

**Project title:** Ordinance regarding Fare Structure and Policy

**Council Bill #** CB 2205-18

**Agenda dates requested:**

May 25 and June 1, 2022

Briefing 5/25

Proposed action 6/1

Consent

Action 6/1

Ordinance  X

Public hearing

Yes  No

**Budget amendment:**

Yes  X  No

**PowerPoint presentation:**

X Yes  No

**Attachments:**

Ordinance amending Ord.  
2918-06,3623-18 and  
3668-19.

**Department(s) involved:**

Legal

**Contact person:**

Tom Hingson

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thingson@everettwa.gov

**Initialed by:**

*TEH*  
Department head

Administration

Council President

**Project:** Revise EMC 3.52.090 Fare structure and policy

**Partner/Supplier:**

**Location:**

**Preceding action:** Fare Ordinance Change Effective January 1, 2019

**Fund:** 425 Transportation Services

**Fiscal summary statement:**

Everett Transit currently collects less than \$100,000 in youth fare. In exchange for allowing all youth 18 and under to ride free on all modes, the state will provide direct funding to Everett Transit. The amount is based on the previous year's operating expenses and is expected to be about \$2 million annually effective July 1, 2023, with no expiration date. A partial distribution for the remainder of the current fiscal year is expected to be \$758,427.

**Project summary statement:**

The recently passed Move Ahead Washington legislation allows for direct distribution of funds to reimburse transit agencies for any expense, operating or capital. These funds are available to agencies that adopt a fare free policy, on all modes, for youth 18 and under. The deadline for adoption is October 1, 2022.

The revised ordinance also reduces the current low-income ORCA fare product from \$1.50 to \$1.00 and introduces a new income-eligible fare product that would be of no cost to the customer. Implementation of this product will require further coordination with the region and social service providers; therefore, the timing of implementation is undetermined.

Finally, the revised ordinance addresses outdated language, adds authorization to implement temporary fare-free service in the event of medical, environmental or other emergency conditions as identified by the mayor, and authorizes Everett Transit to implement fare policies and procedures.

(Public Hearing and 1st Reading May 25, 2022. 2nd, 3rd and final reading and public hearing on June 1, 2022).

**Recommendation (exact action requested of Council):** Adopt Proposed Ordinance amending Ord. 2918-06, Ord. 3623-18, and Ord. No. 3668-19.



**ORDINANCE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

An Ordinance Regarding Transit Fares and Transfer Policy and Amending EMC 3.52.090

**WHEREAS,**

- A. The City of Everett, through Everett Transit has provided transit service since 1969.
- B. Everett Transit has last implemented a fare change January 1, 2019.
- C. The State of Washington passed the Move Ahead Washington transportation package that provides for direct distribution of formula funding to transit agencies that allow all youth, ages 18 and under, to ride on all modes, without charge, by October 1, 2022.
- D. This funding is expected to be approximately \$2M annually, effective July 1, 2023.
- E. A partial distribution through June 30, 2023 is expected to be \$758,427.
- F. There is a desire to further remove the cost of transportation as a barrier to riding transit for income eligible customers.
- G. There is a desire to provide temporary fare free service during extraordinary circumstances as identified by the Mayor.
- H. The current fare ordinance contains unnecessary or redundant language carried over from previous changes.
- I. There is a desire to establish implementation authority at the department level.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF EVERETT DOES ORDAIN:**

**Section 1. Findings Adopted.** The City Council hereby finds the foregoing recitals are adopted in support of this Ordinance.

**Section 2. Amendment of EMC 3.52.090.** EMC 3.52.090 is amended as set forth below. (For purposes of reference, EMC 3.52.090 was adopted under the following ordinances: Ord. 3668-19, 2019; Ord. 3623-18, 2018; Ord. 2918-06, 2006.)

