



**AGENDA AND NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT JOINT POWERS BOARD
Friday, April 24, 2020 – 2:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Only – See log-in information below**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. FARE REDUCTION RECOMMENDATION
- III. ADJOURNMENT

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Access Code: 665-119-173



TO: Todd Prafke
City Administrator

DATE: 04/20/20

FROM: Sandi Owen, Operations Manager
Wayne Albers, Compliance Manager

RE: MRVT Fares

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

Approve a reduction in fares for the period April 27, 2020 – August 30, 2020.

BACKGROUND

MnDOT Office of Transit and Active Transportation (OTAT) has advised Minnesota transit providers that the CARES Act has allocated additional funding for transit systems. OTAT will use the additional funding to pay 100% of expenses after revenues are deducted for the foreseeable future. OTAT continues to work on the exact details of how this will occur, but estimates range from six months or until the end of 2020. Several transit systems in Minnesota had already begun to offer free rides in an effort to help control the spread of COVID-19 by, in effect, minimizing contact between drivers and passengers.

We recommend the Board approve a reduction in fares effective April 27, 2020 through August 30, 2020 as follows:

Dial a Ride (St Peter, Le Sueur and Kasota)	No Fare/Free Rides
Le Sueur/St Peter/Mankato Route	No Fare/Free Rides
Student/Pre-school (if date extended)	½ the current fare
Gustavus Contract (Gus Bus)	½ the current contract rate
Hourly Rate	½ the current rate

At this time we are recommending a return to regular fares in September. This is an issue that we would plan to revisit with the Board prior to September. We do anticipate more information to come out about the amount and length of funding. This recommendation maintains a very conservative approach as we would rather say to our customers "We will have free fares through August," and then later be able to say "now we have received additional funds and can extend free fares until XXXXX." We do not want to say we have free fares until December 31st and then experience funding changes and have to tell everyone we have to start charging again.

One other note. This will be a great time to review the overall fare structure including the two biggest issues we have identified including simplicity and uniformity of fares. As you may recall

we planned to have that discussion this summer and promised you additional data and fare structure options. We still are planning on doing that work and having that discussion yet this summer.

FISCAL IMPACT:

With the CARES Act funding, there would be no financial impact to the system. All expenditures will be covered and the savings would directly benefit passengers.

ALTERNATIVES/VARIATIONS:

Approval: If approved the changes would be publicized through social media and on the buses.

Denial: No further action would be taken without additional direction from the Board. Current rates would continue to be charged.

Modification of the Resolution: This is always an option of the Board.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or concerns on this agenda item.

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MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF NICOLLET)
CITY OF SAINT PETER)**

RESOLUTION MODIFYING FARES FROM APRIL 27, 2020 TO AUGUST 31, 2020.

WHEREAS, Minnesota River Valley Transit (MRVT) operates a transit system that is funded by a combination of Minnesota Department of Transportation funds and fares; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota will receive additional funding for transit through the Federal CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, the State Office of Transportation has indicated that those funds will pay local share of costs; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Valley Transit Board believes that these additional CARES funds should help reduce the cost to passengers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT, THAT:

1. Fares for MRVT use and riders shall be set as follows for the period April 27, 2020 through August 31, 2020:

Dial a Ride (St Peter, Le Sueur and Kasota)	No Fare/Free Rides
Le Sueur/St Peter/Mankato Route	No Fare/Free Rides
Student/Pre-school (if date extended)	½ the current fare
Gustavus Contract (Gus Bus)	½ the current contract rate
Hourly Rate	½ the current rate

2. Staff is directed to place fares as an agenda item for the June meeting of the Board.

Adopted by the Board of the Minnesota River Valley Transit this 24th day of April, 2020.

Mark Huntington
Chairperson

ATTEST:

Todd Prafke
Saint Peter City Administrator