



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19532

Proposed No. 2022-0392.1

Sponsors Upthegrove

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to public transportation,
 2 revising rates of low-income fare on buses, trolleys, transit
 3 vans, dial-a-ride vehicles and streetcars to \$1.00 for twelve
 4 months beginning on January 1, 2023; amending Ordinance
 5 13480, Section 2, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.010,
 6 establishing an effective date and establishing an expiration
 7 date.

8 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 9 1. K.C.C. 4A.700.010 provides for fares for regularly scheduled county
 10 public transportation service on buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride
 11 vehicles and streetcars, including fares for adults, children, youth, seniors
 12 and persons with disabilities and low-income riders.
- 13 2. The King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2021-
 14 2031, as adopted by Ordinance 19367, includes a strategy to "Align fares
 15 with other service providers, meet revenue targets, and advance equity
 16 through Metro's income-based approach to fares."
- 17 3. The King County council has worked with the King County executive
 18 and the Metro transit department ("Metro") to implement a number of
 19 programs to make public transit more affordable and accessible to people
 20 in need.

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21 4. The current low-income fare is \$1.50 for buses, trolleys, transit vans,
22 dial-a-ride vehicles and streetcars, \$3.75 for the West Seattle water taxi
23 route and \$4.50 for the Vashon Island water taxi route. The low-income
24 fare is available to persons who apply for and are determined to meet the
25 eligibility threshold of two hundred percent of the federal poverty level.

26 5. Metro's fund management policies for the public transportation fund, as
27 adopted by Ordinance 18321, provide that Metro will recover at least
28 twenty-five percent and will maintain a target of recovering thirty percent
29 of passenger related operating costs from farebox revenues for bus service.

30 6. Sound Transit will implement a \$1.00 low-income fare for a six-month
31 period beginning September 1, 2022. More than half of riders enrolled in
32 ORCA LIFT who begin a trip on Sound Transit transfer to Metro services,
33 highlighting the importance of fare alignment for the two agencies. That
34 is particularly important for ORCA LIFT enrollees, who are some of the
35 region's most-vulnerable riders.

36 7. Metro is engaged in a broad conversation about its fare policy and will
37 use the twelve-month pilot period to engage with stakeholders to develop
38 a comprehensive approach to reduced fare and other fare policy areas.

39 8. In recognition of the equity and social justice benefits of a lowering the
40 low-income fare, the King County executive and council support
41 authorizing a twelve-month pilot to implement \$1.00 low-income fare on
42 buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles and streetcar.

43 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:**

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

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

Regular fare	\$2.75
Child fare	No charge
Youth fare	No charge
Seniors and persons with disabilities fare	\$1.00
Low-income fare	(\$1.50) \$1.00

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

- 50 1. The child fare is available to persons up to six years old when accompanied
 51 by a responsible person paying the proper fare as set forth in this chapter. Up to four
 52 children may ride with each responsible person;
- 53 2. The youth fare is available to persons from six through eighteen years old and
 54 persons over eighteen years old who receive student passes under K.C.C. 4A.700.450;
- 55 3. The senior and persons with disabilities fare is available to persons who apply
 56 for and receive a regional reduced fare permit. The permits are available to persons at
 57 least sixty-five years old and persons with disabilities as provided in the regional reduced
 58 fare permit program authorized under K.C.C. 28.94.255;

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

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

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

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

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80 2. For institutions entering into an annual institutional pass agreement, the
81 following schedule of calculations shall determine the cost of the annual agreement for
82 the Metro transit department's portion of the agreement:

First twelve months:	$TR \times \text{baseline trips}$
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 twelve-month periods):	$(TR \times \text{baseline trips}) + (TR \times \text{added trips})$

83 For purposes of this formula, "added trips" means those trips taken during the
84 prior twelve months, determined either from surveys or electronic counting of actual
85 institutional pass use, that exceed the number of baseline trips established at the
86 execution of the institutional pass agreement. Electronic counts of one month or more
87 will be annualized and used in lieu of survey results if available.

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

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

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

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

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

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105 SECTION 2. This ordinance takes effect on January 1, 2023.

106 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this ordinance expires January 1, 2024.

Ordinance 19532 was introduced on 10/4/2022 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/15/2022, by the following vote:

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

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:
Claudia Balducci
F8830816F1C4427...
Claudia Balducci, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Angel Foss
C267B914088E4A0...
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of 11/29/2022, _____.

DocuSigned by:
Dow Constantine
4FBCAB8196AE4C6...
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

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Signer Events

Claudia Balducci
 claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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 Angel.Foss@kingcounty.gov
 Deputy Clerk of the Council
 King County Council
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Kaitlyn Wiggins kwwiggins@kingcounty.gov Executive Legislative Coordinator King County Executive Office Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None) Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure: Not Offered via DocuSign	COPIED	Sent: 11/23/2022 12:31:10 PM Viewed: 11/23/2022 12:37:15 PM
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Signing Complete	Security Checked	11/29/2022 1:42:08 PM
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