



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Ordinance 19474

**Proposed No.** 2022-0205.2

**Sponsors** Upthegrove, Zahilay, Balducci,  
Dembowski, Perry and Kohl-Welles

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to public transportation,  
 2 revising rates of youth fare to zero; and amending  
 3 Ordinance 13480, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C.  
 4 4A.700.010, Ordinance 12643, Section 12, as amended, and  
 5 K.C.C. 4A.700.450 and Ordinance 17935, Section 6, as  
 6 amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.820.

7 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 8 1. K.C.C. 4A.700.010 provides for fares for regularly scheduled county  
 9 public transportation service on buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride  
 10 vehicles and streetcars, including fares for adults, children, youth, seniors  
 11 and persons with disabilities and low-income riders.
- 12 2. K.C.C. 4A.700.450 provides for the execution of agreements with  
 13 public school districts to supply students with passes in connection with  
 14 special school programs and ties the rates for such passes to the youth fare.
- 15 3. K.C.C. 4A.700.820 provides for fares for regularly scheduled county  
 16 passenger ferry service, including fares for adults paying in cash or with a  
 17 prepaid fare product, children, youth, seniors and persons with disabilities,  
 18 and low-income riders.
- 19 4. The King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2021-

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20 2031, as adopted by Ordinance 19367, includes a strategy to "Align fares  
21 with other service providers, meet revenue targets, and advance equity  
22 through Metro's income-based approach to fares."

23 5. The current youth fare is \$1.50 for buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-  
24 ride vehicles and streetcars, \$3.75 for the West Seattle water taxi route,  
25 \$4.50 for the Vashon Island water taxi route and \$1.75 for paratransit  
26 service. The youth fare is available to persons from six through eighteen  
27 years old and person over eighteen years old who receive student passes  
28 under K.C.C. 4A.700.450.

29 6. In March 2022, the Washington state Legislature passed a \$17 billion  
30 transportation funding bill known as Move Ahead Washington. This  
31 transportation investment legislation added a new section to chapter 47.66  
32 RCW establishing a transit support grant program for the purpose of  
33 providing financial support to transit agencies for operating and capital  
34 expenses and requiring that to be eligible to receive grant funding from  
35 this program a transit agency must have adopted a zero-fare policy that  
36 allows passengers eighteen years of age and younger to ride free of charge  
37 on all modes provided by the agency and must submit documentation of  
38 this zero-fare policy by October 1, 2022.

39 7. King County area public schools begin the 2022-23 school year in  
40 September of 2022. In order to facilitate disbursement of student passes,  
41 any fare changes applicable to students must be effective by September 1,  
42 2022.

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43 8. The Metro transit department's fund management policies for the public  
44 transportation fund, as adopted by Ordinance 18321, provide that the  
45 Metro transit department will recover at least twenty-five percent and will  
46 maintain a target of recovering thirty percent of passenger related  
47 operating costs from farebox revenues for bus service. Youth fares  
48 account for approximately six percent of total farebox revenues.

49 9. The increased revenue provided from the Move Ahead Washington  
50 transit support grant program would offset the reduction in fare revenue  
51 from adopting a no-charge youth fare policy.

52 10. In recognition of the equity and social justice benefits of a zero-fare  
53 policy for youth and to maintain the eligibility of the Metro transit  
54 department to apply for transit support grants under the Move Ahead  
55 Washington transportation investment program, the King County  
56 executive and council support a zero-fare policy for youth.

57 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

58 SECTION 1. Ordinance 13480, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.010  
59 are hereby amended to read as follows:

60 A. Except as may otherwise be provided by ordinance, the following fare  
61 categories and rates are established for regularly scheduled county public transportation  
62 service on buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles and streetcars:

Regular fare	\$2.75
Child fare	No charge

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Youth fare	<del>(\$1.50)</del> <u>No charge</u>
Seniors and persons with disabilities fare	\$1.00
Low-income fare	\$1.50

63 The fare categories and rates are subject to, and defined by, the following:

64 1. The child fare is available to persons up to six years old when accompanied by  
65 a responsible person paying the proper fare as set forth in this chapter. Up to four children  
66 may ride with each responsible person;

