

# REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY PUBLIC TRANSIT FARE POLICY AND UNIFORM FARE STRUCTURE



## FARE STRUCTURE

Effective Upon Launch of New Fare Collection System (2024).

With the new fare collection system, paper media for passes are replaced by smartcards and mobile fare. Cash fares continue to be available through the purchase of a single ride on board buses via the farebox and through fare vending machines.

Multi-ride passes are earned through the deduction of value from a smartcard or mobile fare application for each boarding, up to a daily, weekly (Monday through Sunday) and monthly (e.g., January, February, etc.) maximum per below. 1-Day, 7-Day and 31-Day passes loaded onto smartcards or mobile fare applications remain available for select fare programs.

### FULL FARE

Fare Type	Fare Structure	Fare Policy Rules/Multiples
<b>LOCAL BUS and LIGHT RAIL</b>		
1-Ride	\$2.00	Base 1-Ride fare for bus or light rail
1-Day*	\$4.00	2 x base fare
Weekly (Monday-Sunday)*	\$20.00	5 x 1-Day
7-Day**	\$20.00	5 x 1-Day
15-Day	Discontinued	
Monthly (Calendar)*	\$64.00	32 x local base fare
31-Day**	\$64.00	32 x local base fare
<b>EXPRESS/RAPID</b>		
1-Ride	\$3.25	Base 1-Ride fare for Express/RAPID
1-Day*	\$6.50	2 x Express/RAPID 1-ride fare
Monthly (Calendar)*	\$104.00	32 x Express/RAPID 1-ride fare
31-Day**	\$104.00	32 x Express/RAPID 1-ride fare
<b>STREETCAR</b>		
1-Ride	\$1.00	Base 1-Ride fare for streetcar

\* These maximum fares charged will be provided through Smart Fare. The 1-Day passes may also be issued to Corporate/special programs.

\*\* For Corporate/special programs only.

## REDUCED FARE

Fare Type	Fare Structure	Fare Policy Rules/Multiples
<b>REDUCED-LOCAL BUS and LIGHT RAIL</b>		
1-Ride	\$1.00	0.5 x base fare, rounded down to nearest \$0.05
1-Day*	\$2.00	0.5 x local 1-Day, rounded down to nearest \$0.05
Weekly (Monday-Sunday)*	\$10.00	0.5 x 7-Day rounded down to nearest \$0.25
7-Day**	\$10.00	0.5 x 7-Day rounded down to nearest \$0.25
15-Day	Discontinued	
Monthly (Calendar)*	\$32.00	0.5 x local 31-Day, rounded down to nearest \$0.25
31-Day**	\$32.00	0.5 x local 31-Day, rounded down to nearest \$0.25
<b>REDUCED STREETCAR</b>		
1-Ride	\$0.50	0.5 x streetcar 1-ride rounded down to the nearest \$0.05

\* These maximum fares charged will be provided through Smart Fare. The 1-Day passes may also be issued to Corporate/special programs.

\*\* For Corporate/special programs only.

Local maximums/passes are valid on local services (bus and light rail) and streetcar. Express/RAPID maximums/passes are valid on all services.

Tap/scan of smartcard/mobile fare application is required prior to each boarding even if a maximum has been met or a pass product is used. Each tap/scan is valid for a single boarding in a single direction of travel for a limited period of time, consistent with the operational end to end time of the service being used.

To earn multi-ride passes via Smart Fare, customers are required to use a Valley Metro Copper card, subject to applicable one-time card issuance charge, or the Valley Metro app.

## SMART FARE

With Smart Fare, customers pay a fare (Full Fare or Reduced) per boarding until they have reached the maximum fare for the day, calendar week and calendar month. For example, a customer earns a Local daily maximum once \$4.00 in fares have been paid for the day. After \$4.00 has been deducted from the customer's stored value balance, every subsequent boarding on eligible service until 3 a.m. the following day is free of charge. Customers are still required to tap/scan prior to each boarding even if a maximum has been earned.

	Full Fare Local Bus/ Light Rail/Streetcar	Reduced Fare Local Bus/ Light Rail/Streetcar	Express/RAPID
Daily Maximum	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$6.50
Weekly Maximum (Mon-Sun)	\$20.00	\$10.00	N/A
Monthly Maximum (calendar month)	\$64.00	\$32.00	\$104.00

Local and streetcar fares contribute to the local and Express/RAPID maximums. Express/RAPID fares contribute to the Express/RAPID maximum only. The local maximum, when reached, allows free travel on local and streetcar services for the remainder of the Smart Fare period. The Express/RAPID maximum, when reached, allows free travel on local, streetcar and Express/RAPID services for the remainder of the Smart Fare period. There are no streetcar fare maximums but streetcar fares will contribute to and benefit from local and Express/RAPID Smart Fare maximums.

