



Consolidated  
Transportation  
Services Agency

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Board of Directors**

**DATE: May 9, 2012**

**FROM: David Melko, Senior Transportation Planner**

**SUBJECT: FARE STRUCTURE FOR HEALTH EXPRESS SERVICE**

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Adopt Resolution No. 12-01 approving the fare structure for the non-emergency medical transportation service known as Health Express, as shown in Attachment 1.

### **BACKGROUND**

Since January 2009, the Western Placer Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (WPCTSA) has contracted with Seniors First, Inc., to provide the non-emergency medical transportation service known as Health Express. Under the Transportation Development Act (TDA), services provided exclusively to the elderly and individuals with disabilities, such as Health Express, must meet at least ten percent of their operating costs through fares.

Currently Health Express does not charge a passenger fare. Health Express meets its fare recovery responsibilities under the TDA with funding contributions provided by Sutter and Kaiser Hospitals. From 1982 to 2008, the previously designated CTSA, Pride Industries, charged passenger fares for non-emergency medical transportation trips.

The adopted Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) for the WPCTSA recommended that it may be appropriate to revisit the issue of fares. In addition, Sutter and Kaiser Hospitals asked that we look at implementing fares in an effort to stabilize the long-term financial base, facilitate future expansion of Health Express in south Placer County, while continuing to encourage frequent use.

### **DISCUSSION**

Over the past six months, staff has engaged with Seniors First, Sutter and Kaiser Hospitals in a process to develop a fare structure for the service. The proposed fare structure shown in Attachment 1 is the result of that effort, and the consensus recommendation. The PCTPA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Transit Operators Working Group (TOWG) concurred with this recommendation at their April meetings.

A public hearing on the proposed fare structure was held as part of the WPCTSA Board Meeting on April 11, 2012. Staff received four comments and provided responses, which are shown as Attachment 2.

Staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution No. 12-01 approving the fare structure for the non-emergency medical transportation service known as Health Express, as shown in Attachment 1. If adopted, the fare structure will go into effect July 2012 or shortly thereafter.

## Health Express Fare Structure

### Health Express Single Ride

(Fares shown are per one-way trip)

Trips	<u>With</u> Discount Card*	<u>Without</u> Discount Card
<b>Advance Reservation Trip in Placer County</b>	Free	\$1.25
<b>Same Day Trip in Placer County</b>	\$1.25	\$2.50
<b>Advance Reservation Trip Sacramento Trip</b>	\$2.50	\$5.00
<b>Same Day Sacramento Trip</b>	\$5.00	\$10.00

\* With Medicare, Medi-Cal, Medicaid, Public Transit ADA/Disability/Senior ID Card.

### Health Express Fare Card

10 Ride Fare Card                      \$12.50

\* Fare Card is NON-Transferrable to public transit systems.

\* Fare Card is NON-Refundable.

*Effective July 2012*

## **Attachment 2 – Public Comments on Proposed Health Express Fare Structure**

From: Cindi Lang, Outreach Coordinator - Placer County Child Health & Disability Prevention:  
Wednesday, April 11, 2012 4:24 PM

**Comment 1:** Thank you for providing the background information and rational for the fare rate change, and in terms that I believe I actually understand! I support this proposed fare rate as it seems affordable and maintains free transportation to those with the most need.

**Response 1:** Comment noted.

**Comment 2:** As Medi-Cal is Medicaid in California, will Medi-Cal beneficiaries be eligible for the discount by presenting their Medi-Cal BIC (Beneficiary Identification Card)?

**Response 2:** Yes.

**Comment 3:** Some medical assistance programs provide services to residents who do not have satisfactory citizenship documentation. As these persons are not eligible to Medi-Cal, will there be a process to establish their eligibility to obtain a Discount Card?

**Response 3:** We are not proposing to implement a stand alone eligibility process for individuals using Health Express at this time. We are relying on the eligibility processes already in place at the local public transit operators. To become eligible for a discount card, an individual would apply for one of the transit operator senior/disabled discount ID cards. Auburn Transit, Lincoln Transit, Placer County Transit and/or Roseville Transit all have such discount ID cards and honor each other's card in their respective fare structures. Assuming an individual becomes eligible they would show their transit operator discount ID to obtain the discounted Health Express fare.

For those individuals who cannot afford a fare under any circumstance, a free ride on Health Express will still be available. We are calling these "scholarship" rides. Funding for these rides will be picked up by Sutter and Kaiser Hospitals as part of their community benefit program.

**Comment 4:** Will the transportation voucher program continue (as an option of last resort)?

**Response 4:** Yes. There are no changes proposed to the voucher program.