

Metro Vanpool Program: Average Lease Fare Analysis and Staff Subsidy Recommendation

Staff finds three reasons to review our current maximum subsidy. First, it has shrunk in value due to inflation. Had the subsidy amount increased by the Los Angeles County CPI, it would stand at \$484 today. Second, our commuters are facing higher average lease fares. As of April 2018 our average monthly lease fare (the total amount charged to lease the vanpool vehicle before subsidy) was \$1,048. This is the highest it has ever been and we can reasonably assume that lease fares will increase. At the current rate, we forecast an average lease fare of \$1,123 by the end of Fiscal Year 2019. See below for a chart showing the recent and forecasted growth in lease fares. Third, the current maximum was set at the program’s inception 11 years ago in May 2007. We have not updated our subsidy in over a decade. Therefore, staff is proposing to increase the maximum subsidy amount 25 percent from \$400 to \$500. We think that the change to \$500 is reasonable, fair, and consistent with goals of the Metro Vanpool Program.

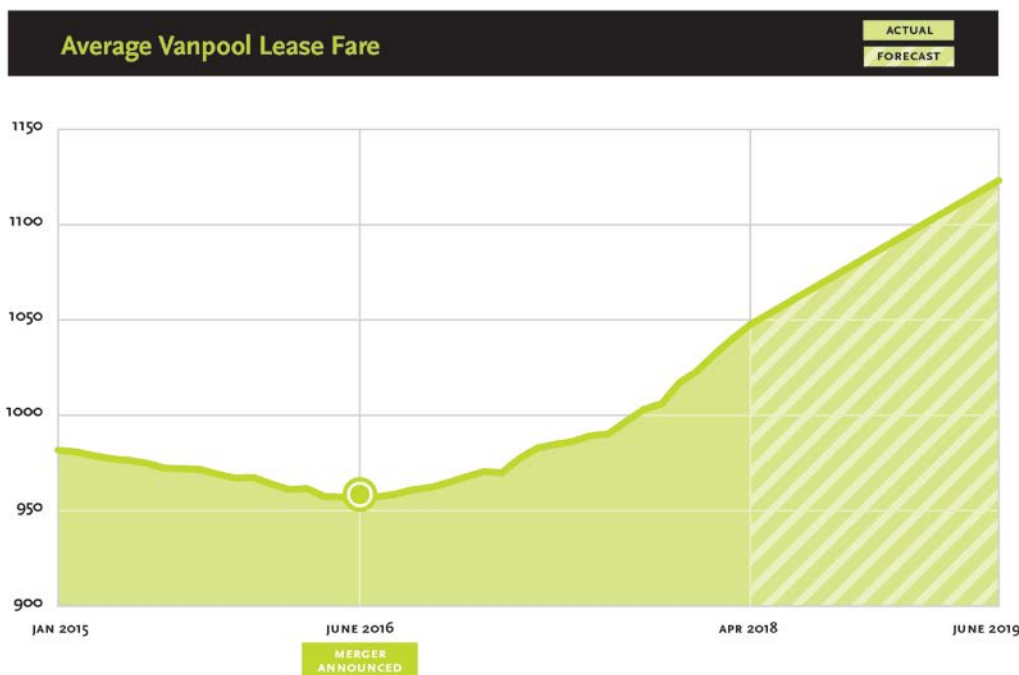


Figure 1: Average Lease Fare from January 2015 to June 2019

The graph above shows our monthly average lease fares since January 2015. We recorded our lowest average lease fare in May of 2016 at \$957. The average lease fare begins to increase around the time of the merger of Enterprise and vRide in June of 2016. With two new suppliers on the bench, we are hopeful increased competition will stabilize the growth of vanpool lease fares. However, even with new Vehicle Suppliers on the bench, lease fares are unlikely to fall significantly. We based our projections for the period of May 2018 to June 2019 on the average increase in lease fares over the 12-month period of May 2017 to April 2018.