

# Read n Ride

September 2010



## Public hearings set for proposed changes in 2011 fare structure



**Y**ou are invited to attend a public hearing on the proposed changes in RTD's fare structure for 2011. If you cannot attend one of the public hearings and you want your input to be received by the RTD Board of Directors, fax your comments to **303.299.2008** or email them to [farecomments@RTD-Denver.com](mailto:farecomments@RTD-Denver.com) before midnight on September 26, 2010. The Board will make its final decision on October 26, 2010.

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Proposed changes to fares are listed in the tables below. All fares not specifically mentioned would remain unchanged.

Fare Category	2010 Current Fare	2011 Proposed Fare
<b>Cash Fares</b>		
Local	\$2.00	\$2.25
Express	\$3.50	\$4.00
Regional	\$4.50	\$5.00
Discount Local*	\$1.00	\$1.10
Discount Express*	\$1.75	\$2.00
Discount Regional*	\$2.25	\$2.50
<b>Monthly Passes</b>		
Local	\$70.00	\$79.00
Express	\$128.00	\$140.00
Regional	\$164.00	\$176.00
Discount Local*	\$35.00	\$39.50
Discount Express*	\$64.00	\$70.00
Discount Regional*	\$82.00	\$88.00
<b>access-a-Ride</b>		
Local	\$4.00	\$4.50
Express	\$7.00	\$8.00
Regional	\$9.00	\$10.00
To DIA	\$24.00	\$27.00
<b>seniorRide</b>		
Saturday Shopper	\$2.00	\$2.25
Midday Shopper	\$2.00	\$2.25
Local Special Event	\$2.00	\$2.25
Regional Special Event	\$4.50	\$5.00
<b>ValuPass</b>		
Local	\$770.00	\$869.00
Express	\$1,408.00	\$1,540.00
Regional	\$1,804.00	\$1,936.00
Discount Local*	\$385.00	\$434.50
Discount Express*	\$704.00	\$770.00
Discount Regional*	\$902.00	\$968.00

Fare Category	2010 Current Fare	2011 Proposed Fare
<b>10-Ride Ticketbook</b>		
Local	\$18.00	\$20.00
Express	\$31.50	\$36.00
Regional	\$40.50	\$45.00
Discount Local*	\$9.00	\$10.00
Discount Express*	\$15.75	\$18.00
Discount Regional*	\$20.25	\$22.50
<b>skyRide</b>		
One-way cash fare	\$8/10/12	\$9/11/13
Discount one-way cash fare*	\$4/5/6	\$4.50/5.50/6.50
Round-trip cash fare	\$15/18/22	\$17/20/25
<b>Day Pass</b>		
Local	\$6.00	\$6.75
Express	\$10.00	\$11.50
Regional	\$12.00	\$14.00
<b>Volume Purchase Day Pass</b>		
Local: 100-999	\$5.40	\$6.00
Local: 1,000 and over	\$4.80	\$5.50
Express: 100-999	\$9.00	\$10.25
Express: 1,000 and over	\$8.00	\$9.25
Regional: 100-999	\$10.80	\$12.50
Regional: 1,000 and over	\$9.60	\$11.25
<b>Five Day Pass</b>		
1-999	\$45.00	\$51.25
1,000 and over	\$40.00	\$46.25

\* Discount fares apply to seniors 65+, individuals with disabilities, Medicare recipients and students in elementary, middle and high school, ages 6-19.

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## Background on proposed fare changes

RTD's preliminary budget estimate for 2011 identified an \$18 million deficit. By law, RTD cannot adopt a budget where operating expenses exceed anticipated operating revenues. RTD's operating revenues are derived primarily from two sources, sales taxes and passenger fares. Sales tax revenues account for 69 percent of those revenues, while passenger fares account for 30 percent. Sales tax revenues continue to remain below what is needed to support current service levels, which has required the development of a fiscal action plan to address the projected deficit.

This action plan involves consideration of all of the following actions: proposed fare increase, possible service reductions, third consecutive year of no salary increases, continuation of hiring limitations, using some RTD operating reserve funds, continuation of fuel cost hedging, voluntary staff furloughs, exploring new revenue generating opportunities, establishing the RTD Board Financial Stability Committee to work with regional stakeholders to determine the best course toward expanding resources for the future.

RTD's Board of Directors will review public input to these proposed fare increases and all available options before making a final decision on October 26, 2010.

## Other recommended changes to the 2011 fare structure

### College Pass Program

Increase College Pass contract amounts for the school year based on utilization data by service type for each institution and corresponding discounted cash fares.

### Eco Pass Program

Increase per employee rates by 12.5 percent in every category in accordance with the overall fare increase. Continue a \$5.00 skyRide fee from all stops except the Stapleton and Airport Blvd/40th Ave park-n-Rides and SLA D contracts.

### FlexPass Program

Continue the employer subsidized pass program that allows employees to pay for their monthly bus/light rail passes through a deduction using pre-tax dollars.

### Neighborhood Pass Program

Increase per household rates by 12.5 percent in every rate category in accordance with overall fare increase. Continue a \$5.00 skyRide fee from all stops except the Stapleton and Airport Blvd/40th Ave park-n-Rides. Continue to survey new and expanding neighborhoods and the per household price will be the higher of the survey or the existing rate.

