
REPORT

TO: TRANSIT & PARKING COMMISSION
FROM: Crystal Martin, Paratransit Program Manager
SUBJECT: METRO FARE TARRIFF – AGENCY FARES FOR PARATRANSIT
DATE: 9/1/09

In preparation for State of Wisconsin changes in Medicaid transportation delivery, the ADA Transit Subcommittee has referred a motion for discussion to the Transit & Parking Commission on agency fares as permitted by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Motion from ADA Transit Subcommittee:

The ADA Transit Subcommittee to the Transit and Parking Commission moved referral to the Transit and Parking Commission to include an ‘agency fare’ in the Metro Transit Fare Tariff. Although ‘agency fares’ have been allowed by the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations on paratransit service, it has not been included in the Metro Transit Fare Tariff in the past. “Agency” should be defined in a technical way so that qualifying entities can be contracted with for the allocated cost of a Metro Paratransit ride.

Discussion Points

1. The CITY of Madison has a long-standing arrangement with Dane County Human Services to fund a large percentage of ADA Paratransit trips taken by Medicaid eligible individuals with disabilities.
2. The CITY of Madison has developed additional arrangements with other entities with similar ability to fund specific ADA Paratransit trips taken by eligible individuals with disabilities.
3. New or other entities than Dane County will become responsible for allocating these funds. These other entities may or may not have the same interest in allocating these funds for transportation.
4. The ADA allows an entity to charge a fare higher than the maximum of twice the fixed-route adult cash fare as specified by the ADA to a social service agency or other organization for agency trips as defined in 49 CFR Part 37.131 (c) (4).
5. The City of Madison is able to sustain more efficient and broadly available access to transportation for people with disabilities by sharing resources in this way.
6. An Agency Fare is supported by an organization as defined in 49 CFR Part 604, Appendix A “Listing of Federal Programs Providing Transportation Assistance” and said

agency is responsible for arranging and/or providing specialized transportation schedules and/or pays for the trip on behalf of the paratransit customer.

7. The current formula with respect to ADA Complementary Paratransit for contracted ADA paratransit, the cost per trip or trip cost, is Metro Transit's previous year's audited cost per ride, by mode, adjusted by Madison to reflect current year variables in service expenses.

Budget Impact:

For 2009, Metro will provide approximately 275,000 ADA paratransit trips. Of these, approximately 162,500 are supported by a contracted rate. This accounts for 59.1% of the trips served, or \$3,003,000 in annual revenue for an \$8,200,000 budget. The equivalent paratransit fares that would be collected without a contracted rate would be approximately \$480,000. Net difference without a contracted rate would be \$ 2,523,000.

The current trend is that these programs continue to grow while the pressure to reduce costs for human services programs also increases.