

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

CODIFIED ORDINANCE NO. 4
(as amended through 6/17/21)

An Ordinance Establishing a Metropolitan Transit System Fare-Pricing Schedule

SECTION 4.1: FINDINGS

This Ordinance is adopted to implement a Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Fare-Pricing Schedule approved by the San Diego Association of Governments.

SECTION 4.2: DEFINITIONS

- A. Senior - Any person 65 or persons at least 60 years old as of September 1, 2019, are eligible for the senior discount. This definition applies to persons who seek to purchase and/or use a Senior/Disabled/Medicare Monthly Pass or Senior/Disabled/Medicare cash fare on fixed-route transit or general public demand-responsive services.
- B. Disabled/Medicare - Any person with a permanent or temporary mental or physical disability. This definition applies to persons who seek to purchase and/or use a Senior/Disabled/Medicare Monthly Pass or Senior/Disabled/Medicare cash fare for fixed-route transit or general public demand-responsive services.
- C. Youth - Any person 6-18 years of age (inclusive)
- D. College Student- Any person enrolled as a student with a current enrollment for seven units or more, or the equivalent non-unit hours, in a participating accredited San Diego area post-secondary school.
- E. Child - Any person five years of age or under.
- F. PRONTO - The region's Fare Collection system that allows passengers to pay for transit fares using a PRONTO card or PRONTO mobile app. The PRONTO Card/App may hold either transit products or cash (as Stored Value) for use on regional transit services. Transit products may include, but are not limited to, Monthly Passes, post-secondary passes, single-day and multi-day passes. The PRONTO Card utilizes wireless technology to interface with validator devices on buses, rail platforms, and Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs). Passengers must tap their PRONTO Card or validate their PRONTO mobile app barcode on a validator, or purchase a one-way ticket at a PRONTO TVM, or pay a cash one-way fare on board MTS Bus to utilize transportation services.
- G. Bus - Rubber-tired transit vehicles operated by MTS and NCTD.
- H. Trolley - Light rail transit service operated by MTS.
- I. Local Service - Fixed-route bus service on local or arterial roads serving neighborhood destinations and feeding transit centers. Includes BREEZE and MTS Bus. Also includes routes operating extensively on arterials with transit priority features and limited stops (Rapid Services).

J. Rapid/Express/Corridor Services - A frequent transit service with limited stops including but not limited to major transit centers, residential centers, and activity centers that have more than six stops outside Centre City. Corridor services include MTS Trolley, MTS Rapid, SPRINTER, and express buses generally traveling less than 50 percent of the one-way trip miles on freeways. Corridor services must average at least 12 miles per hour, with an average passenger trip length of approximately 10 miles or under.

K. Rapid Express - Bus service with stops only at major transit centers, residential centers and activity centers; generally traveling 50 percent or more of the one-way trip miles on freeways; averaging at least 20 miles per hour, with an average passenger trip length of over 10.0 miles, and using commuter coaches.

L. Rural Service - Bus service providing limited daily or weekly service linking rural areas to a multimodal transit center or major shopping center and designated by the MTS Board of Directors as having a special fare. Service is generally provided in rural areas with one-way vehicle trip lengths ranging from 15 to 80 miles.

M. Station - A light rail, Bus Rapid Transit or commuter rail passenger stop.

N. Transfer - The action of a passenger leaving one bus, train, or other transit vehicle and boarding a subsequent bus, train, or other vehicle to complete his or her trip.

O. ADA Complementary Paratransit Service - Specialized origin-to-destination transportation services provided to persons who qualify as eligible for such services under the guidelines of the ADA.

P. Personal Care Attendant - In relation to the ADA complementary paratransit service, a personal care attendant is a person who is designated by the ADA eligible passenger to aid in their mobility. The person may be a friend, family member, or paid employee. A personal care attendant is not charged a fare on the ADA complementary paratransit service vehicle on which she/he accompanies the ADA-eligible passenger. The need for and use of a personal care attendant must be indicated at the time of eligibility certification.

