



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of April 19, 2008**

DATE: April 1, 2008

SUBJECT: Amendment and Reenactment of a Non-Codified Ordinance Amending the Arlington Transit (“ART”) Passenger Fare Schedule By Adding and Increasing Certain Fares, to Become Effective on July 1, 2008.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Amend and Reenact a Non-Codified Ordinance, Amending the Passenger Fare Schedule for the Arlington Transit (“ART”) Transportation System by adding and increasing certain fares, to become effective on July 1, 2008.

ISSUES: Should the County increase ART bus fares to bring them into line with Metrobus fares and add certain additional fares?

SUMMARY: The ART one-way bus fare and other fares currently coincide with the former Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”) Metrobus rate in effect through January 5, 2008. This fare structure, by regional convention, results in fare simplification. Staff proposes that the existing County ART Passenger Fare Schedule include certain increases and new fare categories to coincide with WMATA’s cash fare increase of \$0.10 in the base fare, which was effective January 6, 2008. Under the proposed Amended ART Passenger Fare Schedule, ART base fares paid with a SmarTrip card would remain at the current Metrobus rate of \$1.25. The proposed fare increases helps off set the cost of providing these transportation services, including increased contractual costs for operation and maintenance and the cost of cash revenue collection.

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 fare increases have since been approved by the County Board.

DISCUSSION: The proposed non-codified ordinance (Attachment A) indicates the amounts of current and proposed ART fares. One-way base fare paid by cash or token is proposed to increase to \$1.35 from \$1.25, unless the fare is paid by a SmarTrip card, which is proposed to remain at the current rate of \$1.25. The bulk token sales for ART 90 route has been deleted

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

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

since this route is no longer in existence. The full-fare gold token, sold in bags of 16 tokens, is proposed to increase to \$21.60 from \$20.00. The transfer silver token, sold in bags of 16 tokens, is proposed to increase to \$7.20 from \$5.00. The one-way fare for those transferring from Metrorail to ART bus is proposed to increase to \$0.45 from \$0.35, unless the Metrorail and the ART bus fares are paid by a SmarTrip card, which is proposed to remain at the current rate of \$0.35. All other fares not changed are proposed to remain the same. If the proposed ordinance is enacted by the County Board, then these increases would become effective July 1, 2008.

ART bus, as well as other transit systems in the region (Ride-On and DASH), have proposed fare increases to off set higher operating costs. The proposed ART cash fares at the Metrobus base cash rates would make transfers simpler and less confusing by keeping fares compatible with WMATA's. The non-codified ordinance also includes provisions for one-way base fares with a valid Metrorail transfer, a valid regional bus-to-bus transfer, and a Regional Metrobus Flash Pass. The other fares include the reduced fares for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Staff notified the Transit Advisory Committee of the proposed fare increases at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 11, 2008 and in an e-mail sent on March 18, 2008. No concerns were expressed.

FISCAL IMPACT: The fare increases are projected to produce between \$20,000 in additional revenue each year, which reduces the net tax support for the ART service. These funds are included in the FY 2009 budget.

Attachment A

AMENDMENT AND RE-ENACTMENT OF A NON-CODIFIED ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PASSENGER FARE SCHEDULE FOR THE ARLINGTON TRANSIT (“ART”) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, TO BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1, 2008.

I. BE IT ORDAINED by the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, that the non-codified ordinance enacted by the County Board on December 9, 2006 is amended and re-enacted to revise the passenger fare schedule for the Arlington Transit (“ART”) Transportation System, to become effective on July 1, 2008. The passenger fare schedule, as hereby amended and re-enacted, shall be as follows:

**ARLINGTON TRANSIT (“ART”)
PASSENGER FARE SCHEDULE**

One-way base fare-cash/ <u>token</u>	\$1.25	<u>\$1.35</u>
<u>One-way base fare-SmarTrip card</u>	\$1.25	<u>\$1.25</u>
Bulk Token Sales for ART Route No. 90 only (roll of 25)	\$10.00	
Full-Fare Gold Token (bag of 16).....	\$20.00	<u>\$21.60</u>
Transfer Silver Token (bag of 16).....	\$5.00	<u>\$7.20</u>
iRide Youth Token (bag of 20).....		\$10.00
One-way base fare upon presentation of valid Metrorail <u>paper</u> transfer	\$0.35	<u>\$0.45</u>
<u>One-way base Metrorail transfer fare-SmarTrip card</u>		<u>\$0.35</u>
One-way base fare upon presentation of valid regional bus-to-bus transfer or 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		\$0.60
One-way base fare for middle and high school students, upon presentation of valid middle school or high school identification		\$0.60 <u>or i-Ride token</u>

II. Any 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 9, 2006, and effective on January 1, 2007, not amended hereby shall remain in effect as previously adopted.