

## **Public Comment Period on Proposed Increases to Transit Fares Announced**

LAWRENCEVILLE, GA – Gwinnett County announces that a public comment period on proposed increases to passenger fares for transit services operated by Gwinnett County Transit will run from **September 1, 2011, through September 22, 2011.**

A public meeting will be held at 7:00pm on September 19, 2011, in the auditorium of the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA, to solicit public comment on the proposed increases to passenger fares. The public meeting will be held by the Gwinnett Transit Advisory Board (GTAB) which is appointed by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners (BOC). A court reporter will be available at the public meeting if you prefer to give your comments verbally.

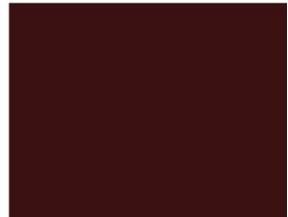
Written comments will be accepted throughout the public comment period. These comments may be submitted by means of the County's Transit website at [www.gctransit.com](http://www.gctransit.com) or email at [transit@gwinnettcountry.com](mailto:transit@gwinnettcountry.com); mailed to Gwinnett County Department of Transportation, Attention: Proposed Fare Changes, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30046; or faxed to Gwinnett County at 770.822.7478. Comments submitted by means of email or fax must be received by 5:00pm, September 22, 2011; mailed comments must be postmarked by September 22, 2011. For information, visit the Gwinnett County Transit website at [www.gctransit.com](http://www.gctransit.com) or call 770.822.7446.

The purpose of the public comment period is to solicit and consider public comment before carrying out a proposed transit fare increase. Comments received from all sources will be summarized and reviewed by staff, GTAB, and BOC. The GTAB will consider the comments, and at a future GTAB public meeting to be determined will pass and forward a recommendation to the BOC. The proposed fare recommendation will be placed on a future BOC agenda which also is open to the public. After consideration of the comments and the GTAB recommendation, the proposed fare recommendation before the BOC may be abandoned, modified, or implemented as proposed.

Information on this fare increase proposal is presented below and is available for viewing on all buses, at the Gwinnett Transit Center, the Customer Service Center at Esplanade Plaza 3525 Mall Boulevard, Suite 5-C, Duluth 30096, all park-ride lots, on-line at the Gwinnett County Transit website [www.gctransit.com](http://www.gctransit.com), or by calling 770.822.7446. Alternative formats are available. Please allow seven business days to fulfill your request for an alternative format.



# News You Can Use



## Why is Gwinnett County proposing to raise its transit fares?

All forms of transportation are subsidized. Gwinnett County strives to maintain transit fares such that transit customers are paying about one-third of what it actually costs to provide them with bus service. The last increase in fares occurred August 2008. While we have been able to maintain the current transit fares for three years, the bus operating, maintenance, and fuel costs have continued to rise. We are now faced with the need to increase fares for the FY 2012 transit operating budget to a level which would maintain the one-third customer share of the bus operating cost.

**At this time, there are no proposed service cuts to express, local or ADA paratransit services.** By raising fares, Gwinnett County Transit can avoid making any further major cuts to the transit service that would create severe hardships for our customers who depend on the bus to get to work, medical appointments, and other necessary travel. Gwinnett County Transit will continue to monitor ridership and make minor service adjustments, if necessary, to maintain the most cost-effective operations. This will include the possibility of increasing service where needed as the economy recovers.

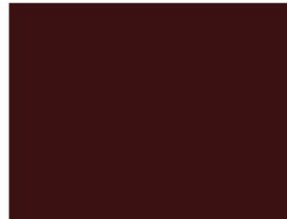
As proposed, cash fares for express and local service types would increase by 25 percent. The new fares would be: \$3.75 for Zone 1 Express, \$5 for Zone 2 Express, \$2.50 for Local Regular Fare, and \$1.25 for Local Half Fare. In order to lessen the impact of this fare increase on our frequent use customers, the 10-Ride Tickets and Monthly Passes for regular, full fares would be discounted to provide a lower price per trip:

Type	Proposed Price Per Trip		
	Cash	10-Ride Ticket	Monthly Pass
Zone 1 Express	\$3.75	\$3.25	\$3.25
Zone 2 Express	\$5.00	\$4.50	\$4.50
Local Regular	\$2.50	\$2.25	\$2.00

As proposed, ADA paratransit fares would increase by 14 percent to \$4.00 cash and \$40 for a 10-Ride Ticket. This would be the first fare increase for ADA paratransit service since its inception in November 2002. Since the ADA paratransit fare could be increased up to \$5, or twice the amount of the proposed local regular cash fare, holding the fare increase to \$4 per trip would provide a 20 percent discount to the ADA paratransit customer.



