

# Transit NewsWatch

April 2, 2009

## Riverside Transit Agency bus fares going up June 28

Fares on Riverside Transit Agency buses will go up June 28, following a price increase approved by the agency's board Thursday...Officials said the increases were needed to meet expectations for how much of the agency's revenue comes from fares paid by riders. The goal is to have 17 percent of the bus system's budget come from fares. The rest comes from state and local sales taxes. In addition to the fare hike, officials also approved plans to eliminate three bus routes that were not meeting ridership expectations, and reduce service on others to lower costs. Because of the route cutbacks, 22 bus drivers and three mechanics will be eliminated, though officials said attrition and an early retirement package could lessen the number of layoffs.  
<http://blogs.pe.com/news/digest/2009/03/riverside-transit-agency-bus-f.html>

## Muni facing financial crisis

The budget forecast at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency is so grim that transit officials are considering declaring a fiscal emergency that could put service cuts and fare hikes on the fast track...Muni most recently declared a fiscal emergency in 2005. Other cash-strapped Bay Area transit agencies, including AC Transit and Caltrain, have done so this decade as well...Agency officials have not revealed details of their plan, but the elimination of some routes and changes to the frequency of service on others is expected.  
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/04/01/BANP16QDEL.DTL>

## Fare is fare

...New York City isn't the only transit system looking to raise fares. Caltrain's went up in January. AC Transit and the Golden Gate ferry and bus service fares are set to go up later this year. BART, too, is eyeing higher fares. So might San Francisco take the plunge, beyond the planned boost to the cost of a Fast Pass? Will \$1.50 fare be a thing of the past? Tom Nolan, chairman of the Municipal Transportation Agency board of directors, said he expects the answer will be yes. "No one's suggesting we charge \$2.50," he told City Insider. "But \$2? It could be." He said he wouldn't be surprised if the Fast Pass will end up costing more than the \$55 already planned for adults.  
[http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/cityinsider/detail?entry\\_id=37442](http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/cityinsider/detail?entry_id=37442)

## Transit users 3 times more likely to meet fitness guidelines

A new study by researchers at the University of British Columbia suggests taking public transit may help you keep fit. The study, published in the Journal of Public Health Policy, finds that people who take public transit are three times more likely than those who don't to meet the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada's suggested daily minimum of physical activity. According to the study, people who drove the most were the least likely to meet the recommended level of physical activity. The researchers conclude that making transit incentives more broadly available may produce indirect health benefits by getting people walking, even if it's just in short bouts.  
<http://www.brightsurf.com/news/headlines/44125/>

[Public transit users 3 times more likely to meet fitness guidelines UBC research.html](http://www.brightsurf.com/news/headlines/44125/)



1415 L Street, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 446-4656  
[www.caltransit.org](http://www.caltransit.org)