## **REDUCED FARE**

Youth ages six to 18, seniors aged 65 and over, persons with disabilities and people who have been issued a Medicare card by the Social Security Administration are eligible for reduced fares. Customers eligible for reduced fares can purchase a one-ride from fare vending machines or pay cash for a one-ride fare on bus but are required to have in their possession proof of reduced fare eligibility. To earn multi-ride passes via Smart Fare, reduced fare customers are required to use a Valley Metro reduced fare Copper card, subject to applicable one-time card issuance charge, or a mobile fare account to which the reduced fare eligibility has been assigned.

No reduced fare is offered on Express/RAPID.

## **RURAL ROUTE FARE**

Rural Route fares are based on distance traveled. 1-Way travel within the same city is \$2.00; 1-Way travel within multiple cities is \$4.00. Reduced fare is available to passengers meeting the reduced fare criteria. Rural route fares are payable in cash or pre-purchased coupons only.

## **FREE FARE**

Children five years of age or younger are not charged a fare for local bus/rail, Express/RAPID or streetcar service when accompanied by a responsible, fare-paying adult. Free fares do not apply to Dial-a-Ride service. Free fares are also provided via the Group Field Trip Program (see below) for preschool through elementary school classes using local bus/rail service during non-peak hours of service. Neighborhood circulators are also free to ride.

## **CHANGES IN FARE STRUCTURE**

For each fare change, the federally required Title VI analysis evaluates the proposal for equity among ridership demographics. The analysis ensures that any fare change is administered in an equitable manner among all riders.

Proposed changes to fare structure are implemented to equitably support the cost of transit operations. The current regional fare recovery target is 25 percent, which is the ratio of fares collected for regional fixed route services divided by the operating cost of fixed route services. Locally funded circulator services that do not charge a fare are not included in the fare recovery calculation.

The Valley Metro RPTA Board of Directors must approve changes to regional fare structure and programs. The Valley Metro Rail Board of Directors can approve or be presented with information regarding changes relevant to the rail/high-capacity transit program, however, it is not required.

## PROGRAMS

### SEMESTER PASSES – REGIONAL LOCAL BUS AND LIGHT RAIL

Semester Passes can be purchased by high schools for students at no cost to students and by full-time students enrolled in high schools, technical, trade, college or graduate courses at participating schools. Passes are good for unlimited rides on fixed route services for the designated semester.

Fare Type	Fare Structure	Fare Policy Rules/Multiples <i>Fare calculations are rounded to nearest dollar</i>
<b>SEMESTER PASS</b>		
Spring/Fall	\$230.00	Local 31-Day pass x 4.5 months less 20% discount
Reduced Spring/Fall	\$115.00	0.5 x Spring/Fall Semester pass
Summer	\$154.00	Local 31-Day pass x 3.0 months less 20% discount
Reduced Summer	\$77.00	0.5 x Summer Semester pass

### PLATINUM PROGRAM

Platinum cards are available to companies, agencies or organizations for their employees, students, tenants, residents or other individuals permitted to participate by the company, agency or organization. The card is charged the appropriate fare for each boarding on local and Express/RAPID bus and rail service including streetcar. After the end of each month, an invoice issued for each boarding up to the monthly maximum per card, either local or Express/RAPID, depending on the service type for which the card was used. An itemized statement is provided with the invoice and a more detailed report of actual boardings charged each month can be purchased for an additional cost. The company, agency or organization is solely responsible for the cost of the program.

### HOMELESS PROVIDER PROGRAM

Homeless service providers are eligible to receive Full Fare passes at half price. An agency or organization must be a homeless service provider with IRS 501(c)(3) status or a governmental agency that provides community or social service assistance to homeless persons. Clients must meet the definition of “homeless” or “homeless individual or homeless person” as set forth in Title 42, Chapter 119, Subchapter I and Section 11302 of the United States Code.

### ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU) U-PASS PROGRAM

The U-Pass is provided to ASU students by ASU. ASU pays a fixed rate per boarding which is subject to adjustment annually.

