Why is AC Transit proposing these changes?
Taken as a whole, the proposed changes are intended to improve the efficiency and convenience of AC Transit’s fare payment system. Specifically, we want to offer discounts for frequent riders, reduce the number of cash transactions at the farebox, promote Clipper usage, and encourage more ridership generally. Together these changes will also help speed boarding and improve our ability to keep the buses on schedule.

Is this a fare Increase or a fare reduction?
Some of each. Some passengers will pay more under these changes, some will pay less, and many will pay the same as they pay now. The changes are designed to create simpler, fairer, and more understandable fares. They are not designed to increase fare revenue overall.

----Local Day Pass & Elimination of Transfers-----------------------------------

Would I be paying more to ride the bus under the Day Pass system?
It depends on your riding pattern. If you take one bus to and from home each day, you’ll pay the same as you do now. If you take two buses each way (fare + transfer), you’ll pay slightly more with a Day Pass ($5.00 vs. $4.70)—but you’ll get any additional rides that day for free.

What if I don’t want to buy a Day Pass?
If you use cash, you will pay full fare for each boarding. This may work fine for you, depending on how you ride. But you’ll want to consider whether a Day Pass is the better way to go so that you don’t pay more than you need to. Rule of thumb: If you take three or more rides in a day, the Day Pass will save you money. (And remember, if you use Clipper, you’ll get the Day Pass automatically when you’ve paid $5.00 in fares.)

Where would I buy the Day Pass?
As long as you have cash on your Clipper card, the Day Pass will automatically activate when $5.00 in local fares has been deducted. With cash, you would buy the Day Pass at the farebox for that day only. It would not be sold at other locations.

For what hours would the Day Pass be good?
The proposed time period is 3:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. In other words, from when you get your Day Pass during the day, it would be good until the next morning at 3:00 a.m.

I use an RTC card. How would the Day Pass proposal affect me?
If you use the Clipper feature on your card and load cash, the Day Pass would work as described above for any Clipper user. If you load a pass or use a monthly pass sticker on your card, the Day Pass proposal would not affect you, since all your rides are already paid for with your monthly pass.
Pass Prices

Why are you raising the prices of the Youth and Senior/Disabled passes?
The modest raise is in keeping with the 2011 Board-adopted policy to price passes at 36 times the single-ride rate, but bring the Youth and Senior/Disabled prices to that level gradually over time. Pricing at 36 times the single-ride rate is the average seen across the county and offers a modest discount since the typical pass user takes more than 36 trips on a pass. At $23.00, the Youth and Senior/Disabled passes would still be considerably lower than the level outlined in the policy, and still cheaper than passes sold by other Bay Area transit agencies.

Why are you lowering the Adult pass price?
We are adjusting the price to achieve the board-policy level of 36 times the single-ride rate. And we hope that this modest reduction will encourage more riders to purchase the pass.

Clipper Discounts

Why are you offering a discount on local Clipper rides?
Getting more passengers on Clipper instead of cash helps to speed boarding and keep buses on schedule. We hope the small discount will encourage more riders to switch to Clipper.

Other Topics

I ride transbay. How would these changes affect transbay service?
Nearly all changes apply to local fares only. The transbay 31-Day pass price would remain $151.20, discounts would not apply on transbay Clipper cash fares, and a transbay Day Pass would not be offered.

The one change would be with transfers between local and transbay buses. If you take a local bus to a transbay bus, the transfer would continue to be included in the transbay fare, but only on Clipper. If you use cash, you would need to pay $2.10 on the local bus and $4.20 on the transbay bus because paper transfers would no longer be available. Or you could choose to buy a Day Pass on the local bus and pay the cash upgrade for the transbay fare on the transbay bus, if this worked better for you.

I transfer between AC Transit and BART. How would the proposal affect the discounts I receive?
There would be no change to the discount itself. On Clipper, the $1.85 deducted now (25 cents off $2.10) would continue and would count towards a $5.00 Day Pass. If you pay with cash using the paper two-part transfer from BART, you would continue to pay $1.85 in cash. You would not, however, be able to purchase an AC Transit transfer with an additional 25 cents.

I ride the Dumbarton Express. How would I be affected?
For cash users:
If you transfer from a local AC Transit bus to ride the Dumbarton Express (DBX) locally, you would pay a full cash fare on both buses unless you purchased a paper Day Pass on the AC
Transit bus. In that case, you would flash the pass on the DBX bus and ride locally at no additional charge. (A Day Pass sold on DBX buses is not proposed.)

If you transfer from a local AC Transit bus to ride the DBX transbay, you would pay a full cash fare on both buses ($2.10 + $4.20), unless you purchased a paper Day Pass on the AC Transit bus. In that case, you would flash the pass on the DBX bus and add $2.10 to the farebox.

*For Clipper users:*
If you transfer from a local AC Transit bus to ride the DBX locally, the full fare would be deducted on both buses. These fares would accumulate up to $5.00, at which point a local Day Pass would activate and all local rides on AC Transit and the DBX would be free for the remainder of the day.

If you transfer from a local AC Transit bus to ride the DBX transbay, the local fare would be deducted on the first bus and the upgrade fare deducted on the second bus (just as today).

*Note: Under Dumbarton Express (DBX) consortium policy, changes to AC Transit fares also apply to DBX fares, pending approval by the other agencies (BART, SamTrans, Santa Clara VTA, and Union City Transit).*

**How would this proposal affect how I transfer to and from other operators?**

*Transferring from other operators to AC Transit:* There would be no change. However you make that transfer now would be the same under this proposal.

*Transferring from AC Transit to other operators:* For Clipper users, there would be no change when you transfer to other operators that have Clipper (such as VTA and SamTrans). For cash users, if you have a paper Day Pass, you would show this to the other operator. If you have not bought a Day Pass, you will need to pay a full fare on the other operator, since you would not be able to get a paper transfer on AC Transit.

**How can I make comments on this proposal?**

We encourage you to give us your input. If you attend a community meeting, talk to AC Transit staff and also fill out a comment form. You may also attend the public hearing on October 23 and speak or fill out a comment form at that time. There are other ways to give your feedback as well, including e-mail, letter, phone, and fax, all due by October 23. Please see the “Fare Change Proposal” brochure for details.

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*AC Transit Marketing & Community Relations*
*October 7, 2013 (rev3)*