
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

FARE CAPPING AND FARE CHANGES
PUBLIC HEARING VIDEOCONFERENCE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022

5:06 P.M.

HEARING REPORTER: MICHELE L. WAGNER



HINES REPORTERS

INTERNATIONAL TOWER
888 S. FIGUEROA STREET, SUITE 940, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017

866.432.4300; 213.688.7887

WWW.HINESREPORTERS.COM

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

FARE CAPPING AND FARE CHANGES
PUBLIC HEARING VIDEOCONFERENCE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022
5:06 P.M.

MICHELE L. WAGNER
COURT REPORTER

| | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | APPEARANCES (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING): | 1 | (No audible response.) |
| 2 | | 2 | CLERK LANGSTON: Second Vice Chair Hahn? |
| 3 | HEARING BOARD MEMBERS: | 3 | (No audible response.) |
| 4 | ARA J. NAJARIAN, CHAIR | 4 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Barger? |
| 5 | JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER, 1ST VICE CHAIR | 5 | (No audible response.) |
| 6 | KATHRYN BARGER | 6 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Bonin? |
| 7 | MIKE BONIN | 7 | DIRECTOR BONIN: I'm here. |
| 8 | MAYOR JAMES BUTTS | 8 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Butts? |
| 9 | FERNANDO DUTRA | 9 | DIRECTOR BUTTS: Here. |
| 10 | ERIC GARCETTI | 10 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Dutra? |
| 11 | PAUL KREKORIAN | 11 | DIRECTOR DUTRA: I'm here. Present. |
| 12 | HOLLY J. MITCHELL | 12 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Garcetti? |
| 13 | HILDA SOLIS | 13 | DIRECTOR GARCETTI: Here. |
| 14 | TIM SANDOVAL | 14 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Krekorian? |
| 15 | STEPHANIE WIGGINS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | 15 | DIRECTOR KREKORIAN: Here. |
| 16 | | 16 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Kuehl? |
| 17 | ALSO PRESENT: | 17 | (No audible response.) |
| 18 | NAINI AHUJA | 18 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Mitchell? |
| 19 | STEVE ALVAREZ | 19 | DIRECTOR MITCHELL: Present. |
| 20 | MANDY CHEUNG | 20 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Sandoval? |
| 21 | JESSICA GAMEZ | 21 | (No audible response.) |
| 22 | COLLETTE LANGSTON | 22 | CLERK LANGSTON: Director Solis? |
| 23 | CHRISTINA GOINS | 23 | (No audible response.) |
| 24 | MICHELLE NAVARRO | 24 | CLERK LANGSTON: And Chair Najarian? |
| 25 | CHARLES SAFER | 25 | CHAIR NAJARIAN: Here. |
| | DAVID SUTTON | | |
| | Page 2 | | Page 4 |
| 1 | VIA LIFESIZE VIDEOCONFERENCING NOVEMBER 14, 2022 | 1 | CLERK LANGSTON: A quorum is present. |
| 2 | -0- | 2 | CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. |
| 3 | | 3 | Madam Clerk, do you have a statement to make |
| 4 | CHAIR NAJARIAN: Good evening, everyone. | 4 | before we begin? |
| 5 | Welcome to the LA Metro Fare Capping -- | 5 | CLERK LANGSTON: I do. |
| 6 | PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello? | 6 | The notice of intent to hold a public hearing |
| 7 | CHAIR NAJARIAN: -- and Fare Changes Public | 7 | was published in the Los Angeles Daily News, Pasadena |
| 8 | Hearing. | 8 | Star News, LA Watts Times, LA Opinion, Chinese Daily |
| 9 | PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello? Yes. | 9 | World Journal, Rafu Shimpo, Korea Times, Asbarez Armenian |
| 10 | Can I make my public comment now? | 10 | Daily News, Asian Journal Publication, Panorama, and on |
| 11 | CLERK LANGSTON: No. | 11 | the Internet. |
| 12 | CHAIR NAJARIAN: No, no. | 12 | Affidavits of publication and detailed mailing |
| 13 | CLERK LANGSTON: My apologies. Please -- | 13 | lists are filed and are available in the Metro Board |
| 14 | Chair Najarian, apparently 5:00 p.m. is a little | 14 | Clerk's office for review. |
| 15 | of a wacky time for us. Just give us one second. | 15 | As a reminder, this is a public hearing, and |
| 16 | CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay. Let's track down this | 16 | the format will be as follows. We will hear a short |
| 17 | audio feed. | 17 | presentation from staff on the proposed fare capping and |
| 18 | CLERK LANGSTON: Go ahead, Chair. | 18 | fare changes. We will then hear from the public. Each |
| 19 | CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. So I'm calling to | 19 | person from the public wishing to speak will have one |
| 20 | order the November 14, 2022, Los Angeles County | 20 | minute. |
| 21 | Metropolitan Transportation Authority Fare Capping and | 21 | There will be no action requested from the board |
| 22 | Fare Changes Public Hearing. | 22 | at tonight's public hearing. The board will be asked to |
| 23 | May we have the roll call, please? | 23 | take action on this item at the December 1 board meeting, |
| 24 | CLERK LANGSTON: First Vice Chair | 24 | and that is when the directors should make their remarks. |
| 25 | Dupont-Walker? | 25 | This concludes my report. |
| | Page 3 | | Page 5 |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you, Madam Secretary.</p> <p>2 I am officially opening the public hearing, and</p> <p>3 just to remind everyone -- that we are going to be</p> <p>4 hearing a short presentation from staff. Then we're</p> <p>5 going to the public. We're affording everyone in the</p> <p>6 public one minute to speak.</p> <p>7 The board -- the board as a whole, or</p> <p>8 individually, will not be encouraged to be making any</p> <p>9 statements or discussion at this time. The most</p> <p>10 appropriate time for that will be on our December 1st</p> <p>11 board meeting when the board as a whole will take up and</p> <p>12 have a discussion on the direction the board wants to</p> <p>13 take.</p> <p>14 We were scheduled to start at 5:00 o'clock, and</p> <p>15 I want to give as much time to the public as possible.</p> <p>16 This is a serious and significant proposal that is being</p> <p>17 floated for all riders, so I'm going to take testimony</p> <p>18 until 9:00 o'clock. And at that point, I'm going to</p> <p>19 apologize to those who were not given the opportunity to</p> <p>20 speak and I'll find out how many there were and perhaps</p> <p>21 make arrangements to take their testimony in written form</p> <p>22 or in some other manner to make sure that everyone who</p> <p>23 wishes to speak has had an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>24 Thank you, staff, for working after hours.</p> <p>25 Thank you, directors. Your days are hectic as they</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> | <p>1 through this brief presentation on Metro's proposal</p> <p>2 (audio distortion) so we can leave as much time (audio</p> <p>3 distortion) to hear directly from the public.</p> <p>4 DIRECTOR KREKORIAN: I'm sorry. Excuse me, but</p> <p>5 we're still hearing the simultaneous translation, and it</p> <p>6 becomes very difficult to hear anything else over the</p> <p>7 translation.</p> <p>8 Can we try to make sure that we're only hearing</p> <p>9 one voice at a time?</p> <p>10 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Is there another audio channel</p> <p>11 that that's supposed to be on? Right?</p> <p>12 Madam Secretary, so as Director Krekorian</p> <p>13 pointed out, we're still getting simultaneous Spanish</p> <p>14 translation.</p> <p>15 CLERK LANGSTON: Yeah, Chair, I apologize. We're</p> <p>16 hearing it too. We're working on it as hard as we can. IT is --</p> <p>17 we're working with AT&T and our IT group</p> <p>18 to figure out --</p> <p>19 Can we give a five-minute pause to start over on</p> <p>20 the presentation, please?</p> <p>21 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Well, yes, if that's going to</p> <p>22 solve the problem, I think that's going to be important</p> <p>23 for all of us, so let's take a --</p> <p>24 CLERK LANGSTON: Yes.</p> <p>25 CHAIR NAJARIAN: -- small recess.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> |