67 2. The youth fare is available to persons from six through eighteen years old and  
68 persons over eighteen years old who receive student passes under K.C.C. 4A.700.450;

69 3. The senior and persons with disabilities fare is available to persons who apply  
70 for and receive a regional reduced fare permit. The permits are available to persons at least  
71 sixty-five years old and persons with disabilities as provided in the regional reduced fare  
72 permit program authorized under K.C.C. 28.94.255;

73 4. A person with a disability who has been issued an “attendant ride free” permit  
74 by the department may be accompanied by an attendant, who is not required to pay a fare;  
75 and

76 5. The low-income fare is available to persons who apply for and are determined  
77 to meet the threshold eligibility requirements for the low-income transit fare program  
78 authorized under K.C.C. 4A.700.490 and receive a valid low-income transit fare product.

79 B. A fare in subsection A. of this section is paid when a person pays the  
80 appropriate amount in cash or presents an appropriate pass, transfer or other fare payment  
81 media established under and used in accordance with this chapter.

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82 C.1. Regional and institutional passes, in various single-trip value denominations  
83 and for various effective periods, may be issued and sold in accordance with the terms of  
84 an agreement approved by the council and entered into with other public transportation  
85 providers in the region. Institutions include employers, groups of employers, educational  
86 institutions, transportation management associations and other organizations. The effective  
87 periods, single-trip values and prices for the regional and institutional passes shall be  
88 established by the agreement. A valid regional or institutional pass may be presented an  
89 unlimited number of times during its effective period as full or partial payment of the  
90 applicable fare. To the extent the single trip value of the regional pass is not sufficient to  
91 cover the applicable fare, the rider shall pay the difference in cash or from an electronic  
92 stored value product, such as e purse.

93 2. For institutions entering into an annual institutional pass agreement, the  
94 following schedule of calculations shall determine the cost of the annual agreement for  
95 ~~((King County Metro's))~~ the Metro transit department's portion of the agreement:

- First twelve months: TR x baseline trips
- Second twelve months:  $(TR \times \text{baseline trips}) + [(TR \times \text{added trips}) \times 1/3]$
- Third twelve months:  $(TR \times \text{baseline trips}) + [(TR \times \text{added trips}) \times 2/3]$
- Fourth twelve months (and subsequent ~~((12))~~ twelve-  
month periods):  $(TR \times \text{baseline trips}) + (TR \times \text{added trips})$

96 For purposes of this formula, "added trips" means those trips taken during the prior  
97 twelve months, determined either from surveys or electronic counting of actual institutional  
98 pass use, that exceed the number of baseline trips established at the execution of the

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99 institutional pass agreement. Electronic counts of one month or more will be annualized  
100 and used in lieu of survey results if available.

101 For purposes of this formula, "baseline trips" means the estimated number of transit  
102 trips taken by the contracting party's covered population of students, employees or others,  
103 or any combination thereof, in the twelve months preceding execution of the institutional  
104 pass agreement. Baseline trips may be adjusted on an annual basis to account for changes  
105 in the number of eligible employees.

106 For purposes of this formula, in the event a party terminates or does not renew an  
107 institutional pass agreement, any subsequent institutional pass agreement entered into with  
108 that party shall be priced as if in the "fourth twelve months and thereafter" category.

109 For purposes of this formula, "trip revenue" or "TR" means the weighted average  
110 fare per trip determined by the department.

111 D. The rate of fare for paratransit service shall be \$1.75 per trip and \$63.00 for a  
112 monthly pass, except that a no-charge youth fare shall be available to persons from six  
113 through eighteen years old and persons over eighteen years old who receive student  
114 passes under K.C.C. 4A.700.450.

115 E. The rate of fare for customized bus service to residents of Center Park, a facility  
116 of the Seattle Housing Authority located at 2121 - 26th Avenue South, Seattle, is equal to  
117 the paratransit fares specified in subsection D. of this section.

