

Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Foust

Question: Is the increased revenue from the 25 cent proposed CONNECTOR fare increase included in the FY 2011 Advertised Budget Plan?

Response: The FY 2011 Advertised Budget Plan does include a proposed 25 cent increase in the CONNECTOR fare. It is projected that \$1,657,518 would be generated by this increase.

This additional revenue will primarily make up for lost revenue from lower projected ridership numbers in FY 2011 than levels originally projected for FY 2010. FY 2011 ridership projections have been lowered to be more consistent with FY 2009 ridership numbers. FY 2009 ridership is believed to have fallen from the impact of the economy on the number of jobs, reducing commuters, and from the return of gas prices to more normal levels resulting in riders returning to their personal vehicles.

This increase also was proposed to parallel a Metro fare increase under consideration, consistent with the Board of Supervisor's CONNECTOR fare policy. Since the time the Advertised Budget Plan was released, Metro has increased its FY 2010 bus fares by \$0.10 to \$1.35 to close a current year budget gap. The County followed suit on March 1, 2010. Should Metro increase its bus fares by 25 cents to the \$1.60 level in FY 2011, under the Board's current fare policy the County would also raise CONNECTOR fares to the \$1.60 level. Metro will adopt its budget in June.