| <p>1 usually are. Now we're giving you a hectic evening.</p> <p>2 Hectic in the sense that -- extending the hours that</p> <p>3 we're serving the public. And thank you, Madam CEO, for</p> <p>4 overseeing all this.</p> <p>5 Let's go to our presentation if we can.</p> <p>6 Stephanie Wiggins?</p> <p>7 CEO WIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll turn</p> <p>8 it over --</p> <p>9 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Stephanie, would you like to</p> <p>10 tee it up for --</p> <p>11 CEO WIGGINS: -- to Michelle Navarro.</p> <p>12 Thank you. I'm going to you turn it over --</p> <p>13 MICHELLE NAVARRO: Yes.</p> <p>14 CEO WIGGINS: -- to Michelle Navarro. Thank</p> <p>15 you.</p> <p>16 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you, Michelle. Straight</p> <p>17 to you.</p> <p>18 MICHELLE NAVARRO: Thanks, Stephanie.</p> <p>19 Sure.</p> <p>20 So Good evening. My name is Michelle Navarro</p> <p>21 from Metro's budget office, and joining me today is</p> <p>22 David Sutton from our TAP office.</p> <p>23 Next slide, please.</p> <p>24 (Audio distortion) public hearing is to hear</p> <p>25 directly from the public. (Audio distortion.) I will go</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> | <p>1 CLERK LANGSTON: Yes, please.</p> <p>2 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Five minutes.</p> <p>3 CLERK LANGSTON: Yes, please.</p> <p>4 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Let's return at 5:19.</p> <p>5 CLERK LANGSTON: Thank you. I appreciate it.</p> <p>6 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>7 (Whereupon, an off-the-record break was taken.)</p> <p>8 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. The board is</p> <p>9 reconvening after a brief recess for audio challenges.</p> <p>10 We invite Michelle Navarro to start again.</p> <p>11 You hadn't gotten too far in your fare capping</p> <p>12 and fare changes presentation.</p> <p>13 Michelle?</p> <p>14 MICHELLE NAVARRO: Can we get the presentation</p> <p>15 up?</p> <p>16 Okay. Great. So next slide.</p> <p>17 So this is a public hearing, and the purpose is</p> <p>18 to hear directly from the public, so I will have a very</p> <p>19 short and brief presentation on our proposal to leave as</p> <p>20 much time to hear directly from the public. The comments</p> <p>21 we receive today along with the e-mails and comments from</p> <p>22 other outreach events will be considered as we develop</p> <p>23 our final recommendation for board consideration. That</p> <p>24 final recommendation will include a summary and responses</p> <p>25 to these comments.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Next slide, please.</p> <p>2 So Metro's vision is to expand mobility and</p> <p>3 increase access to opportunities, and one of the key</p> <p>4 tenets to delivering that vision is creating a fare</p> <p>5 structure that's easy to use, equitable, and sustainable.</p> <p>6 Next slide, please.</p> <p>7 Metro's proposal creates a simple and equitable</p> <p>8 fare system (audio distortion) and outcomes of which</p> <p>9 would include increase in economic relief (audio</p> <p>10 distortion) to our low-income riders and frequent riders.</p> <p>11 It will increase ridership, simplify the fare structure,</p> <p>12 create a foundation for a unified regional fare system,</p> <p>13 and keep fares in line with industry standards and also</p> <p>14 create a better customer experience for our riders.</p> <p>15 Next slide, please.</p> <p>16 We are focussing on riders who rely on the</p> <p>17 system the most, and our customer experience research</p> <p>18 does indicate that 83 percent of our riders are making</p> <p>19 ends meet on a household income of less than 50,000 a</p> <p>20 year. At least 75 -- of riders qualify for our LIFE fare</p> <p>21 assistance program. 78 percent of riders rely on transit</p> <p>22 three or more times a week, and 73 percent of our riders</p> <p>23 do not have access to a car and are frequent riders that</p> <p>24 will benefit from fare capping. Our proposal aims to</p> <p>25 help these riders with more free rides for low-income</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> | <p>1 rides a month, which is up from 20, for a total of 30</p> <p>2 free rides a month. And we are eliminating the up charge</p> <p>3 for Silver Line and Express Bus, a reduction of 75 cents</p> <p>4 from the base fare for these lines.</p> <p>5 Next slide, please.</p> <p>6 So here is a summary of the proposed fare</p> <p>7 changes. This proposal, again, removes barriers to</p> <p>8 affordability where a rider who pays for each trip will</p> <p>9 pay no more than a rider who can pay up front and in</p> <p>10 advance for a pass. Riders never pay more than the daily</p> <p>11 or weekly cap on TAP. It makes regular ridership more</p> <p>12 obtainable because fare capping incentivizes ridership.</p> <p>13 This proposal creates and combines one discount price for</p> <p>14 all reduced fare categories further simplifying it for</p> <p>15 all riders. And then this proposal is a pay-as-you-go</p> <p>16 model with the more you ride, the more you save.</p> <p>17 Next slide, please.</p> <p>18 The overall benefits of this proposal helps</p> <p>19 riders. It helps all our riders through a simple and</p> <p>20 easy way of paying fares. It helps our low-income</p> <p>21 riders, who ride frequently and depend on transit, with</p> <p>22 more free rides and no upfront payment for passes. It</p> <p>23 helps our riders by making it more affordable. The</p> <p>24 modest 25 cent increase helps ensure a sustainable,</p> <p>25 quality, and expanding transit service. And finally, it</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> |
| <p>1 riders through the LIFE program and with fare capping.</p> <p>2 Next slide, please.</p> <p>3 So fare capping benefits our riders. It</p> <p>4 encourages and rewards frequent ridership because the</p> <p>5 more you ride, the more you save. It removes</p> <p>6 accessibility and affordability barriers by shifting from</p> <p>7 prepaid passes to a pay-as-you-go system, and it will</p> <p>8 provide consistent and better customer experience because</p> <p>9 no one ever overpays.</p> <p>10 Next slide, please.</p> <p>11 An overview of the changes to align with fare</p> <p>12 capping include a modest increase of 25 cents to the base</p> <p>13 fare. Passes and transfers are being replaced by a new</p> <p>14 way to pay fares through fare capping, which has become a</p> <p>15 popular policy option to increase equity throughout the</p> <p>16 U.S.</p> <p>17 (Interruption in proceedings.)</p> <p>18 MICHELLE NAVARRO: With fare capping, no one</p> <p>19 will pay more than \$6.00 a day or \$20.00 a week, down</p> <p>20 from \$7.00 and \$25.00 respectively, for unlimited rides.</p> <p>21 Once the cap is met, all additional rides are free.</p> <p>22 Customers will earn toward the cap each week, so a</p> <p>23 monthly cap is not necessary, further simplifying our</p> <p>24 fares.</p> <p>25 Our low-income riders will get ten more free</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> | <p>1 helps all LA County riders prepare for regional expansion</p> <p>2 of fare capping.</p> <p>3 Next slide.</p> <p>4 So that concludes our presentation. Again, all</p> <p>5 comments will be considered as we develop our final</p> <p>6 recommendations for board consideration.</p> <p>7 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you, Michelle. Thank you</p> <p>8 for the presentation. I appreciate its conciseness.</p> <p>9 And let me go to our -- Collette Langston --</p> <p>10 Collette -- or, to Christine for a discussion of the</p> <p>11 rules before we open up to the public calls.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY GOINS: To give public comment, each</p> <p>13 speaker needs to follow a three-step process. First, at</p> <p>14 anytime during the meeting, the speaker can dial</p> <p>15 888-251-2949 to enter the English or Spanish access</p> <p>16 codes. The English access code is 8231160#. The Spanish</p> <p>17 access code is 4544724#. The Cantonese, Mandarin, and</p> <p>18 Russian access code is 2433764#.</p> <p>19 This number and the access codes are also listed</p> <p>20 on the agenda for this meeting, which can be found at</p> <p>21 boardagendas.metro.net.</p> <p>22 For speakers watching the video feed, there is a</p> <p>23 30-second lag behind the actual meeting. If any speakers</p> <p>24 are watching on video and want to give public comment,</p> <p>25 they should dial in early to make sure they don't miss</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 the chance.</p> <p>2 Second, once a speaker dials in to the public</p> <p>3 comment line, they have to indicate which item they want</p> <p>4 to speak on. When their item comes up, the speaker</p> <p>5 should press #2 to raise their hand to speak.</p> <p>6 Third, when it is the speaker's turn, the</p> <p>7 moderator will call out the last four digits of the phone</p> <p>8 number and unmute the speaker. If the speaker is</p> <p>9 listening to the meeting on another device, they will</p> <p>10 need to mute their speakers and microphone on that device</p> <p>11 to prevent an echo. Speakers will have one minute to</p> <p>12 make their comment or two minutes including translation.