Q. Companion - In relation to the ADA complementary paratransit service, a companion is someone who accompanies an ADA passenger on board a paratransit vehicle, but is not a personal care attendant as specified in the passenger's ADA certification application.

R. Rapid - MTS brand name for a premium rapid transit service operated wholly or partly on exclusive bus lanes, guideways, managed lanes, or use of other transit priority measures. Depending on specific route characteristics, individual Rapid routes may be classified as MTS Rapid or MTS Rapid Express for purposes of Section 4.5.

S. Universal Pass (U-Pass) - Provides unlimited rides on select transit services for an agreed upon period of time to individuals associated with a sponsoring entity, where the sponsoring entity guarantees universal participation/purchase by its employees, students, or other membership.

(Section 4.2 amended 6/17/2021)

SECTION 4.3: REGIONAL FARE-PRICING SCHEDULE

4.3.1 Fare Product Limitations

4.3.1.1 Regional fare products may only be used on MTS Bus and Trolley, and NCTD BREEZE and SPRINTER

4.3.1.2 Premium Regional fare may only be used on all services listed above, as well as, *Rapid Express*, certain FLEX routes (listed in the NCTD Riders Guide), and Rural services.

4.3.1.3 COASTER Regional Month and Day Pass fares may be used on all transit services operated by MTS and NCTD except LIFT, Access, and certain FLEX routes (as listed in the NCTD Riders Guide).

4.3.2 Fares and Pass Products

Tables 1 through 4 list transit fares available. The tables show the fare for each type of service by passenger category and which passes are accepted on specific services.

Table 1: One-Way Fares

Service	One-Way Cash	
	Adult	S/D/M & Youth
Regional: MTS Bus, <i>Rapid Express</i> , Trolley, NCTD BREEZE and SPRINTER	\$2.50	\$1.25
Premium Regional: MTS <i>Rapid Express</i>	\$5.00	\$2.50
NCTD FLEX	\$5.00	\$2.50
NCTD FLEX 372	\$10.00	\$5.00
MTS Rural	\$8.00	\$4.00
MTS Access/NCTD LIFT	N/A	\$5.00

Table 2: One-Way Fares - COASTER

Service	One-Way Fare	
	Adult	S/D/M & Youth
NCTD COASTER 1 Zone	\$5.00	\$2.50
NCTD COASTER 2 Zones	\$5.75	\$2.75
NCTD COASTER 3 Zones	\$6.50	\$3.25

Table 3: Day Pass Prices

Service	Day Pass	
	Adult	S/D/M & Youth
Regional*	\$6.00	\$3.00
Premium Regional*	\$12.00	\$6.00
COASTER Regional	\$15.00	\$7.50

*Regional and Premium Regional 1-Day Passes are only available for institutions. The general public can earn a Day Pass through Stored Value.

Table 4: Monthly Pass Prices

Service	Monthly	
	Adult	S/D/M & Youth
Regional	\$72.00	\$23.00
Premium Regional	\$100.00	\$32.00
NCTD COASTER 1 Zone	\$140.00	\$58.00
NCTD COASTER 2 Zones	\$161.00	
NCTD COASTER 3 Zones	\$182.00	

4.3.3 COASTER Zones

The COASTER Fares are based on three zones. The number of zones between stations is shown in Table 5. Passengers must purchase a single-trip or round-trip ticket or pass based on the number of zones between their origin and destination.

**Table 5
COASTER Stations and Zones**

To \ From	Oceanside	Carlsbad Village	Carlsbad Poinsettia	Encinitas	Solana Beach	Sorrento Valley	Old Town	Santa Fe Depot
Oceanside		1	1	1	1	2	3	3
Carlsbad Village	1		1	1	1	2	3	3
Carlsbad Poinsettia	1	1		1	1	2	3	3
Encinitas	1	1	1		1	2	3	3
Solana Beach	1	1	1	1		2	3	3
Sorrento Valley	2	2	2	2	2		2	2
Old Town	3	3	3	3	3	2		1
Santa Fe Depot	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	

One-way and round-trip tickets and passes are valid only for travel between the number of zones or the stations listed on the ticket or pass.