**3.52.090            Fare structure and policy.**

A. *Fare Structure.*

<b>Fixed Route</b>	<b>July 1, <del>2019</del>2022</b>	<b>Monthly Pass</b>
Adult	\$2.00	\$72.00
Low Income*	<del>\$1.50</del> <u>\$1.00</u>	<del>\$54.00</del> <u>\$36.00</u>
<u>Low Income II*</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Youth** <del>18 years and</del> under	<del>\$1.50</del> <u>\$0</u>	<del>\$54.00</del> <u>\$0</u>
Senior/Disabled**	\$0.50	\$18.00
Freedom Fare	Tickets for promotional purposes only	
<b>Paratransit/Demand Response**</b>	\$2.00	\$72.00

\*Eligibility in these categories to be validated through processes to be established by Everett Transit, which may include coordination with social service providers. Until these processes are established, Everett Transit will use its established process for determining eligibility for the “Low Income” category and will not implement the “Low Income II” category.

\*\* Eligibility in these categories is validated through Everett Transit’s established process.

**B. Fare Policy.**

1. Paper transfers will not be issued or accepted on Everett Transit fixed-route services.
2. Transfer of customers will occur between Everett Transit and Community Transit senior and disabled demand response services at no additional cost to the customer so long as there is an interlocal agreement in place to allow such a transfer to complete a one-way trip.
3. “Freedom fare” is authorized as a promotional fare to encourage use of Everett Transit and its services. “Freedom fare” can be issued at promotional events, transit fairs and other venues, in partnership with other organizations/agencies and/or through direct mailings.

4. *Special Events and Tailored Services Fare.*

- a. Prepaid tickets, designated passes, or cash shall be the only fare media accepted for special services.
- b. Special services shall be priced to assure that, over the course of the service, operating costs will be recovered by the fares.
- c. Special services shall not take priority over scheduled fixed route operations.
- d. Special services, once scheduled and advertised, will not be cancelled without due process and notification.
- e. Access to special services shall not be limited to customers for which the service is intended and shall be available to anyone paying the designated fare for the service.

5. The qualifying age to be designated a senior citizen ~~is shall be increased to sixty-five effective January 1, 2007. Persons ages sixty-two through sixty-four as of December 31, 2006, are eligible for the Everett Transit Senior Card if application is made by December 30, 2006.~~

6. The following shall be acceptable forms of fare on all Everett Transit services including demand response services: cash, prepaid tickets issued by Everett Transit, Puget Pass, freedom fare and specific service and/or institutional passes. ORCA regional electronic fare media are accepted on fixed route and will be accepted on demand response services when available.

7. Subject to Everett Transit's approved budget, Everett Transit is authorized to implement periodic "fare free" service. This authorization is intended as a tool to encourage ridership on struggling services, to introduce new routes or modifications to existing routes and to assist with traffic mitigation during times when it is desirable to shift travel modes from single occupancy vehicles to public transit.

8. Everett Transit is authorized to provide temporary fare free service in the event of a medical, environmental or other emergency situation as determined by the Mayor.

9. Everett Transit is authorized to establish and modify operational policies and procedures as necessary to implement this section.

**Section 3. Corrections.** The City Clerk and codifiers of the ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this Ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers and any references thereto.

**Section 4. Severability.** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or situation, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid for any reason, or should any portion of this Ordinance be preempted by state or federal law or regulation, such decision or preemption shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or its application to other persons or circumstances. The City Council of the City of Everett hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, clauses, phrases, or portions be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

**Section 5. Health, Safety and Welfare.** It is expressly the purpose of this Ordinance to provide for and promote the health, safety and welfare of the general public and not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of this Ordinance. It is the specific intent of this Ordinance that no provision or any term used in this Ordinance is intended to impose any duty whatsoever upon the City or any of its officers or employees. Nothing contained in this Ordinance is intended nor shall be construed to create or form the basis of any liability on the part of the City, or its officers, employees or agents, for any injury or damage resulting from any action or inaction on the part of the City related in any manner to the enforcement of this Ordinance by its officers, employees or agents.

**Section 6. Effective Date.** This ordinance is effective July 1, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cassie Franklin, Mayor

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_

VALID: \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLISHED: \_\_\_\_\_

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022