

AGENDA ITEM 1 D  
Consent Item

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 2, 2017

**TO:** El Dorado County Transit Authority

**FROM:** Brian James, Planning and Marketing Manager

**SUBJECT:** Regional Fare Comparison

**REQUESTED ACTION:**  
**BY MOTION,**

**Receive and File Regional Fare Comparison**

**BACKGROUND**

The El Dorado County Transit Authority (El Dorado Transit) routinely surveys regional transit operators for current fare and fare policy information. In January 2017, staff conducted research to compile current fare information for seven (7) regional operators. The following offers comparisons of regional fares, categorized by service type.

**DISCUSSION**

**Local Fixed Routes**

The following chart reflects local fixed route fares for the transit operators surveyed:

	One-Way Fares			Monthly Pass/Ticket Books		
	General	Senior/Disabled	Student	General	Senior/Disabled	Student
<b>El Dorado Transit</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>	<b>\$0.75</b>	<b>\$0.75</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Folsom Stage Lines</b>	\$2.50	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
<b>Roseville Transit</b>	\$1.50	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$58.00	\$29.00	\$29.00
<b>Placer County Transit</b>	\$1.25	\$0.60	\$0.60	\$37.50	\$18.75	\$18.75
<b>Yolobus</b>	\$2.25	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$93.50	\$46.75	\$46.75
<b>Yuba-Sutter Transit</b>	\$1.00	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$30.00	\$6.00	\$6.00
<b>Amador Transit</b>	\$2.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$100.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
<b>Sacramento Regional Transit</b>	\$2.75	\$1.35	\$1.35	\$110.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
<b>Averages</b>	<b>\$1.84</b>	<b>\$0.91</b>	<b>\$0.91</b>	<b>\$67.38</b>	<b>\$33.81</b>	<b>\$33.81</b>

One-way fares for local fixed route services in the region range from \$1.00 to \$2.75, with half price discounts typically offered for seniors, persons with disabilities per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and students. At \$1.50 one-way and \$60.00 for the monthly pass for the general public, El Dorado Transit local route fares are slightly below the average of \$1.84 one-way and \$67.38 for the monthly pass among the operators surveyed.

**Demand Response/Dial-A-Ride**

Demand response or “Dial-A-Ride” services are generally defined as pre-scheduled, curb-to-curb or door-to-door transportation for individual riders. Comparisons between operators are less straightforward in this area because the methods for providing these types of specialized services vary within the region. Among the operators surveyed, some provide or contract with a provider to offer these services only for passengers that are eligible under the ADA. Fares for ADA only services are dictated by the fixed route fares in the corresponding area. Three (3) of the agencies surveyed offer monthly passes or ticket books for demand response services.

El Dorado Transit Dial-A-Ride is a general public service, extending beyond ADA requirements, with half-price fares and priority booking given to eligible passengers. Fares are based on a zone system and range from \$2.00 to \$7.00 one-way.

The following compares available fares for regional, demand response services:

	One-Way Fares			Monthly Pass/Ticket Books		
	General	Senior/Disabled	Student	General	Senior/Disabled	Student
<b>El Dorado Transit</b>	<b>\$3-\$7</b>	<b>\$2-\$7</b>	<b>\$3-\$7</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Folsom Stage Lines</b>	n/a	\$4.00	n/a	n/a	\$95.00	n/a
<b>Roseville Transit</b>	\$3.75	\$2.50	\$3.75	\$37.50	\$25.00	\$37.50
<b>Placer County Transit</b>	\$2.50	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$42.50	\$21.25	\$21.25
<b>Yolobus</b>	n/a	\$4-\$5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Yuba-Sutter Transit</b>	n/a	\$2.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Amador Transit</b>	\$2-\$4	\$2-\$4	\$2-\$4	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Sacramento Regional Transit</b>	n/a	\$5.50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Averages</b>	<b>\$3.56</b>	<b>\$3.41</b>	<b>\$3.25</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>	<b>\$47.08</b>	<b>\$29.38</b>

Note: averages calculated using the average fares within the range

El Dorado Transit’s demand response/Dial-A-Ride average fare is above the overall regional averages, but considering the size of the area and the distances traveled, the current fares are in-line with similar services.

## Commuter Services

Commuter services and fares vary among the operators surveyed based on the distances traveled, levels of service and transfers to Sacramento Regional Transit (RT). Roseville Transit offers different fare rates for residents and non-residents while Placer County employs distance based fares ranging from \$4.25 to \$5.75 (the Auburn to Sacramento fare is used for comparison purposes). The price for a Yolobus monthly, commuter pass reflects a \$25 surcharge added to an RT monthly pass. Yuba-Sutter Transit was the only operator surveyed that offers discounted, mid-day commuter fares. Neither Folsom Stage Lines nor Sacramento Regional Transit offer comparable services in this category.

The following chart compares regional commuter fares among the operators surveyed:

	One-Way Fares			Monthly Pass/Ticket Books		
	General	Senior/Disabled	Student	General	Senior/Disabled	Student
<b>El Dorado Transit</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>
<b>Folsom Stage Lines</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Roseville Transit</b>	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$3.25	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$110.00
<b>Placer County Transit</b>	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$4.75	\$147.00	\$147.00	\$147.00
<b>Yolobus</b>	\$3.25	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$121.00	\$46.75	\$74.25
<b>Yuba-Sutter Transit</b>	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$128.00	\$128.00	\$128.00
<b>Amador Transit</b>	\$7.00	\$4.15	\$3.50	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Sacramento Regional Transit</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Averages</b>	<b>\$4.54</b>	<b>\$3.79</b>	<b>\$3.51</b>	<b>\$137.20</b>	<b>\$122.35</b>	<b>\$127.85</b>

El Dorado Transit's commuter fare is above the overall regional average of \$4.54 for a general one-way fare, but when considering the distances traveled and level of service offered, the \$5.00 fare is in-line with similar routes.

At this time, El Dorado Transit staff is not recommending fare increases for FY 2017/18 however; staff may return to the board to consider changes to Dial-A-Ride fares. The Dial-A-Ride Zone Assessment Study and Implementation Plan for the Western Slope of El Dorado County was completed on February 5, 2016. Staff is hosting a focus group to consider the recommendations in the report that may include proposed Dial-A-Ride fare changes.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

None