4.3.4 Senior/Disabled/Medicare and Youth

The single-trip Cash Fare for persons eligible for S/D/M and Youth fares shall be 50 percent of the single-trip regular fare, rounded down to the nearest \$0.05.

4.3.5 Children

Children five years old and under may ride free on all bus, light rail, and commuter services when traveling with a paying passenger.

4.3.6 Classroom Day Pass

Classroom Day Passes may be issued to school and youth groups (up to 18 years of age) on an advance sales basis only. Each group shall consist of a minimum of 12 people. One chaperone per every five students may ride at the Regional Classroom Day Pass price.

Valid on	Price
MTS Bus, SPRINTER, BREEZE, and Rapid Express	\$1.50
COASTER only	\$5
COASTER plus any of the following: MTS Bus, MTS Trolley, Rapid Express, SPRINTER, and BREEZE	\$6.50

A maximum of 135 students and adults per group are permitted to ride a single scheduled COASTER train. Advance confirmation of the availability of space is required at the time of purchase for all COASTER Classroom Day Pass.

4.3.8 Juror Day Pass

Any state or federal court in San Diego County may purchase Juror Passes after signing an agreement with MTS. Juror Passes are not valid for use on any special service with a higher fare (e.g., Stadium Bus Service) or ADA complementary paratransit service. The agreement may include a portion of passes to be supplied free of charge to the courts in exchange for promoting transit use in all juror summons.

A Regional Juror Day Pass is valid for travel on all NCTD and MTS services except Rapid Express, COASTER, or Rural services. A COASTER Regional Juror Day Pass is valid for travel on all NCTD and MTS services.

The price for Regional Juror Day Passes sold to the courts shall be based on the price of the Regional Day Pass and included in the agreement with the court. The price for COASTER Regional Juror Day Passes sold to the courts shall be based on the price of the COASTER Regional Day Pass and included in the agreement with the court.

Each Juror Day Pass becomes activated/valid on the day it is tapped by the passenger.

4.3.9 Advance Purchase Group Day Pass Sales

Entities (e.g., social service groups, employers, schools) which purchase Day or Multi-Day Passes in bulk or for other authorized purposes, shall be entitled to reduced fares.

4.3.10 Monthly Passes

All Calendar Month Passes shall be valid from the first day of the calendar month until the end of the Service Day on the last day of the calendar month.

(Section 4.3 amended 6/17/2021)

SECTION 4.4: PRONTO FARE MEDIA

4.4.1 Card Acquisition and Registration

MTS, the administrator of the PRONTO Card Program, may require a nonrefundable fee for passengers wishing to acquire a PRONTO Card. The fee shall not exceed \$7.

PRONTO Card users may elect to register their card. If registered, users will be entitled to one free replacement per year if the card is lost or stolen. Additionally, registered users of the PRONTO Card are entitled to balance protection. Registered users will be reimbursed the remaining value of their cash or transit product at the time the card is reported lost or stolen. Reimbursement will be provided on a new PRONTO Card. An unregistered user shall have no right to reimbursement or refund of a PRONTO Card balance even if the card is lost or stolen. Registered PRONTO Cards are not transferable.

PRONTO Card users may opt not to participate in the registration program, but shall be required to pay the above-mentioned fee and will not receive the benefits of registration. Whether or not a user pays a fee or participates in the registration program, the PRONTO Card shall be the property of MTS and may be revoked and/or confiscated by MTS or NCTD.

4.4.2 Validating a PRONTO Card

PRONTO Card users who have a transit fare product or Stored Value loaded on their card must validate their card each time they board a bus or train. Passengers who fail to tap and validate their PRONTO Card as required may be deemed to not be in possession of a valid fare consistent with the ordinances and policies of MTS and NCTD.

