

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7.1

MEETING DATE: July 2, 2025

**STAFF REPORT – COVER SHEET**

SUBJECT: BC Transit – Chilliwack Fare Review DATE: June 24, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Engineering PREPARED BY: Doug Mossey

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**1. SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

At the regular Council meeting on June 17, 2025, the BC Transit Chilliwack Fare Review was presented to Council. Staff updated the recommendation to reflect feedback provided by Council.

A decision to adopt the recommended fare increases is required.

**2. RECOMMENDATION:**

Recommendation that Council approve the amended transit fare increase as detailed in Table 1 of this report effective October 1, 2025.

  
Kara Jefford, Director of Engineering

**3. FINANCE COMMENTS:**

Revenues received from transit fares are utilized to offset the overall costs to operate the City's transit service. On average, transit fare revenues offset approximately 30% of the costs of the transit system. It is important that rates are reviewed and updated at intervals to help keep up with transit inflationary cost increases in an attempt to maintain the general user pay portion ratio.

  
Glen Savard, Director of Finance

**4. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S  
RECOMMENDATION/COMMENTS:**

Supports recommendation.

  
David Blain, CAO

**STAFF REPORT ON  
BC TRANSIT FARE REVIEW**

PREPARED BY:	<u>Doug Mossey</u>	DATE:	<u>June 24, 2025</u>
POSITION:	<u>Manager of Transportation &amp; Drainage</u>	DEPARTMENT:	<u>Engineering</u>

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**1. FACTORS:**

- 1.1 At the regular Council meeting on June 17, 2025, the BC Transit Chilliwack Fare Review was presented to Council. Staff updated the recommendation to reflect feedback provided by Council.
- 1.2 The amended transit fare increase, as detailed in Table 1 below, has been amended to preserve the current fare for seniors with respect to the 30-Day Pass. This ensures that seniors will continue to have an affordable option when taking transit.
- 1.3 Single Ride fares represented 1% of Umo fare revenue in the previous year. As a result of its low usage, it is recommended that concession fares for seniors and students be combined into one Single Ride fare in order to reduce complexity and potential conflicts with drivers.
- 1.4 A combined Single Ride fare will allow for the implementation of fare capping through Umo, which ensures Umo users will never pay more than the equivalent of two single fares per day rather than requiring them to pre-purchase a DayPASS. The system automatically tracks payments and provides unlimited travel once the fare cap is reached. This fare capping cannot be implemented without combining Single Ride fares into one fare.
- 1.5 Similar to the above, it is recommended that concession fares for seniors and students be combined into one DayPASS fare in order to reduce complexity and potential conflicts with drivers. To improve access and convenience, passengers will be able to purchase a DayPASS directly on board by paying twice the single fare upfront. This eliminates the need for transfers and make it easier for cash users. This includes the introduction of automatic DayPASS capping for Umo users (and eventually debit/credit tap users), so that once two fares are paid in a single day, the system automatically upgrades to a DayPASS. This creates a more seamless and rider-friendly experience. Similar to fare capping, this system cannot be implemented without combining DayPASS fares into one fare.
- 1.6 The amended Chilliwack fare increases are illustrated in Table 1 below. The senior concession fare for the 30-day pass will remain at \$35 per month to maintain affordability for those over age 65.
- 1.7 The Student concession 30-day pass will continue to be discounted, however will increase over the 3-year period. The Student rate for the 30-day pass and the Semester Pass is

available to youth ages 13 to 18. Students 12 and under remain free to ride on transit. Students of University of Fraser Valley get U-Pass with their student fees each term at a rate of approximately \$40 per semester for local transit.

Table 1

Fare Products		Current Fares	25/26	26/27	27/28
Single Ride	Adult	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.75
	Student/ Senior	\$1.75			
DayPASS*	Adult	\$5.00	\$4.50	\$5.00	\$5.50
	Student/ Senior	\$4.00			
10-Rides	Adult	\$18.00	Discontinued		
	Student/ Senior	\$15.75			
30-Day Pass	Adult	\$44	\$47	\$53	\$59
	Student	\$35	\$40	\$45	\$49
	Senior	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35
Semester Pass	Student	\$112	\$128	\$144	\$155

\*DayPASS-on-Board and Fare Capping to generate automatic DayPASS.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION & SUBSTANTIATION:

Recommendation:

Recommendation that Council approve the amended transit fare increase as detailed in Table 1 of this report effective October 1, 2025.

Substantiation:

The fare adjustments simplify fare structures, ensure affordability and promote ridership while aligning fares across the region by 2027.