Proposed Bus & Rail Fare Changes

Connecticut Department of Transportation

Purpose of Today's Hearing

- Explain the bus and rail budget and the fare increase proposal
- Explain other changes to bus fares required for the future smart card
- Take comments from passengers about the bus and rail fare proposal

CT transit CT rail CT fastrak CT rides

This Presentation

- Budget overview
- Fare Proposal – Bus, ADA & Rail
- Other Fare Adjustments for New Smart Card
- Fare Equity Analysis
- Hearing Guidelines

Transit Trends

- Recent service expansion:
  - 2013 – Shore Line East weekend service to New London
  - 2014 – New Haven Line half-hourly service
  - 2015 – CT***fastrak*** service begins
- Rail and CT***fastrak*** ridership increasing, bus ridership is down
- Cost increases for labor, health insurance, ADA paratransit services

DOT FY17 Budget

Original anticipated expenditures:	$655.2 million
Final budget available funds:	$617.8 million
Shortfall:	**$37.5 million**

$19.4 million required revenue/savings from Highway Operations:

- Reduce hours at rest areas to one shift per day
- Seek a private sponsor for the CHAMP program
- Reduce non-safety related maintenance, i.e. pavement preservation, joint and crack sealing, tree cutting, guide rail repair, drainage improvements and pavement markings.

<u>Public Transportation required revenue/savings: $18 million</u>

Public Transportation FY17 Budget

DOT FY17 Budget – Public Transportation

Original anticipated subsidies:	$375.2 million
Final budget available funds:	$357.2 million
Shortfall:	**$18.0 million**

- Passenger fares only cover a portion of the expense of services:
  - Bus: 24.2%
  - ADA: 4.5%
  - Rail: 55.3%

Budget Goals

- Minimize fare increase by reducing costs and operating more efficiently
- Preserve service for customers, preventing negative cycle of ridership and revenue losses
- Maintain the customer share of operating expenses

Balancing the Budget - Bus

- Reduced subsidy to Transit Districts
- CT***transit*** savings that do not affect service
- A $0.25 fare increase for CT***transit***

	Current	Proposed
Adult 2-hour	$ 1.50	$ 1.75
Senior/Disabled	$ 0.75	$ 0.85
Youth	$ 1.20	$ 1.40
ADA paratransit	$ 3.00	$ 3.50

The $0.25 increase in the base fare is a 16.7% increase; Other multi-ride prepaid fares go up proportionately

Bus Fare Comparison

Regional Bus Fares	
Westchester Bee-Line- New York	$ 2.75
MTA – New York	$ 2.75
RIPTA- Rhode Island	$ 2.00
MBTA- Boston	$ 2.00
CT***transit***- Connecticut (**Proposed**)	$ 1.75
CDTA- Albany	$ 1.50
CT***transit***- Connecticut (**Current**)	$ 1.50
PVTA- Springfield, MA	$1.25

Urban transit district fares in CT range from $1.50-$2.00

Balancing the Budget- Rail

- Ticket windows closed at 3 stations
- Overtime reductions and other non-service cuts for New Haven Line
- Fuel savings on Shore Line East
- 5% increase in passenger rail fare plus previously scheduled 1% for M8 railcar pay-down

One-way Fares			
From	To	Current	Proposed
New Haven	Grand Central	$ 22.00	$ 23.25
Stamford	Grand Central	$ 14.50	$ 15.25
New Haven	Stamford	$ 7.50	$ 8.00
Old Saybrook	New Haven	$ 6.75	$ 7.25

New Haven Line
Other Fare and Ticket Changes

- Mail and Ride 2% discount eliminated
- Reduced discount on joint monthly ticket/unlimited MetroCard packages (from 4% to 2%)
- Web Ticket replaced with new MTA E-Tix Mobile Ticket with new APP
- Updated Uni-Ticket fares