### Special Services

Continue the current policy of pricing special services (BroncosRide, RockiesRide, RunRide, etc.) equal to the prevailing fare of the equivalent fixed route services (Local, Express and Regional) serving similar locations.

Note: BroncosRide fare will increase after the conclusion of the 2010 season.

## Public hearing schedule for proposed changes in fare structure

<b>Arvada</b>	The Apex Center 13150 W. 72nd Avenue <b>Wednesday, September 22 6:00 p.m.</b>
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<b>Aurora</b>	Aurora Center for Active Adults 30 Del Mar Circle <b>Monday, September 13 6:00 p.m.</b>
	Heather Gardens Community Center 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way <b>Wednesday, September 22 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Boulder</b>	West Boulder Senior Center 909 Arapahoe Road <b>Monday, September 20 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Denver</b>	Park Hill Golf Club 4141 E. 35th Avenue <b>Thursday, September 16 6:00 p.m.</b>
	RTD 1600 Blake Street <b>Thursday, September 16 6:00 p.m.</b>
	Quigg Newton Senior Center 4430 Navajo Street <b>Thursday, September 23 6:00 p.m.</b>
	RTD 1600 Blake Street <b>Friday, September 24 Noon</b>
<b>Englewood</b>	Englewood Civic Center 1000 Englewood Parkway <b>Wednesday, September 15 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Lakewood</b>	Clements Community Center 1580 Yarrow Street <b>Monday, September 20 7:00 p.m.</b>

<b>Littleton</b>	Ken-Caryl Ranch House Recreation Center 7676 S. Continental Divide Road <b>Monday, September 13 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Littleton</b>	Douglas H. Buck Community Recreation Center 2004 W. Powers Avenue <b>Wednesday, September 22 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Longmont</b>	Longmont Senior Center 910 Longs Peak Avenue <b>Monday, September 20 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Northglenn</b>	Northglenn Recreation Center 11801 Community Center Drive <b>Thursday, September 16 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Parker</b>	Parker Recreation Center 17301 E. Lincoln Avenue <b>Thursday, September 23 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Westminster</b>	City Park Recreation Center 10455 Sheridan Boulevard <b>Monday, September 13 6:00 p.m.</b>

The following communication assistance is available for public hearings:

- Language interpreters
- Sign-language interpreters
- Assisted-listening devices

Please notify RTD of the communication assistance you require at least 48 hours in advance of an RTD public hearing you wish to attend by calling **303.299.2501**.

## Make BuffRide part of your playbook

It's an easy play to get to CU Buff home games with RTD's BuffRide bus service to Folsom Field. The first CU Buffs home game of the season is on September 4 at 12 p.m. against the CSU Rams at INVESCO Field at Mile High. Special service is being provided for this game. For details on this highly anticipated game, go to **RTD-Denver.com/cuvscsu** or call RTD at **303.299.6000**.

The rest of the 2010 home game lineup is:

Saturday, September 18	1:30 p.m.	Hawaii
Saturday, October 2	2:30 p.m.	Georgia
Saturday, October 16	TBA	Baylor
Saturday, October 23	TBA	Texas Tech
Saturday, November 13	TBA	Iowa Sate
Saturday, November 20	TBA	Kansas State

Schedules for games with to-be-announced start times will be posted a few days before each game at **RTD-Denver.com/BuffRide**.

Buses will depart 2¼ hours before kickoff and will operate until about 1¼ to 1½ hours before kickoff. Service resumes immediately after the game from Folsom Street/Colorado Avenue with the last bus leaving 45 minutes after the game ends.

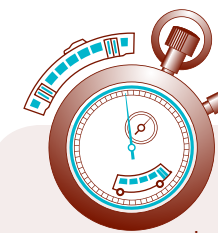
You can catch BuffRide at the following locations: Cold Spring park-n-Ride, I-25/Broadway Station, Longmont park-n-Ride, Nine Mile Station, Roosevelt Park park-n-Ride, Southmoor Station, Table Mesa park-n-Ride, US 36 & Broomfield park-n-Ride, US 36 & McCaslin park-n-Ride, Wadsworth & Hampden park-n-Ride, Wagon Road park-n-Ride and Westminster Center park-n-Ride.

The Buff Shuttle operates between Table Mesa park-n-Ride and Folsom Field. The pick-up and drop-off point is Folsom Street/Colorado Avenue.

## BuffRide to Folsom Field

Round-trip cash fares, payable upon initial boarding, range from \$4.00 to \$9.00 depending on your trip origination. Passes, tickets and transfers are not valid toward the purchase of a BuffRide fare. SS Free Ride Coupons are the only fare media valid for payment on BuffRide.

For more information, go to **RTD-Denver.com/BuffRide** or call **303.299.6000**.



## Transit Briefs

Buses and light rail will operate on a Sunday/holiday service schedule on Labor Day, Monday, September 6, 2010.