</p> <p>13 Written public comments must be received by 5:00</p> <p>14 p.m. the day before the meeting. Please include the item</p> <p>15 number in your comment and your position of "for,"</p> <p>16 "against," "general comment," or "item needs more</p> <p>17 consideration." You may e-mail your comment to</p> <p>18 boardclerk@metro.net or mail it to Board Administration,</p> <p>19 One Gateway Plaza, mail stop 99-3-1, Los Angeles,</p> <p>20 California 90012.</p> <p>21 Board members and staff, please be sure to mute</p> <p>22 your phones when not speaking to enable others to clearly</p> <p>23 hear their presentations. Thank you.</p> <p>24 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you, Christine.</p> <p>25 Item 2 on our agenda is public comment, so let</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> | <p>1 I'm urging you to reject the fare hike and fare capping</p> <p>2 proposal.</p> <p>3 (Audio distortion.)</p> <p>4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Yes, I can hear you.</p> <p>5 (Audio distortion.)</p> <p>6 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello?</p> <p>7 SECRETARY GOINS: Go ahead. Make your public</p> <p>8 comment.</p> <p>9 (Audio distortion.)</p> <p>10 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. I don't think this is</p> <p>11 working, but I'm trying to give public comment.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY GOINS: Okay. If you can hear us --</p> <p>13 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I am -- there's --</p> <p>14 (Audio distortion.)</p> <p>15 SECRETARY GOINS: One moment, please. We're</p> <p>16 having problems, caller. If you can please give us a</p> <p>17 moment.</p> <p>18 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yeah. Yeah, hold on caller.</p> <p>19 We know you're on. We're working out a few bugs. Thank</p> <p>20 you.</p> <p>21 (Interruption in proceedings.)</p> <p>22 CLERK LANGSTON: Okay. Looks like we need</p> <p>23 another five minutes for (audio distortion) reconnection.</p> <p>24 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Five minutes? Okay.</p> <p>25 CLERK LANGSTON: A slow five minutes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> |
| <p>1 us begin.</p> <p>2 SECRETARY GOINS: All right. Okay. We're</p> <p>3 starting now?</p> <p>4 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes.</p> <p>5 SECRETARY GOINS: Please press #2 for the first</p> <p>6 speaker, please, 4480.</p> <p>7 (No audible response.)</p> <p>8 SECRETARY GOINS: First caller, 4480?</p> <p>9 (No audible response.)</p> <p>10 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay. We don't hear much on</p> <p>11 that speaker.</p> <p>12 SECRETARY GOINS: Okay. We're going to go to</p> <p>13 the next speaker, please. Last four is 4253. 4253.</p> <p>14 4253, can you hear us?</p> <p>15 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: (In Spanish.)</p> <p>16 SECRETARY GOINS: Well, that's our translator.</p> <p>17 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: No response.</p> <p>18 SECRETARY GOINS: Okay. Okay, Chair. It looks</p> <p>19 like we're still having some issues here. Please --</p> <p>20 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Can you hear me?</p> <p>21 SECRETARY GOINS: Oh, yes, we can. Is -- are --</p> <p>22 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. Assuming you can --</p> <p>23 SECRETARY GOINS: Are you 4253?</p> <p>24 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Chelsey. I'm with</p> <p>25 Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, a member of ACT-LA.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> | <p>1 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yeah. Well, let's check back</p> <p>2 then in five -- at 5:40 p.m. It's 5:35 approximately.</p> <p>3 We're going to recess until 5:40 to work out these</p> <p>4 technical bugs. Everyone, hold on, and we're going to</p> <p>5 get through this for sure. Thank you, everyone.</p> <p>6 (Whereupon, an off-the-record break was taken.)</p> <p>7 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay. Thank you. We are</p> <p>8 returning from a technology-induced recess. We are back.</p> <p>9 We were just starting to take public comment. The first</p> <p>10 speaker was disrupted by the conflicting audio signals</p> <p>11 coming in, so let's start public comment. Call them out</p> <p>12 or whatever you guys do.</p> <p>13 SECRETARY GOINS: Okay. First caller, please,</p> <p>14 with the last four digits of 4253?</p> <p>15 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Chelsey. I'm</p> <p>16 with Strategic Actions for a Just Economy, a member of</p> <p>17 ACT-LA.</p> <p>18 Just letting you know, those on the phone line</p> <p>19 are getting a delay. I know you think you fixed the</p> <p>20 technological issues, but it seems like the live stream</p> <p>21 and the phone line are about four minutes off.</p> <p>22 So why am I calling today? Okay. I'm urging</p> <p>23 you to reject the fare hike and the fare cap proposal.</p> <p>24 The fare restructuring is not going to accomplish what it</p> <p>25 intends. Rather, it's going to punish cash riders by</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 making them pay more to use Metro, and it's going to</p> <p>2 disincentivize auto users, who sometimes ride transit,</p> <p>3 from using the system. These riders are being forced</p> <p>4 into meeting ridership goals and (inaudible) reduction</p> <p>5 goals.</p> <p>6 Overall, this proposal seems to be a waste of</p> <p>7 time and money. How much has Metro already spent on</p> <p>8 staff time and promotional materials, et cetera to</p> <p>9 support this new proposal? The conversation really needs</p> <p>10 to be recentering on universal fare less transit. The</p> <p>11 majority of Metro's riders make under \$25,000. Why are</p> <p>12 we charging fares when so many of these residents are</p> <p>13 housing and transportation burdened and when we spend so</p> <p>14 much money collecting these fares?</p> <p>15 (Timer rang.)</p> <p>16 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Please reject the fare</p> <p>17 restructuring. And given how much of a mess this meeting</p> <p>18 has been, cancel it and schedule a new one for the next</p> <p>19 year after the new council is in office and the new board</p> <p>20 is determined. It's unfair for those who tried to call</p> <p>21 in tonight and gave up and left. Thank you.</p> <p>22 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>23 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 2021, please go</p> <p>24 ahead for one minute.</p> <p>25 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. I'd like to agree with the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> | <p>1 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello? Okay.</p> <p>2 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We hear you.</p> <p>3 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I'm Karen Reside. I'm</p> <p>4 president of the Long Beach Gray Panthers, and I'm a</p> <p>5 member of the Metro-PAC, and we totally reject these</p> <p>6 fare proposals.</p> <p>7 If the goal is to make it simpler to understand,</p> <p>8 it's not. We agree -- we support universal free fares,</p> <p>9 particularly for seniors who are really hesitant to get</p> <p>10 back on the bus. And we're really concerned that this</p> <p>11 system isn't going to reduce any cars on the road and</p> <p>12 create cleaner air. Thank you.</p> <p>13 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>14 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 8255, please go</p> <p>15 ahead.</p> <p>16 (No audible response.)</p> <p>17 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Hello?</p> <p>18 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 8255, your line has</p> <p>19 been unmuted.</p> <p>20 (No audible response.)</p> <p>21 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Hello?</p> <p>22 MODERATOR: Okay. We're going to move on, but</p> <p>23 we'll come back to you.</p> <p>24 Caller ending in 5011, please go ahead.</p> <p>25 (Interruption in proceedings.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> |
