

Transit NewsWatch

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Muni fare increase may arrive early

A new revenue proposal has the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency charging an extra 50 cents for a single-ride ticket starting July 1. It's one of many ideas recession-battered Muni has come up with in recent weeks to erase a \$129 million budget shortfall next fiscal year. An earlier budget proposal had riders paying \$2 per ride beginning in September. At a packed meeting Tuesday, the transit agency, which oversees Muni and The City's parking meters, garages and taxis- officially declared a fiscal emergency in a 4-3 vote. The declaration means it can bypass a state review on the impact of proposed fare hikes and service cuts. By law, the transit agency must send a balanced budget to the mayor and Board of Supervisors by May 1.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Muni-fare-increase-may-arrive-early-43405772.html>

El Dorado Transit to Reduce Service and Raise Passenger Fares

Faced with a projected \$408,255 budget shortfall in fiscal year 2009/10 related to declining retail sales tax receipts for El Dorado County and State legislative action that took funding previously sent directly to transit operators, El Dorado Transit is preparing to balance the budget by cutting service and raising passenger fares. Acknowledging that it is difficult to approve changes for persons dependent upon public transportation and those that choose to use transit, the Board of Directors recognize their fiduciary responsibility to operate within a balanced budget.

www.eldoradotransit.com.

Tri-Delta Transit approves rate hike, eliminating trips

The Tri-Delta Transit Board of Directors on Wednesday unanimously approved raising fares and eliminating some trips on its routes to help address state budget cuts to transportation. The agency stands to lose about \$3 million in state funding this year — about 15 percent of its roughly \$20 million operating budget, Chief Operating Officer Steven Ponte said. As part of the recent state budget, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger eliminated the State Transit Assistance Program — a significant source of funding for transit operations, Ponte said.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/traffic/ci_12204021?nclick_check=1

Riding BART may become more costly

The cost to ride BART between stations in The City would increase by 25 cents under the transit agency's latest budget proposal. BART is struggling to close a projected \$54 million deficit for next fiscal year. It had recently suggested raising fares by 10 percent July 1, among other cost-saving ideas. But the transit agency would still be left with a \$23 million shortfall, said spokesman Linton Johnson. To offset the remaining deficit, BART is now suggesting a 15 percent fare increase and an extra 10 cents per ticket for commuters crossing San Francisco Bay.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Riding-BART-may-become-more-costly-43501472.html>



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