118 SECTION 2. Ordinance 12643, Section 12, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.450  
119 are hereby amended to read as follows:

120 The executive is authorized to execute agreements with public school districts to  
121 supply students with passes in connection with special school programs (~~(, but the price~~

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122 ~~for passes under the agreements shall be established at a rate of thirty six times the youth~~  
 123 ~~fare in K.C.C. 4A.700.010 for each month in which these passes are valid, and the passes~~  
 124 ~~shall be regional passes as defined in K.C.C. 4A.700.010)).~~

125 SECTION 3. Ordinance 17935, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.820 are  
 126 hereby amended to read as follows:

127 A.1. Except as may otherwise be provided by ordinance, the following fare  
 128 categories and rates are established for regularly scheduled passenger ferry service:

<b>One-Way Water Taxi Fares</b>	<b>West Seattle Water Taxi Route</b>	<b>Vashon Island Water Taxi Route</b>
Cash fare	\$5.75	\$6.75
Regular prepaid fare	\$5.00	\$5.75
Child fare	No Charge	No Charge
Youth ( <del>prepaid</del> ) fare	<del>(\$3.75)</del> <u>No Charge</u>	<del>(\$4.50)</del> <u>No Charge</u>
Senior and persons with disabilities fare	\$2.50	\$3.00
Bicycle fare	No Charge	No Charge
Low-income fare	\$3.75	\$4.50

129 2. The fare categories and rates are subject to, and defined by, the following:

130 a. All fares shall be established only for a one-way trip;

131 b. All fares shall be rounded up to the next whole twenty-five cent  
 132 increment;

133 c. The cash fare is determined by adding a fifteen-percent surcharge to the  
 134 regular prepaid fare and applies to cash and ticket purchases;

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135                   d. The regular prepaid fare is established as the base rate for persons  
136 nineteen years old and older using ORCA prepaid fare media;

137                   e. The child fare is available to persons five years and under when  
138 accompanied by a parent, guardian or other person aged sixteen or older and paying the  
139 proper fare as set forth in this chapter;

140                   f. The youth (~~prepaid~~) fare is available to persons from six through  
141 eighteen years old and persons over eighteen years old who receive valid student pass  
142 transit-fare products under K.C.C. 4A.700.450(~~(The youth prepaid fare shall be twenty-~~  
143 ~~five percent less than the regular prepaid fare))~~);

144                   g. The senior and persons with disabilities fare is available to persons who  
145 apply for and receive a regional reduced fare permit. The permits are available to persons  
146 at least sixty-five years old and persons with disabilities as provided in the regional  
147 reduced fare permit program authorized under K.C.C. 28.94.255;

148                   h. A person with a disability who has been issued an "attendant ride free"  
149 permit as authorized under K.C.C. 4A.700.010 may be accompanied by an attendant, who  
150 is not required to pay a fare;

151                   i. A person who has paid fare may bring a bicycle onto a water taxi at no  
152 additional charge, up to the water taxi's bicycle capacity; and

153                   j. The low-income fare is available to persons who apply for and are  
154 determined to meet the threshold eligibility requirements for the low-income transit fare  
155 program authorized under K.C.C. 4A.700.490, when effective, and receive a valid low-  
156 income transit fare product. The low-income fare shall be twenty-five percent less than  
157 the regular fare.



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158 B. A fare in subsection A. of this section is paid when a person pays the  
159 appropriate amount in cash or presents an appropriate pass, transfer or other fare payment  
160 media established under and used in accordance with this chapter.

161 SECTION 4. This ordinance takes effect September 1, 2022.


Ordinance 19474 was introduced on 6/7/2022 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 7/26/2022, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Dembowski, Dunn, Kohl-Welles, Perry, McDermott, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

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8DE1BB375AD3422...  
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of 8/4/2022, \_\_\_\_.

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Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** None

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 Council Chair  
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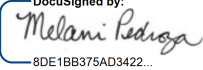
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**Required hardware and software**

Operating Systems:	Windows® 2000, Windows® XP, Windows Vista®; Mac OS® X
Browsers:	Final release versions of Internet Explorer® 6.0 or above (Windows only); Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or above (Windows and Mac); Safari™ 3.0 or above (Mac only)
PDF Reader:	Acrobat® or similar software may be required to view and print PDF files
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum

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