



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

Ordinance 19858

Proposed No. 2024-0317.1

Sponsors Zahilay

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to public transportation,
 2 revising the low-income fare rate; amending Ordinance
 3 19705, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.010 and
 4 establishing an effective date.

5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS:**

- 6 1. K.C.C. 4A.700.010 provides for fares for regularly scheduled county
 7 public transportation service on buses, trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride
 8 vehicles, and streetcars, including fares for adults, children, youth, seniors
 9 and persons with disabilities and low-income riders.
- 10 2. The King County Metro Strategic Plan for Public Transportation, 2021-
 11 2031, as adopted by Ordinance 19367, includes a strategy to "Align fares
 12 with other service providers, meet revenue targets, and advance equity
 13 through Metro's income-based approach to fares."
- 14 3. As part of an income-based approach to fares, the Metro transit
 15 department offers a reduced low-income fare available to persons who
 16 apply for and are determined to meet the threshold eligibility requirements
 17 for the low-income transit program authorized under K.C.C. 4A.700.490
 18 and
 19 receive a valid low-income transit fare product.

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20 4. At the beginning of 2022, both the Metro transit department and Sound
21 Transit charged a \$1.50 low-income fare for passengers riding buses and
22 Link light rail.

23 5. In 2022 the Sound Transit Board approved a six-month pilot to lower
24 ORCA LIFT fares for Link light rail, Sound Transit express buses, and
25 Sounder commuter rail from \$1.50 to \$1.00, effective September 1, 2022.

26 6. To ensure alignment between services, the Metro transit department's
27 general manager issued an emergency directive on August 22, 2022,
28 lowering the Metro transit departments ORCA LIFT fare for buses,
29 trolleys, transit vans, dial-a-ride vehicles, and streetcars from \$1.50 to
30 \$1.00 for the period from September 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

31 7. Ordinance 19532 then approved a \$1.00 ORCA LIFT fare as a
32 temporary pilot for the duration of 2023. The temporary reduction was
33 extended for the duration of 2024 in Ordinance 19705.

34 8. Since 2022, regional partner transit agencies, including Everett Transit,
35 Kitsap Transit, Seattle Streetcar, Sound Transit, and Pierce Transit have
36 set a flat \$1.00 rate of fare for low-income riders.

37 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

38 SECTION 1. Ordinance 19705, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.700.010

39 are hereby amended to read as follows:

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

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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) <u>\$1.00</u>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

73 2. For institutions entering into an annual institutional pass agreement, the
 74 following schedule of calculations shall determine the cost of the annual agreement for the
 75 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	$(TR \times \text{baseline trips}) + (TR \times \text{added trips})$

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periods):

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

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

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

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

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

95 E. The rate of fare for customized bus service to residents of Center Park, a facility
96 of the Seattle Housing Authority located at 2121 - 26th Avenue South, Seattle, is equal to

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97 the paratransit fares specified in subsection D. of this section.

98 SECTION 2. This ordinance takes effect January 1, 2025.


Ordinance 19858 was introduced on 10/1/2024 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 11/19/2024, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Balducci, Barón, Dembowski, Dunn, Mosqueda, Perry, Upthegrove, von Reichbauer and Zahilay

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Signed by:

E76CE01F07B14EF...
Dave Upthegrove, Chair

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

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

APPROVED this _____ day of 12/2/2024, _____.

Signed by:

4FBCAB8196AE4C6...
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None

Certificate Of Completion

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 Subject: Complete with Docusign: Ordinance 19858.docx
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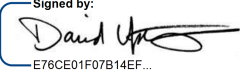
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Signer Events

Dave Upthegrove
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 Chair
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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Melani Hay
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 Clerk of the Council
 King County Council
 Security Level: Email, Account Authentication (None)

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 King County Executive
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Executive Legislative Coordinator & Public Records
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Signing Complete	Security Checked	12/2/2024 12:52:23 PM
Completed	Security Checked	12/2/2024 12:52:23 PM

Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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