| <p>1 previous speaker. My name's Nicoli.</p> <p>2 There's been some pretty ridiculous technical</p> <p>3 difficulties calling into this meeting today. I assume</p> <p>4 that many people have left. I would also like to --</p> <p>5 while I approve of general fare capping, the way that</p> <p>6 this is being implemented is going to harm many users of</p> <p>7 the Metro system, including people who pay cash fares,</p> <p>8 which, reading online, are estimated to be 20 percent of</p> <p>9 your users.</p> <p>10 I also strongly agree with the previous speaker</p> <p>11 who said that this will disincentivize people who -- car</p> <p>12 drivers who sometimes use the Metro system, and we rely</p> <p>13 on -- we need to be pushing policies that are going to</p> <p>14 get people out of their cars and into Metro. This is a</p> <p>15 step away from that.</p> <p>16 I would also encourage you to push this meeting</p> <p>17 back to where there's better opportunity for public</p> <p>18 comment and to allow the voices of the board members who</p> <p>19 will be nominated to this board in the future. Thank</p> <p>20 you.</p> <p>21 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>22 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 7340, please go</p> <p>23 ahead.</p> <p>24 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I'm not unmuted.</p> <p>25 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We hear you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> | <p>1 MODERATOR: Okay. We'll come back too.</p> <p>2 Caller ending in 7543, please go ahead.</p> <p>3 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good evening. My name is</p> <p>4 Mondo Marez. I am a board member with the (inaudible)</p> <p>5 council, and I'm a public advocate. I'm speaking on my</p> <p>6 own capacity.</p> <p>7 I would urge the Metro to reconsider the fare</p> <p>8 structure because I'm a low-income transit rider myself</p> <p>9 and I rely on the public transportation to get to work</p> <p>10 and from home, and I don't -- I cannot afford to pay more</p> <p>11 in public transportation.</p> <p>12 The price increase and the elimination of the</p> <p>13 free transfer is going to hurt many of us low-income</p> <p>14 working-class transit riders, and I urge the Metro board</p> <p>15 to reconsider its fare structure because many of us</p> <p>16 will be impacted. And we have a high inflation, we</p> <p>17 have economic uncertainty, and it's going to affect our</p> <p>18 wallets. So I urge you, please, to reconsider this</p> <p>19 fare structure and to not increase the prices and to</p> <p>20 restore --</p> <p>21 (Timer rang.)</p> <p>22 PUBLIC SPEAKER: -- the free transfers, please.</p> <p>23 I urge you to do --</p> <p>24 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>25 PUBLIC SPEAKER: -- the right thing for all of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 us. Thank you.</p> <p>2 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 9121, please go</p> <p>3 ahead.</p> <p>4 (No audible response.)</p> <p>5 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 9121, your line has</p> <p>6 been unmuted.</p> <p>7 (No audible response.)</p> <p>8 MODERATOR: Okay. We'll come back to you.</p> <p>9 Caller ending in 8319, please go ahead.</p> <p>10 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Ted Trimenski.</p> <p>11 I live in CD-14, and I'm a public transit rider.</p> <p>12 I depend on the Gold Line to get to work.</p> <p>13 This proposal hurts rather than helps</p> <p>14 transit-dependent riders like myself, and I urge you to</p> <p>15 reject the fare hike and fare restructuring. Universal</p> <p>16 fare less transit should be the end goal, and I don't</p> <p>17 believe this is a step towards that.</p> <p>18 Additionally, I urge this board to cancel the</p> <p>19 rest of this meeting and reschedule it. It was over</p> <p>20 40 minutes into this meeting before I heard anything</p> <p>21 coherent on the English line. If this hasn't discouraged</p> <p>22 the very public comments that this meeting is supposed to</p> <p>23 be held for, I don't know what is. I really think you</p> <p>24 need to reconsider how and what we're doing with the fare</p> <p>25 restructuring, and thank you for your time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> | <p>1 everyone across the board who has not been using it that</p> <p>2 frequently. As you said, the majority of riders use the</p> <p>3 Metro three times a week.</p> <p>4 If you are like myself, they didn't provide --</p> <p>5 well, for one thing, they did not provide an analysis of</p> <p>6 how many transfers are used per trip. So for myself,</p> <p>7 when I do use it, I need to make at least one transfer.</p> <p>8 So that would increase my cost from \$3.50 for round trip</p> <p>9 to \$6.00.</p> <p>10 MODERATOR: Caller on the Spanish interpretation</p> <p>11 line ending in 7831, please go ahead.</p> <p>12 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: Yes. Thank you very much.</p> <p>13 My name is Devin from SAJE, and I oppose the proposal</p> <p>14 because sometimes I have to even walk an hour in order to</p> <p>15 get somewhere to get my transportation, and that's \$1.75.</p> <p>16 And it's just me -- it's not just me. We have a</p> <p>17 situation where it's pretty tough for most of us.</p> <p>18 Thank you so much.</p> <p>19 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>20 MODERATOR: Our next caller is from the English</p> <p>21 line. Caller ending in 5583, please go ahead.</p> <p>22 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Can you hear me?</p> <p>23 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We can hear you. Go ahead.</p> <p>24 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Cecily, and</p> <p>25 I'm a resident of East LA.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> |
| <p>1 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>2 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 7766, please go</p> <p>3 ahead.</p> <p>4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Armando Ruiz,</p> <p>5 a lifelong Metro patron.</p> <p>6 And just echoing what everyone else is saying,</p> <p>7 I urge you all to cancel the fare hike. Considering the</p> <p>8 impending doom that we're dealing with with climate</p> <p>9 change and all the money that Metro gets subsidized from</p> <p>10 our tax dollars, public transportation should be free,</p> <p>11 and that should be the end goal. Thank you.</p> <p>12 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 2720, please go</p> <p>14 ahead.</p> <p>15 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is</p> <p>16 Connie Martinez. I'm a resident of Highland Park,</p> <p>17 District 1. I'm just giving comment on behalf of myself,</p> <p>18 who also uses the Metro, and on behalf of Angelenos, who</p> <p>19 as you said, rely upon it, and the majority of them being</p> <p>20 low-income.</p> <p>21 So although I do agree that the fare capping</p> <p>22 can be beneficial, especially for those who do use it</p> <p>23 frequently -- and, of course, that is the end goal --</p> <p>24 we're not there yet. And right now with removing the</p> <p>25 transfer, that is going to actually increase the cost of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> | <p>1 I completely agree with the callers before me</p> <p>2 and urge you to reject the fare hike and fare</p> <p>3 restructuring proposal.</p> <p>4 Also, I want to emphasize that this was the</p> <p>5 second time I tried calling in to this meeting, and I</p> <p>6 wasn't just dealing with a lag. I couldn't hear the</p> <p>7 meeting at all until the most recent break you took to</p> <p>8 resolve tech issues.</p> <p>9 If I wasn't home and able to open up the virtual</p> <p>10 meeting on my computer, I would have just assumed that it</p> <p>11 wasn't happening and given up. The failure to provide</p> <p>12 public access to what was supposed to be a public hearing</p> <p>13 is ridiculous. You absolutely need to reschedule this</p> <p>14 meeting so that all members of the public who are</p> <p>15 interested can participate.</p> <p>16 As for the actual proposal, transit is Metro</p> <p>17 riders' second highest living expense behind rent, and</p> <p>18 the current proposal raises fares (audio distortion) our</p> <p>19 seniors. It will eliminate free transfers, and it will</p> <p>20 harm cash-paying riders. It is not making the system</p> <p>21 more simple. It adds complexity and would be inequitable</p> <p>22 for the people --</p> <p>23 (Timer rang.)