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The GTAB encourages customers who pay cash for their fares to convert to prepaid 10-Ride Tickets and Monthly Passes so they can take advantage of the discounts that these products offer over cash fares. Also, businesses are able to provide employees with tax-free transit commuter benefits of up to \$230 a month. Federal tax law allows an employee to receive transit benefits either by receiving up to \$230 a month in tax-free benefits paid by the employer to cover commuting costs on all modes and combinations of public transportation and vanpool commuting costs, or have employees pay for commuting costs using pre-tax payroll deductions of up to \$230 per month. A combination of these two programs may also be used.

Even with the proposed higher fares, Gwinnett County Transit is still a great bargain compared to automobile ownership costs of insurance and ongoing maintenance, gasoline costs of \$3.50 a gallon, and parking fees if headed to Atlanta.

### 2011 Gwinnett County Transit Proposed Fare Increase

<b>Express Service Fares</b>		
Zone 1 (Route 102, 410, and 103A)	One-Way Cash	\$3.75
	10-Ride Ticket Book	\$32.50
	Monthly Pass	\$130.00
Zone 2 (Routes 101, 103, 412, 418)	One-Way Cash	\$5.00
	10-Ride Ticket Book	\$45.00
	Monthly Pass	\$180.00
<b>Local Service Fares</b>		
Regular Fare	One-Way Cash	\$2.50
	10-Ride Ticket Book	\$22.50
	Monthly Pass	\$80.00
Half Fare (Persons 65 Years of Age or Older, Persons with Disabilities, and Persons with Medicare Cards (For applicable routes, refer to note 1 below.)	One-Way Cash (Local)	\$1.25
	10-Ride Ticket Book (Local)	\$12.50
Children Fare (For rules, refer to note 2 below.)		Free
<b>ADA Paratransit Service Fares</b>		
ADA Eligible Rider	One-Way Cash	\$4.00
	10-Ride Ticket Book	\$40.00
	Personal Care Attendant	Free
	Traveling Companion	\$4.00



GWINNETT COUNTY TRANSIT



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## Transfer Rules within GCT for Riders Paying Fares

- Free transfers for 1.5 hours from start of a trip, for up to 3 transfers, where the current route is different from the last route, and between like services (express to express, local to local)
- Upcharges apply when transferring to a higher fared service

## Upcharges for Service Upgrade

Regular Local to Zone 1 Express	One-Way Cash	\$1.25
Regular Local to Zone 2 Express Routes 103, 412	One-Way Cash	\$2.50
Half Fare Local to Zone 1 Express (For rules, refer to note 3 below.)	One-Way Cash	\$2.50
Half Fare Local to Zone 2 Express Routes 103, 412	One-Way Cash	\$3.75
ADA Paratransit to Zone 2 Express Routes 101, 103, 412	One-Way Cash	\$1.00
<b>Transfers to / from MARTA</b>		Free
<b>Breeze Card</b>		\$1.00

### Notes:

1. Eligible persons pay Half Fare when riding a) local bus routes (\$1.25) and b) express route 410 trips between 10:00am and 3:00pm (\$1.75).
2. On local service routes, children no taller than the height of the fare box may ride free when accompanied by a fare paying parent or guardian. On express service routes, a child may ride free, provided he/she sits in the lap of the parent or guardian. If a child is brought onto the coach in a carrier of any sort, then the parent or guardian must store the carrier in the undercarriage bin during the trip.
3. Exception: \$0.50 upcharge applies when transferring from Half Fare Local to Half Fare Express Route 410 trips between 10:00am and 3:00pm.