4.4.3 Inspection and Use of PRONTO Cards and Mobile App

Users of the PRONTO Card must produce the PRONTO Card or Mobile App for inspection by authorized MTS or NCTD personnel or their designated agents. The PRONTO Card and Mobile App are intended as fare payment devices on MTS, NCTD, or any transportation service that is part of the San Diego Regional Fare System. Any nonauthorized use of the card or app is strictly forbidden.

4.4.4 Refunds of Stored Value and Transit Products

Refunds will not be issued for transit pass products or Stored Value loaded onto a PRONTO Card.

4.4.5 Photographs of Cardholders

A photograph of a registered card holder may be printed onto a PRONTO Card if requested by the registered user. MTS or NCTD may charge a fee for placement of a photograph on the PRONTO Card. PRONTO Cards bearing a photograph only may be used by the person whose photograph appears on the card. The photograph provided by the customer may be used to verify a non-photo printed card is the account holder.

4.4.6 Stored Value

The Stored Value feature allows passengers to load cash value into the PRONTO account for use with the PRONTO card or app. A PRONTO Card with Stored Value may not be used to purchase an additional or replacement PRONTO Card. A PRONTO Card with Stored Value may not be used to purchase fare products or Stored Value to be loaded onto a different PRONTO Card.

4.4.7 Best Fare for Stored Value

The PRONTO system has the ability to charge customers (using PRONTO Stored Value) the cost of a one-way fare per boarding up to a daily and monthly maximum equal to the cost of a Day or Monthly Pass and not more ("capped") for the type of service being used (i.e., Regional or Premium Regional but excluding COASTER). Additional boardings made during the day or month after reaching the cap are free.

4.4.8 Free Transfers for One-Way Fares

Riders using the PRONTO Stored Value feature can transfer free to a Regional class service (transfers from Regional to Regional, Premium Regional to Regional, Rural to Regional) within two (2) hours of paying a one-way fare. No transfers are allowed for MTS Access, NCTD LIFT and COASTER services.

(Section 4.4 amended 6/17/2021)

SECTION 4.5: MOBILE TICKETING

PRONTO Mobile ticketing used on a mobile phone application (or “app”) allows for the purchase of many of the fares available. It has the capability to offer the full range of fares and passes, including special events, universal passes, discounted fares, one-way fares, day passes and monthly passes. The products offered are at the discretion of the transit agencies, through a joint decision. Discounted fares and universal passes require proof of eligibility to make the fares available. Refunds will not be issued for transit pass products loaded onto PRONTO mobile ticket applications. Customers are responsible for maintaining a charged and working mobile device in order to utilize the mobile app as valid fare.

(Section 4.5 amended 6/17/2021)

SECTION 4.6: DISCOUNTED POST-SECONDARY AND GROUP PASSES

4.6.1 Post-Secondary Discounted Passes

MTS and NCTD shall each have the right to negotiate agreements, individually or jointly, with educational institutions. MTS and NCTD may establish their own policies, terms or eligibility rules regarding the sale of the passes in the sales agreements; however, the prices to the education institutions must conform to this Ordinance.

4.6.1.1 Discounted Calendar Monthly Post-Secondary Regional Pass

The price of a Regional Monthly for post-secondary institutions shall be 80 percent of the price of an Adult Regional Monthly. The discounted pass shall be valid for unlimited travel during a calendar month.

4.6.1.2 Discounted Post-Secondary Regional Quarter/Trimester/Semester Pass

The price of the quarter/trimester/semester pass for post-secondary educational institutions shall be based on 65 percent of the price of an Adult Regional Monthly, divided by 31 and multiplied by the average number of calendar days in the academic term of all institutions with similar academic terms.

The discounted Regional pass shall be valid for unlimited travel during an academic term until the end of the Service Day on the last day of the academic term. All Regional Pass rules apply to the Post-Secondary Regional Quarter/Trimester/Semester Pass.