### TICKET PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

With the Ticket Partnership Program, patrons possessing tickets or identifiable media issued by event officials from a participating event will be able to ride Valley Metro Rail on the day of the event at no additional charge. Event tickets will be honored as valid Valley Metro Rail fare for a pre-determined time in advance of the event and through the end of the transit day. Participating event venues/events pay an amount per attendee commensurate with the current average fare to support regional fare recovery goals. A qualifying event generates a minimum of 5,000 attendees; similarly, for a venue, a single event at this facility must generate a minimum of 5,000 attendees. This program can be extended to bus route(s) if the aforementioned criteria is maintained, and the service can be supported by operations. Valley Metro must receive notice of interest in the Ticket Partnership Program from event organizers at least four months in advance of the event and agreements must be completed by 60 days prior to the event.

## GROUP FIELD TRIP PROGRAM

Free fares are provided via the Group Field Trip Program for preschool through elementary school classes using local bus/rail service during non-peak hours of service (8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.). The card allows for up to 35 students and adults to travel on regional bus, light rail or streetcar Monday – Friday for field trips. Trip planning and program administration occurs through Valley Metro Customer Service.

## TEMPE YOUTH TRANSIT PASS PROGRAM (ADMINISTERED BY CITY OF TEMPE)

The Tempe Youth Transit Pass allows youth ages six to 18 residing in the City of Tempe to ride fixed route services for free. The card issued is a Platinum card effective for 12 months and subsidized by the City of Tempe. Application requirements and authorized distribution points are established by the City of Tempe.

## SPECIAL EVENT CARD PROGRAM

The Special Event Card Program supports major events and conventions in Maricopa County interested in sponsoring public transportation travel for their attendees. This program is available to events of two or more days in length and 100 or more participants (or cards). Operating similar to the Platinum card, the event sponsor is charged an up-front cost for the cards; customization of the card's exterior graphics is available with adequate lead time as determined by card volume and customization requirements. Post-event, the event sponsor is charged for actual rides taken via these passes, up to a maximum price of \$4.00/day. For events of four or more days, the daily cap adjusts to a lower rate consistent with average daily pricing of other pass types (see table below). Interested event sponsors must complete an application and an agreement to take part in this program.

Special Event Duration	Daily Maximum Price (and Regional Fare Equivalent)
2 – 3 days	\$4.00 (1-Day pass price)
4 – 15 days	\$2.85 (7-Day pass price per day)
16 or more days	\$2.00 (31-Day pass price per day)

## CORPORATE PROGRAM

Corporate Program participants are able to sell or offer fare media to their employees, students or clients. Participating organizations are provided with marketing materials to help promote the sale of cards.

## REFUNDS

No refunds are given for any fare media products or unused stored value. If a customer has registered an account, any remaining stored value will be transferred to a new card should the customer's card become lost, stolen or damaged. In such a case, the customer should notify the Fare Support Call Center immediately or use their [valleymetrofares.org](http://valleymetrofares.org) account to deactivate the lost, stolen or damaged card.

## VALLEY METRO PARATRANSIT (DIAL-A-RIDE)

Fare Type	Fare Structure	Fare Policy Rules/Multiples
<b>PARATRANSIT</b>		
1-Ride	See base fares	2 x base fare of comparable transit service

### ADA PARATRANSIT (DIAL-A-RIDE)

There are several ADA Dial-a-Ride providers serving the Maricopa County region. ADA certified passengers pay a flat-rate fare for ADA trips to the Dial-a-Ride provider serving the area where their trip begins. ADA trip rates vary by provider.

### ADA PLATINUM PROGRAM

Valley Metro offers the free use of local and Express/RAPID bus and rail service including streetcar to individuals certified as ADA eligible under this program. ADA Platinum program participants receive a photo ID card. A Personal Care Attendant (PCA) may also ride for free when accompanying the ADA Platinum cardholder. The card itself is initially free, but there is a charge to replace a lost or stolen card.

### CITY OF PHOENIX MONTHLY DIAL-A-RIDE PASS

City of Phoenix Dial-a-Ride customers with a monthly Dial-A-Ride pass may use local and Express/RAPID bus and rail service including streetcar for free.

### NON-ADA PARATRANSIT (DIAL-A-RIDE)

A number of cities offer additional Dial-a-Ride services for seniors, persons with disabilities and other residents over and above ADA-required Dial-a-Ride. Non-ADA Dial-a-Ride is funded locally by the cities that offer it. Eligibility for service, service hours, service area(s), fares and other policies do vary.