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Section 1: Authority

This document establishes rates for fixed routes, flex routes, paratransit service, zone service and vanpool services provided by Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA). WTA is authorized to set its fares according to RCW 36.57A.090 (3). WTA will develop and implement administrative policies and procedures for fare collection as needed to implement these rates and rules.

Section 2: Effective Date

The changes in these Fare Rates and Rules will take effect no sooner than September 1, 2017. On or after September 1, the General Manager is authorized to introduce rates and rules as soon as systems are in place to support them.
Section 3: Fixed/Flex Routes Fare Rates

Cash Fare: Single Ride

Cash Fare ................................................................. $1.00
Reduced Fare ............................................................ $0.50
Route 80X Cash Fare (within one county) ................................ $1.00
Route 80X Cash Fare (between counties) ............................. $2.00
Route 80X Reduced Fare (within one county) ......................... $0.50
Route 80X Reduced Fare (between counties) ......................... $1.00

Passes:

Day Pass ........................................................................ $3.00
31-Day Pass .................................................................... $25.00
92-Day Pass .................................................................... $70.00
Select (for Veterans, Seniors and Riders with Disabilities) 31-
Day Pass ........................................................................ $13.00
Select (for Veterans, Seniors and Riders with Disabilities) 92-
Day Pass ........................................................................ $35.00
Youth 31-Day Pass ............................................................ $15.00
Youth 92-Day Pass ............................................................ $40.00
Student 31-Day Pass ......................................................... $15.00
Student 92-Day Pass ......................................................... $40.00
Skagit-Whatcom Day Pass ................................................... $6.00
County Connector 31-Day Pass .......................................... $50.00
County Connector Youth/Student/Select 31-Day Passes ........ $25.00

Free: ............................................................................... Section 8
Section 4: Paratransit Fare Rates

Cash Fare: Single Ride
Cash Fare ................................................................. $1.00

Passes:
Paratransit Calendar Month Pass ................................... $13.00
Paratransit Calendar Quarter Pass ................................... $35.00

Free: ................................................................................. Section 8

Section 5: Zone Service Fare Rates

Cash Fare: Single Ride
Cash Fare ........................................................................ $1.00
Section 6: Definitions

A **Ride** is a single boarding of the bus.

A **Day Pass** is good for unlimited rides until midnight on the day it is used.

A **Rolling Start** pass is “activated” on first use. It automatically expires after a predetermined number of days. 31-day passes, for example, expire 31 days after they are first used.

A prepaid **Token** is good for one ride. Tokens are not accepted on Route 80X.

**Youth** are riders age 8 through 18.

**Students** are riders enrolled at a college, university or vocational school physically located in Whatcom County or Skagit County.

**Select** products are available for veterans, seniors and riders with disabilities.

**Veterans** are any former member of the US armed services.

The **Regional Reduced Fare Permit (RRFP)** serves as identification for reduced fares. The card is available for seniors and riders with disabilities.

**Seniors and Riders with Disabilities** meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Age 65 or older.
- On Medicare.
- Riders who, because of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other incapacity or temporary or permanent disability, cannot use a public transportation service or public transportation facilities effectively without special facilities, planning or design. (U.S.C. § 5307(d) reduced-fare requirement)

A **Reduced Cash Fare for Seniors and Riders with Disabilities** is provided to riders who present one of the following at boarding:

- A Regional Reduced Fare Permit. (or a previously issued WTA
- Proof of age. Must be 65 or older.
- A Reduced Fare Card from another transit system.
- A Medicare Card.

A **Reduced Cash Fare for Veterans** is provided to riders who present a **WTA Veteran Reduced Fare Card**.

**Paratransit** service provides curb-to-curb minibus service to people whose disability prevents them from riding fixed route buses.
Zone Service provides curb-to-curb minibus service on designated days of the week to parts of the county not served by fixed route service. Zone Service is open to the public.

A Personal Care Attendant (PCA) is someone who travels with and helps a rider who isn’t able to travel alone.