4.6.2 Group Pass Program

4.6.2.1 PRONTO Partners Plus Group Sales Pass Program

This program is for businesses or groups who purchase Regional and Premium passes and who are willing to purchase sufficient passes to provide a full year of transportation for 10 employees or members at a discounted rate and execute a participation agreement.

The pass price discount would be based on the pre-purchase of a specified number of passes for a 12-month period. Only one three-month trial program is permitted per employer or group interested in testing the program. Advance payment is generally required for both the trial program and permanent program annual passes. Participants may purchase additional monthly passes as provided in the participation agreement at a discounted rate.

The price of the employer or group sales pass program shall be set according to the number of annual regular adult passes purchased as defined in the participation agreement. All passes purchased in excess of limits in the participation agreement may be sold at retail rates.

4.6.2.2 Universal Pass Program

MTS and NCTD shall each have the right to negotiate U-Pass agreements, individually or jointly, with sponsoring entities. MTS and NCTD may establish their own policies, terms, or eligibility rules regarding the sale of the U-Pass in the sales agreements.

Upon entering into an agreement with MTS that meets MTS requirements, sponsoring entities may purchase a U-Pass at the negotiated rate to provide to the designated, guaranteed participation group. The negotiated fare/payment shall be sufficient to compensate MTS for the estimated actual ridership from the guaranteed participation group.

(Section 4.6 amended 6/17/21)

SECTION 4.7: SPECIAL FARES

4.7.1 Sworn Peace Officers

MTS and NCTD transit operators will allow all San Diego County, state, and federal sworn peace officers, in uniform or in civilian clothes, to ride on scheduled bus and train routes without charge. Officers must show identification when requested by MTS or NCTD.

4.7.2 Temporary, Promotional, and Experimental Fares

MTS and NCTD shall have the ability to set temporary, promotional, and experimental fares. Temporary, promotional, and experimental fares are defined as fares implemented for no more than 12 months for seasonal events or for marketing purposes. These fares, because of their short term/temporary nature, are not included in this Ordinance.

SECTION 4.8: S/D/M AND YOUTH PRONTO CARDS ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

4.8.1 Eligibility

In order to prove eligibility for discounted S/D/M and Youth Passes, passengers must present one of the valid identification cards listed in the following sections: 4.8.2, 4.8.3 and 4.8.4.

4.8.2 Seniors

Seniors must provide a valid Medicare card, state-issued driver’s license, government-issued photo identification, or an S/D/M PRONTO Card with integral photo identification to purchase a One-Way fare on MTS bus, or to ride a transit vehicle with a One-Way fare or Senior Pass.

4.8.3 Persons with Disabilities and Medicare

4.8.3.1 Cash Fares

All persons with a valid MTS identification card, Medicare Card, NCTD disabled identification card, State of California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) disabled identification card, or DMV placard identification card are accepted as proof of eligibility to pay for or to use S/D/M and Youth discounted fares.

4.8.3.2 Reduced Fare PRONTO Accounts

In order to qualify and establish a reduced fare PRONTO Account, a person with a disability must present for approval their completed application form and show a government-issued photo identification card and original versions of at least one of the following (photocopies will not be accepted) at the time of submitting the application:

- 4.8.3.2.1** State of California DMV disabled identification card, (the white receipt from the DMV)
- 4.8.3.2.2** State of California DMV placard identification card
- 4.8.3.2.3** ADA Paratransit Identification Card
- 4.8.3.2.4** Certification on the application form by a doctor or a qualified health care professional or a statement from a physician or rehabilitation center (on original letterhead or prescription notepad with an original signature). In addition to the nature of the disability, the statement should identify whether it is permanent or temporary in nature
- 4.8.3.2.5** Individualized Education Program from school for disabled students
- 4.8.3.2.6** Current year Supplemental Security Income. (S.S.I.) or Social Security Administration (S.S.A.), or Social Security Disability Insurance (S.S.D.I.). award letter
- 4.8.3.2.7** Letter from the Epilepsy Foundation

- 4.8.3.2.8 Letter from the San Diego Center for the Blind
- 4.8.3.2.9 Letter from the San Diego Regional Center
- 4.8.3.2.10 Unexpired MTS or NCTD disabled identification card

4.8.4 Youth

Youth must provide upon request a valid school, college, or government-issued photo identification to establish eligibility for a Youth discount when boarding or riding a transit vehicle with a Youth pass.

