

# Affordable Fares:

## CONNECTING TO OPPORTUNITY IN THE DENVER METRO REGION

### The Issue

Transit dependent riders tell us they need affordable, accessible, and safe transit. These riders rely on transit to get to and from jobs, community resources, medical appointments, and recreational activities. Oftentimes, these riders are forced to make the hard decision of choosing between riding the bus and paying for their next meal or critical needs.

These riders may seek out relief through a nonprofit organization. However, nonprofits purchasing discounted passes through the existing Nonprofit Program are often operating on limited resources and can only meet a small fraction of the need for subsidized transit passes.

The solution? An affordable transit system that increases mobility and access to opportunities for all.



**48%**

48% of RTD Users live in households making > \$35,000



**53%**

Percent of bus riders do not have access to a car

### The Opportunity

In March 2017, RTD convened a 25-member working group including RTD staff and external stakeholders with expertise in transportation, social justice/advocacy, education, business, and neighborhood groups.

The recommendation includes the addition of a **Low Income Bus Pass Program, a 40% Discount** to individuals at 185% of the Federal Poverty Level or **\$22,459/year**. This recommendation also includes a **70% Discount** for youth riders 13-19 years old.

Fare Type	Local Bus & Rail	Regional Bus & Rail	Airport Bus & Rail
	Low-Income Adult	Low-Income Adult	Low-Income Adult
Cash/MyRide 3-Hour Pass	\$1.80	\$3.15	\$6.30
Day Pass	\$3.60	\$6.30	Included in Regional Fare
Day Pass Book	\$18.00	\$31.50	Included in Regional Fare
10-Ride Ticket Book	\$18.00	\$31.50	Upgrade Required*
Monthly Pass	\$68.40	\$119.70	Included in Regional Fare

\* Individual 10-ride tickets can be upgraded to the \$9 airport fare. A local ticket upgrade is \$6.40 (discount \$3.20). A regional ticket upgrade is \$4.50 (discount \$2.25)



# The Recommendation in Numbers

**Income Eligible Riders:** ~113,000

**Anticipated utilization:** ~32,000\*\*

**Lost Revenue To RTD:** ~\$8.5 million

**Products being considered:**

- Electronic Stored Value
- Electronic stored value, day & monthly passes
- Paper products
- On-board purchasing

## What is RTD's Projected Total Revenue & Ridership if this passes?

**RTD Total Revenue (in Millions)**

- 2019: \$164.7
- 2020: \$171.2
- 2021:\$176

**RTD Ridership (in Millions)**

- 2019: 92.3
- 2020: 96.6
- 2021 97.5

## Proposed Timeline

Quarter 2 - 2018	Quarter 3 - 2018	2019-2020
RTD to host 5 public meetings RTD Board update	Board Committee Meeting Fare change proposal voted on Official Board meeting on fare & pass changes	Projected implementation

## What can you do?

Community and transportation leaders have been hard at work identifying solutions to our transit issues but we need your help.

Here are some steps you can consider to support these regional efforts:

- Step 1: Attend a public meeting or provide your support for an affordable transit by visiting RTD's website.
- Step 2: Share your commitment to #fairfares on social media & connect affordable public transit to your mission
- Step 3: Meet with your elected officials and RTD Board Member to learn whether they support an affordable public transit system and how you can help

