

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Transfer on 2nd Boarding?

Transfer on 2nd Boarding refers to the board-approved policy that eliminates the need for paper transfers for customers transferring between transit agencies. Instead of purchasing paper transfers, customers will need to load Stored Value onto their TAP card in order to transfer between agencies. Transfer fare will automatically be deducted from the Stored Value when boarding a second transit agency within 2.5 hours from the first boarding. Customers will benefit from faster boardings and will no longer need to carry exact change.

Why are these changes being proposed now?

These changes are being requested in order to enhance customer convenience and improve fare collection efficiencies by removing paper transfers from the system.

How will Transfer on 2nd Boarding Work?

Transfer on 2nd Boarding simplifies inter agency transfers. For example, a customer pays for their first boarding with a TAP card. Within 2.5 hours from that first boarding, the customer boards a different transit agency bus and taps their TAP card. The transfer fare will automatically be deducted from the TAP card's Stored Value. Customers must have Stored Value on their TAP card before boarding the 2nd transit agency.

Where can I buy Stored Value?

Stored Value can be purchased at TAP vending machines, online at TAPTOGO.net, by calling 866.TAPTOGO, at Metro Customer Centers and at over 415 TAP vendor locations throughout LA County. And upon Board approval (March 2018), Stored Value will be available for sale onboard buses. Customers can use their own TAP card or purchase one from the operator.

Why offer Stored Value sales on the bus?

Customers transferring from one agency to another must have a TAP card loaded with enough Stored Value to pay for the transfer. Making Stored Value available for purchase onboard bus will increase customer convenience and eligibility for automatic transfers on TAP.

What will be the process for loading Stored Value on buses?

Customers will be able to load Stored Value by boarding the front of the bus and requesting to add Stored Value to their TAP card. TAP cards will also be available for purchase on bus along with Stored Value, up to \$20.

Why replace Day Pass sales with Stored Value sales onboard the bus?

Day pass sales have declined by 74% since August 2011, while Stored Value sales have increased systemwide. Replacing Metro Day Pass purchases onboard bus with the ability to reload Stored Value will allow passengers to add fare immediately to their TAP card, which is necessary for Transfer on 2nd Boarding.

Will this proposal eliminate Metro Day Pass?

No, Metro Day Passes are available for sale at TAP vending machines, online at TAPTOGO.net, by calling 866.TAPTOGO, at Metro Customer Centers and at over 415 TAP vendor locations throughout LA County.

Why are tokens being phased out?

The use of TAP cards has caused Metro tokens to become obsolete. As token use continues to decline, TAP cards have proven to be a viable, cost effective replacement that enables simpler, safer and automatic farebox collection. Tokens cannot be used to purchase transfers currently.

How long will it take for tokens to be phased out?

If approved by the Metro Board, the sale of tokens will cease in May of 2018. Tokens already in circulation will still be accepted until March of 2019.

What will replace tokens?

TAP cards will replace tokens. Social service agencies will be offered limited use TAP cards to distribute to their clients.

Why are TAP card prices increasing?

Currently, the cost of TAP cards is inconsistent depending on where TAP cards are sold. It is recommended that cards should be priced at \$2 at all pass sales venues. There will be an increase of \$1 to customers who purchase TAP cards onboard the bus and at rail stations. A TAP card's life was originally set for 3 years, it has since been extended to 10 years so it will be cheaper for the customer over the life of the TAP card.

When will these changes take place and how will customers be notified?

If approved, replacing Metro Day Pass with Stored Value onboard bus will take place in March 2018. The sale of tokens will cease in May of 2018 and will be accepted until March of 2019. The \$2 TAP card price consistency will be implemented in Summer of 2018. For each effort, customers will be notified through a print and digital marketing campaign.

Are the costs of Metro to Muni transfers increasing?

No.

Will the cost of Reduced Fare cards be increased?

No. Reduced Fare TAP cards will remain free of charge to qualified applicants.

Why should I register my TAP card?

If you purchased your TAP card online or by phone, or if you have a Reduced Fare TAP card, your card is already registered. If you purchased your card at a TAP vending machine or TAP vendor location, register your card to take advantage of Balance Protection, general account management and additional features such as Autoload.

How can I get a reduced fare TAP card?

If you are a senior citizen, a person with a disability, a college or vocational student, or a K-12 student, you may be eligible for reduced fares. To review reduced fare eligibility and apply for a Reduced Fare TAP card, visit TAPTOGO.net or a Metro Customer Center.