

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Public Hearing: FY26 Fare Increase Proposal

FROM: Christy Wegener, Executive Director

DATE: November 3, 2025

Action Requested

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to receive input on the FY26 Fare Increase Proposal.

Background

At the August Committee meetings, and at the September Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee meeting, staff presented a justification for pursuing a FY26 fare increase. The presentation included the background of LAVTA's fare increases since 2000 and information about how LAVTA fares compare to those of other Bay Area transit agencies. During that presentation staff outlined four alternative fare increase scenarios ranging from \$2.25 up to \$3.00.

In September, staff returned to the LAVTA Projects and Services Committee, and the Finance and Administration Committee, with a recommended fare increase of \$2.25. Both Committees took action to modify staff's recommendation, increasing the fare increase proposal to \$2.50. This modification does not mean the fare will be raised to \$2.50, but it does allow the Board to collect feedback on a potentially higher fare, which then would allow the Board more flexibility to set or phase in a higher fare, depending on public feedback received.

Staff presented the final FY26 fare increase proposal to the Board in October and requested that the Board approve opening the public comment period and setting the public hearing for the November 3 Board meeting. The Board approved opening the public comment period, setting the public hearing at the November 3 meeting, and advertising the potential fare increases for the public hearing as follows:

	Regular Single Ride	Regular Day Pass	Regular Monthly Pass	Senior/ADA Single Ride	Senior/ADA Day Pass	Senior/ADA Monthly Pass	Youth Fare (Clipper)
Current	\$2.00	\$3.75	\$60	\$1.00	\$1.75	\$22	\$1.60
Final Proposal	<\$2.50	<\$4.50	<\$75	<\$1.25	<\$2.25	<\$28	<\$2.25

	Paratransit
Current	\$3.75
Final Proposal	<\$4.50

Discussion

LAVTA’s Title VI and Major Service Change Policy mandates that a public hearing be held for any proposed increase in fares.

A public hearing provides a venue for Wheels riders, stakeholders, and the community to provide comments on the implementation of a new route.

Since the October Board meeting, Wheels staff have been advertising the public hearing and through a variety of channels in English, Spanish, and Chinese (Simplified).

The public hearing notice was published in the East Bay Times, Valley Times Legal Classifieds section on October 14, 2025. It was also displayed at the entrance of the LAVTA Administrative Office and the Livermore Transit Center. A press release was also issued.

Public notices were displayed on the interior of all Wheels buses with public meetings & hearing dates and locations in English and Spanish, and Chinese (Simplified). The public hearing notice was displayed at the entrance of the LAVTA Administrative Office and the Livermore Transit Center in English and Spanish, and Chinese (Simplified).

Details of the public hearing and the Fare Increase Proposal were posted to the Wheelsbus.com website on a dedicated landing page containing a form for comment submissions.

Social media including Facebook and Instagram were utilized with “pinned” posts at the top of news feeds for the duration of the comment period.

A presentation of the proposed fare increase will also be made at the November 5, 2025 meeting of the Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee (TAAC).

Budget

There is no budget impact with holding a public hearing.

Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board hold the public hearing to receive input on the FY26 Fare Increase Proposal.