</p> <p>24 PUBLIC SPEAKER: -- who are already burdened the</p> <p>25 most. The majority of Metro spending comes from local</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 sales taxes, and residents such as myself already pay for 2 public transit in that way. Instead of adding -- 3 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Your time is up. 4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: -- to the already burdensome 5 cost, we should be going towards free fares. 6 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Your time is up, speaker. 7 Thank you for calling. 8 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 8663, please go 9 ahead. 10 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. This is Phyllis Lane from 11 Stop the Gondola Coalition. I'm also a neighborhood 12 board council member, but I'm just speaking for myself. 13 As I think anyone who's calling on the phone can 14 hear the presentation and where I live there are a lot of 15 people who don't have Internet access and can only join 16 meetings on the phone, I hope you will schedule another 17 meeting for after the new year. There are too many 18 important hearings that are being scheduled during this 19 busy end of the year holiday season, like this and the 20 horrible Gondola project. 21 And speaking from my own experience, for many 22 years I took (inaudible) and took the Gold Line to work 23 in Pasadena, and I have the experience of trying to 24 figure out cost wise if it was better to buy a weekly 25 pass or pay as I went. And, you know, life happens. You</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> | <p>1 systemwide frequencies to five minutes across the 2 network. 3 I mean this is just a waste of everyone's time, 4 I feel like, you know. I mean, I think fare capping is 5 interesting, but at the rate of which fare revenue 6 collection happens on Metro, I mean, you should just 7 abolish fares. Not even -- it's not even worth your 8 time. This is a waste of -- this meeting is a waste of 9 taxpayer resources. We should stop collecting fares, 10 and this meeting needs to be rescheduled. Thank you. 11 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. 12 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 4685, please go 13 ahead. 14 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. Can you hear me? 15 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can hear you. You're 16 addressing the board. 17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. Thanks. Good afternoon, 18 everyone. My name is Oscar. I'm a transit rider from 19 Compton and an organizer with SAJE, a member of ACT-LA. 20 This proposal is horrible and will harm riders. 21 Fare costs will rise for mid-range and occasional riders, 22 and cash users are completely missed out of this 23 proposal, who would greatly benefit from the cap if they 24 paid in TAP. A lot of cash users are immigrant folks and 25 our seniors, and we would be excluding them, and that's</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> |
| <p>1 know, it's hard to plan around it, so I always just paid 2 as I went. And I think a lot of people have that 3 experience. 4 I think it's good you tried to expand the LIFE 5 program, I guess, but it's an obstacle for a lot of 6 people to sign up for a program, and I think it just 7 makes things more complicated. You know, transit -- we 8 need to lower the obstacles for people to take it and 9 make it cost effective. Thank you. 10 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you for calling. 11 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 2979, please go 12 ahead. 13 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. My name's Steven. 14 I'm a resident of CD-1. 15 And first of all, after all the technical 16 issues, I agree with the other callers that this meeting 17 should be cancelled and rescheduled. You know, there was 18 just so much going on, and I think a lot of people who 19 didn't have the live web stream couldn't hear anything. 20 With regard to the proposal, I want to reject 21 this fare increase. You know, it's such a minimal amount 22 of the budget for Metro. We should have no fares. We're 23 wasting money with fare collections. Instead, the board 24 should be directing staff to analyze how many revenue 25 hours and what infrastructure will be needed to increase</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> | <p>1 just not okay. 2 If our goal is to increase ridership, it's not 3 the way to go. Metro spends more on fare enforcement 4 than it collects in fares. We should focus on universal 5 fare less transit instead of wasting our community's time 6 on half-baked proposals. Reject this fare restructuring 7 proposal and get us on the road to universal fare less 8 transit. 9 Also, because of the technical issues, I agree 10 with the other comments. We need to reschedule this 11 meeting and allow for more public feedback. Thanks. 12 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. 13 MODERATOR: We'll take the second caller from 14 the Spanish interpretation line with no phone number. 15 Please go ahead. 16 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can hear you. 17 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: Yes. Thank you so much. 18 Yes. I would like to support the previous proposal to 19 reschedule this meeting, and thank you so much for the 20 attention and the explanation given. (Audio distortion.) 21 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We're losing that audio signal. 22 MODERATOR: Next caller in the Spanish 23 interpretation line, caller ending in 7183, please go 24 ahead. 25 PUBLIC SPEAKER: (In Spanish.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we hear you.</p> <p>2 TRANSLATOR: Yes, yes. (Audio distortion.)</p> <p>3 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>4 MODERATOR: Next caller on the Spanish</p> <p>5 interpretation line ending in 8070, please go ahead.</p> <p>6 SECRETARY GOINS: AT&T, if we could put that</p> <p>7 caller on --</p> <p>8 PUBLIC SPEAKER: (In Spanish.)</p> <p>9 SECRETARY GOINS: Okay. Go ahead.</p> <p>10 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: Hello. Good afternoon.</p> <p>11 My name is Gloria Rodriguez. My comment is just that</p> <p>12 I do not agree that there would be an increase on the</p> <p>13 transportation because most of (audio distortion).</p> <p>14 CHAIR NAJARIAN: AT&T Interpreter, your line</p> <p>15 seems to be breaking up, so I suggest either you try and</p> <p>16 fix that connection, move to another spot if you're on</p> <p>17 wireless, or use another device. You're very spotty.</p> <p>18 Coming in and out. Thank you.</p> <p>19 MODERATOR: We will come back to that caller.</p> <p>20 Next caller is from the English line with no phone</p> <p>21 number. Please go ahead.</p> <p>22 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. My name is</p> <p>23 Glenn Bailey. I'm a resident on the San Fernando Valley</p> <p>24 and an occasional transit user. I'm also involved with</p> <p>25 the neighborhood council systems in the city of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> | <p>1 fare hikes and to move towards universal fare less</p> <p>2 transit because you spend more every year to enforce the</p> <p>3 fares than we bring in, in fares.</p> <p>4 It's a misuse of funds, and on top of that</p> <p>5 having police on Metro is not like -- it doesn't keep</p> <p>6 people safe, especially working-class people. And the</p> <p>7 fare hikes would adversely affect working-class people</p> <p>8 the most, which are the people that use transit the most.</p> <p>9 So we urge that you move towards universal fare less</p> <p>10 transit thank you.</p> <p>11 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>12 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5833, please go</p> <p>13 ahead.</p> <p>14 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Can you hear me?</p> <p>15 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can. You're addressing</p> <p>16 the board.</p> <p>17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. Hi. My name is Wendy,</p> <p>18 and I'm with Esperanza Community housing, which is a</p> <p>19 member of ACT-LA, and I'm also a resident of Wilmington.</p> <p>20 I also just want to echo everyone's comments</p> <p>21 about this meeting. There were way too many tech issues</p> <p>22 in this meeting. It should definitely be rescheduled to</p> <p>23 give folks -- to let folks give public comment on a very</p> <p>24 important topic.</p> <p>25 But as for my comment, I just urge you all</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> |
