Low Income Fare Taskforce Update

Board Briefing
February 22, 2017
Project Background: Investigating the feasibility of a broader low-income fare program

**Sustainable:** Funding is ongoing and costs are shared with regional partners.

**Meaningful:** Program is designed to address needs of low-income riders. Access should be convenient and easy for customers.

**Targeted:** Benefits should be directed to those that need them most, by way of established eligibility criteria. Program employs eFare technology to maximize direct impact.

**Manageable:** Administering the program requires minimal cost and leverages existing agency agreements with nonprofits and community based organizations. Eligibility should be managed by organization(s) that have expertise in screening for income-based programs.
# Taskforce Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multnomah County</th>
<th>Chair Deborah Kafoury Christian Gaston</th>
<th>Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz Tim Crail</th>
<th>Wood Village Mayor Tim Clark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington County</td>
<td>Commissioner Dick Schouten</td>
<td>Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle</td>
<td>Forest Grove Mayor Pete Truax</td>
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<td>Clackamas County</td>
<td>Commissioner Jim Bernard</td>
<td>Milwaukie Mayor Mark Gamba</td>
<td>Commissioner Renate Mengleberg Theresa Christopherson</td>
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<td>Community Based Organizations</td>
<td>OPAL – Huy Ong Oregon Food Bank, TEAC, Anneliese Koehler</td>
<td>Coalition of Communities of Color, Maggie Tallmadge Street Trust (BTA) Rob Sandusky</td>
<td>Ride Connection, Elaine Wells BRU, Orlando Lopez APANO, Duncan Hwang</td>
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<td>Other Participants</td>
<td>MT Hood Community College, Michael Calcagno</td>
<td>David Douglas School District, Frieda Christopher</td>
<td>Washington County Economic Alliance, Pam Treece</td>
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Task Force Approach

Meeting 1, November 30 2016: Build Understanding

Meeting 2, January 9, 2017: ORCA Lift Case Study

Meeting 3, January 23, 2017: Program Parameters

Meeting 4, January 31, 2017: Funding

Meeting 5, February 16, 2017: Final Recommendations and Next Steps
Task Force Outcomes

1. Support the development of a regional Low Income Fare program

2. Recommended eligibility would be up to 200% of Federal Poverty Level
   - One-person household: $23,760 max
   - Four-person household: $48,600 max

1. Recommended program subsidy would be 50% off of Adult ticket/day pass and ~70% off of Adult monthly pass
   - Equivalent to Honored Citizen and Youth fare structures

Estimated annual cost of fully subscribed program $11.3 million
Funding Recommendations

1. Advocate for the inclusion of transit funding in the State Transportation package – if funded could be used to support a new low income fare program.

2. Research local tax options related to:
   - Commercial parking facilities
   - Business fees
   - Hotel fees
   - Corporate tax options
   - Other scenarios
Next Steps

1. Work with Metro and our regional partners to leverage taskforce members’ capacity to support the passage of a transportation plan that includes resources for transit.

2. Develop final taskforce report of findings, process and recommendations.

3. Reconvene partners & stakeholders after legislative session to review other funding strategies as necessary.