

scgovFact Sheet

Proposed increases in SCAT fares

What is proposed?

A proposed Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) increase in fares was brought forward by the Sarasota County Commission at its budget workshop on Tuesday, June 14, 2011. The next step in the process is for the commission, sitting as the Sarasota County Transportation Authority, to consider authorization to advertise a public hearing for fare increases. That authorization is expected to be considered at the board's regularly scheduled meeting on June 29. If approved, the authorization would begin the process for the Sarasota County Transportation Authority and the Federal Transit Administration to approve fare increases for SCAT.

When will the proposed fare increases take effect?

If approved, it is anticipated that fare increases will start on Oct. 1, 2011, which is the beginning of the county's new fiscal year.

Why is SCAT proposing fare increases?

With countywide anticipated revenue shortfalls, SCAT would have experienced an approximate 10 percent reduction in transit services beginning Oct. 1, 2011. The proposed fare increases will eliminate the necessity for service reductions in fiscal year 2012.

How much are the proposed fare increases for SCAT service?

SCAT is proposing to increase the regular one-way, fixed-route SCAT fare by 50 cents, from the current rate of 75 cents per trip to a proposed new fare of \$1.25, which will bring SCAT fares in line with other transit systems in the region. Proposed increases in the SCAT Day Pass, 7-Day Pass and 30-Day Pass and discounted fixed-route fares for seniors and persons with disabilities also will be recommended to the Sarasota County Transportation Authority at the June 29 meeting.

Are paratransit (SCAT Plus) fares proposed to increase?

Yes, the SCAT Plus fare is proposed to increase. According to federal regulations, the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) fare shall not exceed twice the regular one-way, fixed route fare, but it could increase from the current \$1.50 per one-way trip. The current Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) fare is \$2 per one-way trip and may also be proposed to increase. Any increase in the TD fare requires approval of the Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board and the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (FCTD).

What will happen before the proposed fare increases?

Before any fare increase can take effect, SCAT is required by federal law to complete an analysis of the public impact of the fare increase, particularly as it impacts minority and low-income groups. In addition, federal Law requires public meetings to be held to take public input on the proposed fare increases. At this time, public meetings are planned for mid-August 2011, but dates, times and locations have not been determined. SCAT will recommend dates for public meetings to the Sarasota County Transportation Authority at the board meeting on June 29. Notices will be posted in area newspapers, on the buses and at major transfer locations.

Will the SCAT Express fare increase?

No increase is expected to the recently introduced SCAT Express fare of \$2.50 per one-way trip and \$85 for the monthly pass.

Will the coordinated MCAT/SCAT R-Card fare increase?

No increase is expected to the price for the R-Card, which allows purchasers to ride both SCAT buses and Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT) buses. The price for the R-card is \$60 and the discounted R-Card price for persons age 60 and older and/or with disabilities is \$30.