Riding without paying can cost you more than you think — like a hefty ticket and a permanent criminal record. All passengers must be able to produce proof of the correct, valid fare payment before boarding or while riding on any RTD vehicle. Fare inspections can take place at any time, and RTD fare inspectors, security officers and police officers conduct inspections frequently.

Make your trip planning easy with with RTD's new online system map! Look up bus stops, stations, park-n-Rides and get details like the next three scheduled arrivals, MyStop numbers and more. Give it a try at **RTD-Denver.com/systemmap**.

The RTD Board of Directors meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 1600 Blake Street in Rooms R, T and D, in Denver. The meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. For more information on board members, as well as meeting dates, agendas and minutes, go to **RTD-Denver.com/boardofdirectors**.

# WIN REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE NOW

As the FasTracks program moves into more stages of construction, skilled laborers will be in demand. To prepare for this need, the Regional Workforce Initiative Now program has been developed to respond to the needs of construction companies that will be staffing these projects.

The program is a unique collaboration between the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, RTD, the Colorado Department of Transportation and other regional organizations. As

the program evolves and establishes a process for identifying individuals who will be trained for and then transition into FasTracks construction jobs, it will serve as a model for the nation. The program will also apply to future construction jobs on projects with RTD's other regional partners.

The Community College of Denver will facilitate the program, working with faith-based and community organizations to identify candidates who will go through assessment and training for construction skills.

While the program will help all our regional partners create job opportunities on their major projects, RTD's FasTracks program will be the first to benefit. The Eagle P3 project, which will build the East Corridor to the airport, the Gold Line to Arvada and Wheat Ridge and a short segment of the Northwest Rail Corridor to south Westminster, is the first major construction project that will provide a launching point for the Regional Workforce Initiative Now program. To learn more, go to [RTD-FasTracks.com/main\\_174](http://RTD-FasTracks.com/main_174).



## Around Town with RTD

September brings these first events of fall — all accessible by bus or train. To find the route nearest you, go to [RTD-Denver.com/planyourtrip](http://RTD-Denver.com/planyourtrip) or call **303.299.6000**.

<b>A Taste of Colorado</b>	Civic Center Park <b>September 3-6</b>
<b>Free First Saturday</b>	Denver Art Museum <b>September 4</b>
<b>7th Annual Festival Italiano</b>	Belmar (Lakewood) <b>September 11-12</b>
<b>Great American Beer Festival</b>	Colorado Convention Center <b>September 16-18</b>
<b>September Broncos home games</b>	INVESCO Field at Mile High <b>September 19 and 26</b>



# OPERATOR APPRECIATION Station

## This month's operator: Mark Kuper

The winning commendation for Mark Kuper was submitted by RTD passenger Eve Morton, who was traveling on the D Line in May 2010:

"I have been traveling between home and work on RTD's light rail since 2006. I have to walk up and down the ramp and enter the train by way of the handicapped entrance/exit because I walk with a cane and have trouble with stairs, so I have the pleasure of meeting many of the light rail operators.

I have met many memorable operators throughout the last four years. The latest driver, Mark Kuper, is absolutely the most courteous of them all. He's friendly, always has a smile on his face and acts like I'm the only passenger on the train. He doesn't hesitate to make the ride smooth and an enjoyable experience. I leave work at 10:00 p.m. and to have the first experience after a long day be pleasurable is absolutely perfect and relaxes me for the ride home. I commend RTD for continuing to hire employees like Mark."

Do you have a favorite RTD bus or light rail operator? To submit your commendation, go to [RTD-Denver.com/RnRcommendations](http://RTD-Denver.com/RnRcommendations). On the *Customer Comment* form next to *Subject*, select *Commendation* in the drop-down box. We will publish the chosen commendation in the *Read-n-Ride* if you check the box giving us permission to print your story and include your physical address. As a token of our appreciation, the respondent with the chosen commendation will receive a free RTD promotional item.

## American Express now accepted as payment for RTD products

If you have an American Express card, you can now use it to purchase RTD passes and ticket books at RTD sales outlets and at the online store. In addition to American Express, RTD also accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover, as well as payments through PayPal. Employers can use American Express, Visa, MasterCard and Discover to purchase Eco Pass for their employees.

To simplify your life, you can purchase RTD products at our secure website, [RTD-Denver.com/OnlineStore](http://RTD-Denver.com/OnlineStore). Shipping and handling is **free** and your passes or ticket books will be mailed right to your door.

Money-saving products include:

- 10-Ride Ticketbook – a pocket-size book of 10 tickets that are valid on specified types of service, saving you as much as 10 percent off the regular cash fare.
- ValuPass – an advance-purchase pass that gives you a year's worth of rides for the cost of 11 months for Local/Limited, Express or Regional/skyRide service.
- Monthly passes – passes that provide unlimited rides for one low monthly price on Local/Limited, Express or Regional/skyRide service.

For the ultimate in convenience, use our Automatic Payment Plan, which automatically withdraws money from your checking or savings account for your RTD purchases. Your monthly pass will be mailed in time for the following month's use. For more information, go to [RTD-Denver.com/fares](http://RTD-Denver.com/fares) or call **303.299.6807**.

Regional Transportation District  
1600 Blake Street, Denver, Colorado 80202-1399  
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