

LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: FY26 Fare Increase Proposal: Open Public Comment Period and Set the Public Hearing

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

DATE: October 6, 2025

Action Requested

It is requested by the Projects and Services Committee, and the Finance and Administration Committee that the Board of Directors open the public comment period for the FY26 fare increase proposal and set a public hearing for the November 3, 2025 Board meeting.

Background

At the August Committee meetings, and at the September Tri-Valley Accessible Advisory Committee meeting, staff presented the 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. Staff presented four different fare increase scenarios to the Committees during the meetings:

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

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.

Following the Committee presentations, staff developed an initial draft fare proposal that was presented to both the Projects & Services and the Finance & Administration Committees at their September 22 and September 23 meetings, respectively. The initial draft FY26 fare increase proposal advanced option 1 (\$2.25 base fare) with associated rates for pass products and seniors/ADA and youth fares. The initial proposal was estimated to generate \$170,000-\$210,000

of additional fare revenue per year. The proposal addressed 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 monthly pass products
- Maintaining a discounted youth fare on Clipper
- Charging less than the maximum (2x) allowable for paratransit
- Instead of a larger phased fare increase, the initial staff proposal is to consider revisiting the fares every 3-5 years.

After presenting the draft FY26 fare increase proposal to the Projects & Services Committee, the Committee acted to modify staff's proposal and recommended advertising a higher fare increase (option 2: \$2.50) for the public comment period. This would allow LAVTA to capture rider comments on a larger fare increase up to \$2.50, which the Board could then decide to phase in at a later date, or implement immediately if comments are favorable. Additionally, a larger fare increase would likely provide more fare revenue to address LAVTA's structural budget deficit and farebox revenue funding requirements.

At the Finance and Administration Committee meeting, staff briefed the Committee on the action taken by Projects and Services; the Finance and Administration Committee also acted to modify staff's proposal and recommended advertising a higher fare increase (option 2: \$2.50) for the public comment period.

Discussion

Based on feedback received from the September Committees, staff is presenting the final FY26 fare increase proposal, requesting that the Board approve opening the public comment period and set the public hearing for the November 3 Board meeting. If approved by the Board, staff will collect feedback on the following potential fare increases:

	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

Staff estimates that between \$170,000-\$330,000 will be generated as a result of a fare increase.

Next Steps

Any fare increases are required to follow LAVTA's Title VI and Public Hearing Policy. During the 30-day public comment and review period, LAVTA staff will at minimum publish notices regarding the nature of the potential 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 if approved. While LAVTA does not have to conduct a Title VI Fare Equity Analysis, staff will estimate the impact of these potential changes on LAVTA's ridership and will include that information in the final staff recommendation.

Recommendation

The Projects and Services Committee and the Finance and Administration Committee recommend the Board open the public comment period on the FY26 fare increase proposal and set a public hearing at the November 3, 2025 Board meeting.

Attachment

1. FY26 Fare Increase Proposal

FY26 Fare Increase Proposal

Fare Category	Current	Fare Proposed
Regular Single Ride	\$2.00	Up to \$2.50
Regular Day Pass	\$3.75	Up to \$4.50
Regular Monthly Pass	\$60.00	Up to \$75.00
Senior/ADA Single Ride	\$1.00	Up to \$1.25
Senior/ADA Day Pass	\$1.75	Up to \$2.25
Senior/ADA Monthly Pass	\$22	Up to \$27.00
Youth (Clipper)	\$1.60	Up to \$2.25
Paratransit	\$3.75	Up to \$4.50