(Section 4.8 amended 6/17/21)

SECTION 4.9: ADA PARATRANSIT

4.9.1 Fares

The Cash Fare for ADA paratransit per ride for ADA-certified passengers for one complete trip, origin to destination, regardless of any need to transfer between ADA transit operators or zones, shall be double the local fixed-route fare of the typical fixed-route service linking the origin and destination based on a determination by MTS or NCTD. Such determination must be made by calculating the regular fixed-route fare, including transfers for a trip of similar length, at a similar time of day, on the transit operators fixed-route system.

All ADA prepaid fare media only will be good on the system for which it was created. ADA prepaid fare media may not be loaded onto a PRONTO Card.

One personal care attendant may ride free with each ADA passenger riding an ADA paratransit or transit vehicle if requirement is identified on ADA certification.

4.9.2 LIFT and Access Transfers

Paratransit customers needing to transfer between MTS Access, and NCTD LIFT or FLEX will need to pay the corresponding fares.

(Section 4.9 amended 6/17/21)

SECTION 4.10: PUBLIC NOTICE

Before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage, a summary of this Ordinance shall be published once with the names and members voting for and against the same in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of San Diego.

(Section 4.11 amended 7/17/08; renumbered as Section 4.10 on 6/17/21)

SECTION 4.11: EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE

This Ordinance shall become effective on October 1, 2021.

(Section 4.11 amended and renumbered as Section 4.11 on 6/17/2021)

Amended: 6/17/21
Amended: 6/13/19
Amended: 10/30/14
Amended: 1/19/12
Amended: 5/28/09
Amended: 11/13/08
Amended: 7/17/08
Amended: 11/8/07
Amended: 12/8/05
Amended: 1/15/04
Amended: 11/13/03
Amended: 05/22/03
Amended: 04/10/03
Amended: 10/17/02
Amended: 06/14/01
Amended: 05/10/01
Amended: 08/10/00
Amended: 07/13/00
Amended: 05/13/99
Amended: 02/26/98
Repeal & Readopted: 07/17/97
(operative – 11/23/97)
Amended: 04/28/94
Amended: 01/13/94
Amended: 07/08/93
Amended: 02/11/93
Repealed & Readopted: 05/28/92
Amended: 01/09/92
Repealed & Readopted: 03/14/91
Amended: 09/27/90
Amended: 05/10/90
Repealed & Readopted: 02/23/89
Amended: 11/10/88
Repealed & Readopted: 02/25/88
Amended: 12/10/87
Amended: 10/09/86
Amended: 04/24/86
Amended: 03/01/86
Repealed & Readopted: 12/05/85
Amended: 07/11/85
Amended: 05/23/85
Amended: 10/04/84
Amended: 07/19/84
Repealed & Readopted: 02/27/84
Amended: 07/25/83
Amended: 07/11/83
Repealed & Readopted: 05/24/82
Amended: 10/05/81
Amended: 07/08/81
Amended: 06/30/81

Adopted: 06/08/81

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 17th day of June 2021.



Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

This Ordinance amendment was adopted by the following vote:

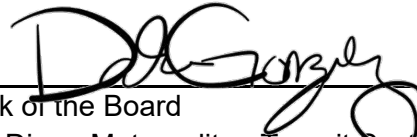
AYES: Fletcher, Sotelo-Solis, Aguirre, Elo-Rivera, Frank, Galvez, Mendoza, Whitburn, Goble, Hall, Montgomery Steppe, Moreno, Salas, Sandke

NAYES:

ABSENT: Arapostathis

ABSTAINING:

ATTEST my hand and the seal of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System this 17th day of June 2021.



Clerk of the Board
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Approved as to form:



General Counsel
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System