



PRESS RELEASE

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Nashville MTA Board approves of WeGo service changes, fare increases *After public feedback, final changes approved to address \$8.7M deficit*

NASHVILLE – This afternoon, the Nashville MTA Board of Directors voted to approve a series of WeGo service reductions and fare changes proposed by staff in May. These proposals were made to address the agency's \$8.7 million operating budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year.

"These aren't decisions we like to make. I'm thankful staff worked hard to minimize the negative impact of these service changes," Board Chair Gail Carr Williams said. "Some of the decisions we made today will be life-altering for some, but I know that when funding is available in the future, we will be poised and ready to enhance and grow our service."

Service reductions that are to go into effect September 29th are a combination of rescheduling, rerouting, combining, and in some cases, eliminating routes that exceed a reasonable cost to operate. A full breakdown of revisions to the original proposals will be available on WeGoTransit.com in the morning on Friday, June 29.

The fare increase approved by the Board will make each one-way trip on regular bus service \$2.00. Change cards, originally proposed to be eliminated on August 1, would now continue to be issued until December 31, 2020. Part of the fare increase will be invested to cover the costs of service added due to the feedback received.

The Board opted to amend two aspects of the revised service and fare change proposal during the meeting. The first was regarding the proposed fare increase for WeGo's paratransit service. The revised proposal was to increase this rate from \$3.40 per trip to \$4.00 per trip; the Board voted instead to only raise that fare to \$3.70 per trip for Nashville's residents with disabilities for this door-to-door service. The other change made was the recommendation that the approved Fare Increase go into effect on August 2, rather than August 1, so as not to conflict information streams with Election Day for the Nashville Mayoral race.

"We are confident that the service changes will help us to build a more effective public transit system for Nashville," WeGo Public Transit CEO Steve Bland said. "Future growth requires predictable and reliable funding to sustain the services we provide to our communities. This year's budget only further serves to highlight the need for a long-term, dedicated funding source for transit, one that relieves pressure on a Metro General Fund budget crucial to so many community priorities."

Members of the public are encouraged to sign up for WeGo's newsletter, follow them on social media, and visit WeGoTransit.com to get more information on the finalized service and fare changes. Fare changes will go into effect August 2 and service changes will go into effect September 29.

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