| <p>1 Los Angeles. And I checked, and I haven't been able to</p> <p>2 find any evidence that Metro sent notice of this public</p> <p>3 hearing to the 99 neighborhood councils in the city of</p> <p>4 Los Angeles. Fortunately, a few of them found out about</p> <p>5 it and they posted it to Nextdoor, but that's a very</p> <p>6 small percentage of the city of Los Angeles residents.</p> <p>7 So you do need to have a second hearing, and you do need</p> <p>8 to notice it to all the neighborhood councils so they can</p> <p>9 it get out to the city of Los Angeles residents.</p> <p>10 I am particularly concerned about the impact</p> <p>11 this will have on senior fares and from 35 cents off peak</p> <p>12 for a total of 70 cent round trip is now going to be a</p> <p>13 \$2.00 round trip, so that's more than doubling of the --</p> <p>14 almost tripling of the fares that seniors pay and --</p> <p>15 MODERATOR: Next caller on the English line</p> <p>16 ending in 6917, please go ahead.</p> <p>17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Can you hear me?</p> <p>18 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can.</p> <p>19 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello? Okay. Wonderful.</p> <p>20 I'm Dylan --</p> <p>21 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can hear you. Go</p> <p>22 ahead.</p> <p>23 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I'm Dylan. I'm with Youth</p> <p>24 for Climate Control Los Angeles and Sunrise Movement</p> <p>25 Los Angeles, and I urge the Metro board to reject the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> | <p>1 to reject the fare proposal. It is harmful for</p> <p>2 working-class folks and seniors, as it would raise fares,</p> <p>3 eliminate free transfers, and harm cash-paying riders.</p> <p>4 It is an inequitable solution and would further harm the</p> <p>5 most vulnerable in our community.</p> <p>6 And as a Wilmington resident, I used to rely --</p> <p>7 to regularly rely on transfers to get to different parts</p> <p>8 of the city and county to get to work, school, run</p> <p>9 errands, et cetera. And this proposal would just further</p> <p>10 create barriers for folks who depend on public transit to</p> <p>11 get around, such as Wilmington residents who live further</p> <p>12 away from the rest of the city. That's why I urge the</p> <p>13 board, especially Janice Hahn, who represents my</p> <p>14 community, to stop this fare hike. Metro should be</p> <p>15 universally and permanently fare less for everyone.</p> <p>16 Thank you.</p> <p>17 MODERATOR: Caller ending in --</p> <p>18 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>19 MODERATOR -- 7205, please go ahead.</p> <p>20 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi there. I just want to</p> <p>21 comment and say that I think that particularly the</p> <p>22 removal of transfers in this proposal wasn't clearly</p> <p>23 messaged in a lot of the communications I've seen about</p> <p>24 this fare hike. I know for me, and a many other riders,</p> <p>25 I ride typically about three times per week, and this</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 amounts to effectively over a 50 percent fare hike for 2 me.</p> <p>3 Adding on top of that, I typically need a 4 transfer, and in the system right now, just with headways 5 where they are, that can be over twenty minutes of 6 waiting. Even more if it's a bus transfer. That's just 7 really unacceptable, and it further punishes people that 8 need to make -- link multiple lines in order to complete 9 their trips.</p> <p>10 I think we need to focus on better headways if 11 anything (inaudible) bus in particular to speed up the 12 bus routes and -- as we try to hire more drivers and get 13 more buses running. But, again, I think the elimination 14 of transfers is a big misstep in this proposal.</p> <p>15 MODERATOR: Caller ending in -- 16 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. 17 MODERATOR: -- 392, please go ahead. 18 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Good evening, Metro board. 19 My name is Kathy Bush, and I'm a retired city employee, 20 and I'm against this hike -- this price increase. When I 21 worked for the City, I did utilize public transportation. 22 It was convenient and very -- financially easier. 23 My husband and I enjoy taking the Metro Gold 24 Line to and from Downtown Los Angeles because we love 25 Los Angeles, and we do not think it's fair to increase</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> | <p>1 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. 2 MODERATOR: -- 631, please go ahead. 3 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Can you hear me? 4 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can. 5 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello? Hi. I'm sorry. I'm on 6 the bus. 7 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can. 8 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I'm on the -- I'm on the 720 9 bus right now. I've been just waiting, you know, to make 10 a comment. And I really feel like if -- you know, we 11 have to do fare less transit. And I think folks who were 12 taking public transit during the pandemic, people on the 13 front lines, you know, we knew that this was the right 14 thing to do. And we also saw that it's possible. 15 And, you know, everything -- I think the city 16 has gone through a reckoning recently, and even 17 nationwide folks are saying, you know, "We want to focus 18 on the climate. We want to stay sustainable. We want to 19 have better infrastructure." And the best way to do that 20 is fare less transit. 21 And I really believe LA has such a huge 22 opportunity to move forward and do something for the 23 majority of the people that work here and live here. 24 We're in traffic right now on this bus. And why? It's 25 because we have so many people driving. Let's make it</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> |
| <p>1 our -- the price that we'd have to pay -- 2 MALE VOICE: For senior citizens. 3 PUBLIC SPEAKER: -- as senior citizens. Thank 4 you. 5 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. 6 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 2215, please go 7 ahead. 8 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi there. My name is 9 Ekaterina. I just want to comment that I also agree that 10 the elimination of transfers is not a good idea because 11 it discourages riders that actually don't take Metro, you 12 know, like, up to five times a day. So, you know, 13 eliminating transfers will discourage riders like me not 14 to use Metro frequently. 15 So with the proposed elimination of transfers -- 16 and, you know, right now you pay 1.75 regardless of how 17 many transfers you take within two hours. And now, for 18 example, if a rider takes two trips a day, which involve 19 multiple transfers, they only pay 1.75 each way or 3.50 a 20 day, and with the proposed hike, it can be up to 6.00 per 21 day and \$20.00 per week, which will only make sense if a 22 rider takes, you know, more than 11, you know -- or, 10 23 trips per week. So I think the transfers in particular, 24 I'm against that. Thank you. 25 MODERATOR: Caller ending in --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> | <p>1 easier for people to take transit. Let's make this a 2 more livable place for everyone. I always use transit. 3 I take the 10, the 720, the 28. So, you know, I hope -- 4 you know, if anything, maybe city council and people on 5 the LA Metro board should only take transit for a while 6 too, and I think -- 7 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5137, please go 8 ahead. 9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. My name is Jamie Penn. 10 I'm the President of Wilshire Center Koreatown 11 Neighborhood Council, and I'm also an avid public 12 transportation user on the Metro Red Line as well as many 13 bus lines. 14 I can also confirm we never received notice of 15 this meeting. I'm not sure if our constituents were 16 aware that it was going on, and we were never really 17 noticed to give any kind of discussion or feedback from 18 our own constituents. 19 I do know that in February the board did vote to 20 amend the law -- or, I'm sorry -- the budget that was 21 proposed from 111 million to 36 billion, and I am 22 wondering if this proposed fare increase should have 23 proceeded that large budget increase. And if that amount 24 wasn't granted to Metro, why isn't this a proposed fare 25 decrease? It was -- during that meeting, it was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 resoundingly clear that we reject any increase to 2 policing on MTA. We do want to move towards a free 3 transit system, and we do want to stop taking -- 4 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. 