Rail Fare Comparison

Local Fares - Monthly				
	From	To	Miles	Cost
LIRR	Bellport, NY	Jamaica, NY	48.5	$377.00
NJ TRANSIT	Trenton, NJ	Newark, NJ	48.0	$353.00
NHL-Proposed	New Haven, CT	Rye, NY	48.2	$247.50
NHL-Current	New Haven, CT	Rye, NY	48.2	$233.50
MBTA	Wickford Jct., RI	Route128, MA	52	$221.50
SLE-Proposed	New London, CT	New Haven, CT	48.3	$215.25
SLE-Current	New London, CT	New Haven, CT	48.3	$206.00

Fares to NYC - Monthly				
Metro North	Poughkeepsie, NY	Grand Central	74.0	$506.00
NHL - Proposed	New Haven, CT	Grand Central	72.3	$495.00
LIRR - Long Island	Westhampton, NY	Penn Station New York	74.3	$485.00
NJ TRANSIT	Bay Head, NJ	Penn Station New York	66.7	$480.00
NHL - Current	New Haven, CT	Grand Central	72.3	$467.00

New Smart Card in 2017

- Replacing the 20+ year old fare collection system on CT***transit*** local and express buses
- New account-based smart cards will offer new fare categories and fare capping
  - reduced fare all-day pass, 3-day, 5-day, & 7-day
  - express bus all-day pass, 3-day, 5-day, & 7-day
- Retail network allows you to reload card

What is Fare Capping?

The customer <u>always</u> pays the lowest fare for their particular trip.

2-Hour Pass	All-Day Pass	3-Day Pass	5-Day Pass	7-Day Pass	31-Day Pass
tap once	tap again after 2 hours	5 taps in 3 day period	8 taps in 5 day period	11 taps in 7 day period	36 taps in a 31 day period
$1.75 (proposed)	**$3.50** (proposed)	**$8.75** (versus $10.50 for three all-day passes)	**$14.00** (versus $17.50 for five all-day passes	**$19.25** (versus $24.50 for seven all-day passes	**$63.00** (versus $108.50 for 31 all-day passes)

I-Bus Fares

- I-Bus (Stamford – Westchester) fare will be converted to a 2 Zone Express fare due to requirements for the smart cards.

I-Bus Express	From	To
One Way Cash Fare	$ 3.00	$ 3.20
One Way Senior/Disabled Cash	$ 1.50	$ 1.60
10-Trip Ticket	$ 24.25	$ 28.80
All Day Pass	$ 6.00	$ 6.40
31-Day Pass	$ 90.00	$ 108.80

Fare Equity Analysis

- USDOT requires an analysis of the impact of the fare increase on low-income and minority populations
- Analyze whether the fare increase is more burdensome for low-income populations than the overall rider populations
- Review whether the fare increase affects members of a group identified by race, color, or national origin more than the overall rider population.

Fare Equity Analysis - Results

Fare proposals analyzed for equity in following ways:

- Nominal fare changes in $$
- Fare changes per mile of travel
- Fare changes relative to household income
- Proportion of revenues generated by bus and rail passengers
- Proportion of expenses covered by bus and rail passengers

Comments

Comments on the proposed fare increases must be received by **September 15, 2016** and addressed to:

COMMENT ON FARE CHANGES
Bureau of Public Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

E-mailed comments should be made within the same time frame and addressed to **dot.farecomments@ct.gov**

Next Steps

- Review comments on fares and equity analyses
- A final recommendation goes to DOT Commissioner for review and approval
- New Haven Line fare proposal is provided to the MTA Board
- Fare increases, if approved, would take effect on:
  - Rail - Thursday, December 1, 2016
  - Bus - Sunday, December 4, 2016

Hearing Guidelines

- If you wish to make comments, please sign-in.
- Speakers will be called in order
- Each speaker is allowed 3 minutes to comment
- Limit comments to the fare changes, other comments should be made to representatives at the back of the room
- Use the microphone so that your comments become part of the hearing record