

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Draft FY26 Fare Increase Proposal

FROM: Christy Wegener, Executive Director  
Tamara Edwards, Director of Finance

DATE: September 23, 2025

**Action Requested**

Staff recommends the Finance and Administration Committee forward the Draft Fare Increase Proposal to the Board of Directors for consideration, to open a public comment and review period from October 7 – November 7, 2025, and direct staff to hold a public hearing on November 3, 2025.

**Background**

Staff presented draft fare increase scenarios to both LAVTA Committees at their August meetings. The presentation included a background of LAVTA's fare increases since 2000 and information about how LAVTA fares compare to those of other Bay Area transit agencies. Staff presented four different fare increase scenarios:

Scenario	Regular Single Ride	Regular Day Pass	Regular Monthly Pass	Paratransit
<i>Current</i>	<i>\$2</i>	<i>\$3.75</i>	<i>\$60</i>	<i>\$3.75</i>
1	\$2.25	\$4.50	\$67.50	<\$4.50
2	\$2.50	\$5	\$75	<\$5
3	\$2.75	\$5.50	\$82.50	<\$5.50
4	\$3	\$6	\$90	<\$6

During the Committee meetings, staff received input on the four scenarios, as well as feedback on discounts for seniors/ADA individuals and students, and the paratransit fare. Staff also received input on the day and monthly pass multipliers.

The Projects and Services Committee requested information on the farebox recovery requirements for existing funding sources, provided below:

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Farebox Recovery Requirement</b>	<b>Current Farebox Recovery Ratio</b>
RM2	Route 30R Operations	20%	15.55%
RM3	Route 30R Operations	20%	15.55%
Transportation Development Act	50% LAVTA Operating Budget	20% fixed route/ 10% paratransit	10.11% 7%

Staff also presented the fare increase scenarios to the Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee at their September 3, 2025 meeting.

### **Discussion**

After receiving feedback from the three Committees, staff developed the following draft fare increase proposal:

	<b>Regular Single Ride</b>	<b>Regular Day Pass</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Pass</b>	<b>Senior/ADA Single Ride</b>	<b>Senior/ADA Day Pass</b>	<b>Senior/ADA Monthly Pass</b>	<b>Youth Fare (Clipper)</b>
Current	\$2.00	\$3.75	\$60	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$22	\$1.60
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$2.25</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>	<b>\$67.50</b>	<b>\$1.10</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>

	<b>Paratransit</b>
Current	\$3.75
<b>Proposed</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>

The proposal addresses several comments received from the Committees, including:

- Keeping the day pass multiplier at less than 2x
- Providing more than 50% discount for seniors/ADA riders on fixed route fares
- Maintaining a discounted youth fare on Clipper
- Charging less than the maximum (2x) allowable for paratransit
- Instead of a larger phased fare increase, staff propose that the Board consider revisiting the fares every 3-5 years.

### **Next Steps**

Any fare increases are required to follow LAVTA's Title VI and Public Hearing Policy. During the public comment and review period, LAVTA staff will at minimum publish notices regarding the nature of the proposed changes and the public comment process in The Valley Times legal classifieds zone of the East Bay Times in English, Spanish, and Mandarin (Simplified) Chinese. Staff will also solicit multi-lingual passenger input via the following channels: signage on all buses, postings at the Livermore Transit Center, dedicated landing pages on the wheelsbus.com website, and posts across all social media channels. An online form hosted at wheelsbus.com will be available for feedback. Staff will also take the proposal to the TAAC at their November 5, 2025 meeting.

After consideration of all public input received during the public comment period, a final staff recommendation will be brought to the Board of Directors in December with an anticipated implementation date of April 1, 2026. While LAVTA does not have to conduct a Title VI Fare Equity Analysis, staff will determine the impact of these proposed changes and will include that information in the final staff recommendation.

**Recommendation**

Forward the draft FY26 fare increase proposal to the Board for consideration, and recommend that the Board open the public comment period from October 7-November 7, 2025 and set a public hearing for the November 3, 2025 Board meeting.