5 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 6157, please go 6 ahead. 7 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Jamie Ferrel. 8 I'm a CD-4 resident and a Red Line commuter. 9 I strongly oppose this fare hike proposal. It 10 concerns me that you're framing this as a social equity 11 change when it would double fares for riders who have to 12 make a transfer. It feels disingenuous, and you could 13 have implemented a daily cap without charging for 14 transfers. 15 Anyone who takes Metro knows it's already a 16 punishment to have to make a transfer. Red Line still 17 has longer 15-minute headways from the COVID era. This 18 causes Metro times to be two to three times driving 19 times. You have -- this not only hurts low-income 20 riders, but it discourages riders who have other options. 21 We really need to be moving towards a system that will 22 get all these drivers off the road and out of their 23 private vehicles both for our public health, climate, and 24 air quality. 25 In addition to that, I think you have a very</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> | <p>1 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5605, please go 2 ahead. 3 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Hello? 4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Yeah, my name is Tiernan, 5 and I'm echoing the so far unanimous calls for the board 6 to reject the fare hikes. While you may try to pass this 7 hike off as modest, the reality is that this price change 8 hurts Metro riders and disincentivizes youth. 9 Because of the transfer cost, riders can look at 10 a daily commute price over double what they currently 11 pay. The fact that you are trying to tighten the purse 12 strings on fares of all things is frankly ridiculous. 13 90 cents of every dollar collected in Metro fare is spent 14 on policing and fare collection costs. 15 Last year LA Metro spent more than \$150 million 16 on contracts with LAPD and sheriff's departments to 17 enforce fare collection. In the next fiscal year, Metro 18 isn't even projected to make over 110 million, so knowing 19 that the majority of Metro riders are low-income or 20 experiencing poverty, knowing that 63 percent of riders 21 live on less than \$25,000 a year, and knowing that for 22 two years during the pandemic Metro ran a successful 23 de facto fare less bus system, why would this modest fare 24 hike even be -- 25 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 9664, please go</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> |
| <p>1 clear public mandate to go towards free fares, and this 2 is moving in the absolute opposite direction of that 3 mandate. Thank you. 4 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. 5 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 7596, please go 6 ahead. 7 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Can you hear me? 8 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can. 9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. So my name is Carlos. 10 I am a resident of Long Beach, and I'm an occasional 11 rider of the Metro system. 12 And I have a specific thing against one very 13 specific detail of the weekly fare cap. I noticed that 14 it is Monday through Sunday. I very strongly disagree 15 with that, and I believe it should be a rolling fare cap 16 so that if you are to start on a midweek and come back 17 and end on a midweek, it should not end the cap in the 18 middle. 19 This is very bad for tourists who come and visit 20 LA and want to use the public transit system instead of 21 other options, such as renting a car, which also 22 increases congestion on our roads. 23 I also believe that we should encourage more 24 tourists to use the system for that reason, and this will 25 also help increase the -- what was I saying? Sorry.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> | <p>1 ahead. 2 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. I'm Anthony. 3 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Hello. 4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I'm a Metro rider out of 5 Long Beach. 6 I am also echoing the sentiment that everyone 7 else has had being against the fare restructuring, 8 especially with the lack of transfers. The two-hour 9 window allowed a lot of riders like me to get to places 10 we need to go without having to pay extra money. 11 A real world example is -- for example, when I 12 was working in La Brea, I would have to take a Metro bus 13 to the Green Line to another bus. That fare was 1.75. 14 There and back the ride would cost me a total of 3.50. 15 Now with your new fare, it would be a total of \$6.00 for 16 the first time, and then on the I way back, it would be 17 another -- or, it would cap. But that's still three -- 18 \$2.50 more than I was paying originally. Even if I were 19 to do that five times a week, it would still cost more 20 than -- it would still cost less than the current cap you 21 guys are offering. So I'm very against it. 22 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 0738, please go 23 ahead. 24 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. I'm a Metro rider from 25 Englewood, and first and foremost, this meeting needs to</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 be rescheduled. There was, you know, callers that were 2 probably on here and couldn't stay on or whatever because 3 of your technical issues, and I couldn't hear the Spanish 4 speakers, so I'm not sure if that was, like, an issue I 5 was having on my end, but yeah.</p> <p>6 Since we're here, I'm calling to urge you to 7 reject the fare hike and fare restructuring proposal. 8 I believe this fare hike and just having fares in general 9 are detrimental to riders. This proposal would just do 10 more harm than good, especially to seniors and 11 cash-paying riders.</p> <p>12 And seeing as how the bulk of Metro's funding 13 comes from local sales taxes, it doesn't make sense to 14 even have fares. You're basically making residents pay 15 double for something that they're already paying for. 16 So I'm imploring Metro -- I implore you all to make 17 universal and permanently -- make Metro universally and 18 permanently fare less. It's the equitable solution to 19 make transit accessible, especially --</p> <p>20 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 9535, please go 21 ahead.</p> <p>22 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name's Robert. I'm a 23 transit rider from west LA.</p> <p>24 I would like to echo all of the previous calls 25 for ending fares and moving towards fare less transit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> | <p>1 everyone that has been saying for this meeting to be 2 rescheduled. There's been so much time just waiting on 3 the line to connect, and I was on the computer and then 4 on my phone again back and forth. And it was (audio 5 distortion) for a while, but yeah, it needs to be 6 rescheduled.</p> <p>7 There should be more outreach for the community. 8 I felt this was really rushed. I'm pretty sure a lot of 9 people -- I was on the buses today -- did not even know 10 about this meeting when they should be made aware.</p> <p>11 I live south of Century, and already we are -- 12 we don't have as many resources. There's not many buses. 13 There's no bikes. There's no scooters. (Inaudible) 14 needs to have more buses 24/7. I feel like that should 15 be a goal and fare less transportation -- public 16 transportation. (Inaudible) thing for the community.</p> <p>17 Especially right now that we're going through 18 climate change and -- we should be getting more people to 19 try and take the bus. We live in a big city, and it's 20 still like --</p> <p>21 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 0415, please go 22 ahead.</p> <p>23 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Esther, and 24 I'm a transit rider in Pasadena.</p> <p>25 I take a Metro bus to the L Line, and then I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> |
