginia inside the beltway.
STAR Zone 3 Fare	\$7.00	\$8.50	A fare increase would be needed to continue encouraging riders to use MetroAccess for long-distance rides.

The effects of the increase in STAR fares upon people with disabilities would be partially alleviated through fare changes on ART. Riders certified for MetroAccess trips, consequently also certified for STAR trips, are currently able to ride ART for \$0.60, while Metrobus and Metrorail is free with presentation of a MetroAccess ID Card. Under the proposed ordinance, this ride free privilege would be extended to those MetroAccess-certified riders using ART. Some people with disabilities are able to use fixed route transit for certain trips, if they can access the stops.

The WMATA increases are scheduled to become effective Sunday, June 27, 2010. Arlington Transit, as well as other transit systems in the region (Fairfax Connector, Ride-On and DASH), have also proposed fare increases to offset higher operating costs. Arlington Transit cash fares at the Metrobus base cash rate make transfers simpler and less confusing by keeping fares compatible with WMATA's. If the WMATA fare increases are adopted at lesser amounts than proposed, then the fares proposed under this ordinance will be reduced accordingly. WMATA is also proposing to reduce the validity of free regional bus-to-bus transfers to a two hour period – reduced from the current three hours - and increasing the cost of the Metrobus Weekly Pass from \$11 to \$15. The pass is expected to be renamed by WMATA to the Regional Weekly Bus Pass.

Staff notified the Transit Advisory Committee of the proposed fare increases at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2010, and presented information and responded to questions to facilitate Committee comments on the proposed action. Staff will continue to work with the Transit Advisory Committee to keep them apprised of all changes. All of the proposed fee increases would be effective July 1, 2010 to simplify the accounting required for reporting purposes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The fare increases proposed for advertisement are projected to produce at least \$250,000 in additional ART revenue for Fiscal Year 2011, which could be used to reduce the net tax support for the ART services or be used to partially offset service reductions anticipated on Metrobus. The fare increase for STAR (\$50,000) would be used to offset the costs of STAR that are expected to increase due to an anticipated increase in ridership in FY 2011.

AMENDMENT AND RENACTMENT OF A NON-CODIFIED ORDINANCE REVISING THE PASSENGER FARE SCHEDULE FOR THE ARLINGTON TRANSIT (“ART”) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND THE SPECIALIZED TRANSIT FOR ARLINGTON RESIDENTS (“STAR”) PROGRAM, TO BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1, 2010.

I. BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, that the following non-codified ordinance is amended and reenacted to revise the passenger fare schedule for the Arlington Transit (“ART”) Transportation System and the Specialized Transit for Arlington Residents (“Star”) Program, to become effective on July 1, 2010:

ARLINGTON TRANSIT (“ART”)  
PASSENGER FARE SCHEDULE

One-way base fare-cash/token .....	<del>\$1.35</del>	<u>\$1.70</u>
One-way base fare discount with a SmarTrip Card .....	<del>\$1.25</del>	<u>\$1.60</u>
One-way base fare discount with a SmarTrip Card after transferring from Metrorail ...	<del>\$0.50</del>	<u>\$0.75</u>
One-way base fare upon presentation of valid Metrobus Flash Pass.....	free	
One-way base fare upon presentation of valid Virginia Hospital Center-Arlington employees with hospital ID.....	free	
One-way base fare for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, upon presentation of valid WMATA ID or Medicare card .....	<del>\$0.60</del>	<u>\$0.85</u>
One-way base fare for persons with disabilities, upon presentation of valid WMATA MetroAccess card.....	<del>\$0.60</del>	<u>\$0.00</u>
One-way base fare for students with a valid Arlington school ID .....	<del>\$0.60</del>	<u>\$0.85</u> or i-Ride token
Bulk Discount for i-Ride tokens, packet of ten.....	<del>\$5.00</del>	<u>\$7.50</u>

SPECIALIZED TRANSIT FOR ARLINGTON RESIDENTS (“STAR”)  
PASSENGER FARE SCHEDULE

Zone 1.....	<del>\$2.50</del> <u>\$3.20</u>
Zone 2.....	<del>\$3.00</del> <u>\$4.00</u>
Zone 3.....	<del>\$7.00</del> <u>\$8.50</u>

II. The remaining portions of the Non-Codified Ordinance Amending and Reenacting A Passenger Fare Schedule for the Arlington Transit (“ART”) Transportation System, enacted by the County Board on December 13, 2008, and effective on January 4, 2009, not amended hereby shall remain in effect as previously enacted.