Section 7: Rules

1. Operators and fareboxes do not make change.
2. 1, 31 and 92 day passes are valid from the day they are activated until midnight on their expiration day.
3. Calendar month passes are valid on the first day of the calendar month and expire at midnight of the last day of the calendar month.
4. Calendar quarter passes are valid on the first day of the calendar quarter and expire at midnight of the last day of the calendar quarter.
5. Passes are non-transferable.
6. Passes are not refundable.
7. Passes have no cash value.
8. Tokens are accepted on all routes except Route 80X.
9. Cash, Skagit-Whatcom Day Passes, County Connector Passes and certain school IDs are the only forms of payment accepted on Route 80X. People who ride for free (see section 8) also ride free on Route 80X.
10. County Connector 31-day passes are accepted for local service on both WTA and Skagit Transit, as well as Route 80X and 90X.
11. The Skagit-Whatcom Day Pass is accepted for local service on both WTA and Skagit Transit, as well as Route 80X. It is not valid on Route 90X.
12. Fixed route/flex route passes are not accepted on Paratransit or Zone Service.
13. Paratransit passes are only available to riders approved for Paratransit service.
14. WTA follows the same process as the Regional Reduced Fare Permit to establish eligibility for discounts for Seniors and Riders with Disabilities.
15. Veterans must present either a VA medical card or a DD-214 document in order to be eligible for WTA’s Veteran Reduced Fare card and Select products.

16. WTA is authorized to provide contracted service. When providing contracted service, WTA will still collect regular fares.

17. WTA publishes vanpool fares on its website. Vanpool fares will attempt to recover 100% of direct costs. These include, but are not limited to: fuel, maintenance, insurance, licensing, administrative and miscellaneous costs.

18. Vanpool fares are charged based on the van’s monthly mileage.

19. WTA may contract with retail outlets, allowing up to a 5% administrative fee to sell fare products.

20. PCAs must board and de-board at the same location as the rider.

Section 8: Free Rides

WTA allows the following people to ride free:

1. Riders under 8.

2. Personal Care Attendants (PCAs) traveling with and helping a rider who has been pre-approved for PCA assistance. The rider must present either a Regional Reduced Fare card or a WTA issued card indicating pre-approval to travel with a PCA.

3. Riders who present approved credentials while attending local conferences. Conference organizers must establish an agreement with WTA in advance.

4. In compliance with the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC), riders traveling to or from the Pt. Roberts community.

WTA provides free passes to the following:

5. Riders who are 75 and older.

6. Riders who are eligible for Paratransit can obtain a “Free on Fixed Route” pass.

7. WTA’s Board of Directors.
8. Volunteers serving on Board-established committees. Pass duration is based on assignment.

9. WTA employees, their spouse, and dependents eligible for enrollment in WTA’s medical plan.

10. Retired WTA employees (minimum 10 years WTA employment) and their spouses. Employees must have left in good standing.

11. WTA student interns. Pass duration is based on assignment.

12. Volunteers or employees of approved non-profit organizations, public agencies or schools who provide training on how to ride the bus. Pass duration is based on the event or curriculum. Must make arrangements in advance. Group size is limited to 25 per bus.

**WTA provides free passes for the following promotional purposes:**

13. Passes donated for community events, to be used as door prizes or similar.

14. Passes in partnership with programs at libraries, schools, etc.

15. Passes distributed to promote transit among potential riders, or to promote new fare products.

16. Day passes to riders we have inconvenienced, by causing them to miss a connection, etc. This is at the discretion of staff.

17. Passes distributed with the authority of the General Manager.

18. Through our partnership with Whatcom Smart Trips, 31-day passes to first-time bus commuters at Commute Trip Reduction worksites and Smart Trips Employer Partner worksites.

19. Through our partnership with Whatcom Smart Trips, day passes for outreach to employer partners and at community events.

**WTA provides free day passes to Social and Health Services Providers**

20. WTA provides up to 50,000 free day passes annually to approved Social and Health services providers, for distribution to low income riders and riders with disabilities.
Free Fare Days

21. WTA offers seven consecutive free fare days (Sunday through Saturday) during the second full week of every August. We do not offer free fares on Route 80X.

22. WTA offers two consecutive free fare days per year, in support of Project Homeless Connect. We do not offer free fares on Route 80X.

23. The General Manager or designee may declare free fare days during transportation emergencies or when called upon by emergency services.

Section 9: Bulk Discounts

WTA can enter into bulk discount agreements with accredited colleges or universities, schools, employers, housing developments and other organizations.