| <p>1 It's a direct attack on our lowest income citizens. And, 2 of course, with that, that would mean giving everyone 3 free transfers along the way. I find that to be an 4 especially malicious change, as someone who used to take 5 very long commutes to get to job locations in places like 6 Pasadena and Glendale.</p> <p>7 So yeah, if we look at the benefits of transit 8 reducing -- congestion, improving air quality, getting 9 cars off the road, getting more people into the same 10 businesses without needing to build expanded parking 11 structures -- we should be trying to incentivize 12 ridership. And increasing cost is the exact opposite way 13 to do that. It's just appalling that we would be moving 14 in this direction. Fund the transit via any other means 15 than fares at the point of service. Thank you.</p> <p>16 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 2993, please go 17 ahead.</p> <p>18 PUBLIC SPEAKER: (Audio distortion.)</p> <p>19 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 2993, your line is 20 unmuted.</p> <p>21 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Oh, sorry. Can you hear me? 22 Hello?</p> <p>23 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can hear you. Yes, we 24 can hear you.</p> <p>25 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Oh, hi. I do agree with</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> | <p>1 usually have to take that all the way to Union Station, 2 transfer to another line to go more west. At this time 3 that would cost me \$3.50 round trip, but under the new 4 system with no free transfers, that would cost me \$6.00 5 on my very first trip of the week.</p> <p>6 For this entire year, I have been either 7 unemployed or underemployed, and many times I had to 8 choose between either buying food or putting money on my 9 TAP card. I can't see savings that are going to come at 10 the end of the week when I -- there were times this past 11 year where I could barely make it on \$3.50 a day. 12 These -- the proposed new fare system is not helpful 13 upfront for elders and for cash riders -- for people that 14 don't have access to TAP machines.</p> <p>15 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 7505, please go 16 ahead.</p> <p>17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. Can you hear me? 18 Hello? Can you hear me? Hello. Can you hear me?</p> <p>19 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We can hear you. Go ahead. 20 We can hear you. Go ahead.</p> <p>21 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. Okay. All right. I can 22 hear you now. Thank you. Okay.</p> <p>23 All right. Let's put this fare plan into real 24 word context. We just opened the K Line. 25 Congratulations. Now south LA residents can use the K</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 and E Lines to go to the Crypto.com Arena. Total travel 2 distance is less than six miles, but it will cost four 3 bucks one way short trip because that person is riding 4 two Metro rail lines. Yet, a person living in 5 Santa Monica 15 miles away can ride the E Line and only 6 pay \$2.00 to get to the same place. Who's subsidizing 7 who? We need better fare solutions for LA. UFC isn't it 8 either. The missing factor is each rider's travel 9 distance which varies person to person.</p> <p>10 Metro did a NextGen study that shows 60 percent 11 of Metro riders ride less than five miles. Then can we 12 look at charging by fare by the distance instead? Charge 13 less for shorter trips and charge more for farther trips. 14 Do things like TAP in/TAP out. Start the fares off at 15 50 cents. Make it go up in small increments the farther 16 you go, and we can cap it off at \$3.00 or \$4.00 for the 17 longest rides. Thank you.</p> <p>18 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 2727, please go 19 ahead.</p> <p>20 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is 21 Carmina Calderon, and I'm a community organizer with 22 Community Power Collective. I'm also a member of ACT-LA, 23 and I urge you to reject the fare hike and fare 24 restructure proposal.</p> <p>25 Transit is Metro riders' second highest living</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> | <p>1 SECRETARY GOINS: We can hear you. Thank you.</p> <p>2 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: Yes, yes. I would agree 3 with everyone regarding the increase of the fare. And 4 also, for those of us who depend on buses, in particular 5 in the area of Normandy, Bus Number 206 -- there are some 6 instances where we need to wait up to an hour to get a 7 bus. And then when we do have one, there are two or 8 three competing each other with the TAP. So we need the 9 bus in order to pick up our children from school. And 10 really an incremental fare will not be fair for us.</p> <p>11 Also, it would not be fair for those who depend 12 also on the buses, which are the senior citizens. We do 13 not agree with the increase of fare, and we would like to 14 see an increase on buses. Thank you so much.</p> <p>15 MODERATOR: Moving back to the English line, 16 caller ending in 6644, please go ahead.</p> <p>17 (No audible response.)</p> <p>18 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 6644, your line has 19 been unmuted.</p> <p>20 (No audible response.)</p> <p>21 MODERATOR: Okay. We will come back to you. 22 Caller ending in 81 --</p> <p>23 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Oh, there we go. Are you still 24 there?</p> <p>25 Okay. My name is James. I live in Pasadena.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> |
| <p>1 expense behind rent. The staff proposal raises fares, 2 especially for seniors, eliminates free transfers, and 3 harms cash-paying riders. It also adds more complexity 4 to the system rather than simplicity.</p> <p>5 Though it is understandable to want to move to 6 a more streamlined form of payment, a lot of 7 transit-dependent community members we speak to weekly, 8 for many reasons still prefer to use cash. So this will 9 exclude them from the benefits you claim to provide with 10 the restructuring because it will further 11 institutionalize TAP. This along with the elimination of 12 the transfer window means it is an inequitable solution 13 that will further harm the most vulnerable in our 14 community.</p> <p>15 The majority, around 70 percent of Metro's 16 funding, comes from local sales taxes. Metro should be 17 universally and permanently fare less for everyone. I 18 urge you to end these fare change proposals, and I also 19 urge you to have this meeting again to --</p> <p>20 MODERATOR: We will go on the caller on the 21 Spanish interpretation line ending in 6797.</p> <p>22 (No audible response.)</p> <p>23 SECRETARY GOINS: Translator, we cannot hear 24 you.</p> <p>25 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: Can you hear me now?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> | <p>1 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yeah, we can hear you. Go 2 ahead.</p> <p>3 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I live in Pasadena, and I'm an 4 occasional transit rider and a senior. I go typically 5 off the peak hours, so my cost for a transfer trip is 6 35 cents each way. With this proposal, that would jack 7 up to \$2.00, and that's a 471 percent increase, which is 8 just intolerable.</p> <p>9 That's not at all equitable, and certainly when 10 you compare that to the increase in the benefits from 11 social security -- I guess that's 3 percent -- that's 12 just one-third. I also oppose the general principles of 13 increasing the rates and eliminating the transfer 14 availability, and we do need to reschedule this meeting 15 and get better participation.</p> <p>16 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 8122, please go 17 ahead.</p> <p>18 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello? Hello? Hello?</p> <p>19 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes. Yes, we can hear you. 20 Go ahead. We can hear you. Go ahead.</p> <p>21 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. I think everyone agrees 22 with this -- let's learn from those who run transit 23 better than us. Then why are we not looking to agencies? 24 Everyone, including the socialists calling for UFC, knows 25 that Japan, South Korea, Taiwan all have better mass</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 transit than we do, including New York. Why are we not 2 learning what they do and applying that here?</p> <p>3 Let's remind ourselves that increasing ridership 4 is not the goal. Increasing the fare box recovery ratio 5 along with increasing ridership is the actual goal. 6 What is that cities like them, Tokyo, Seoul, Taipei, 7 Hong Kong, Singapore, do that accomplishes that but none 8 of our U.S. cities can?</p> <p>9 New York City and Taipei have the same ridership 10 numbers, two million riders per day, but totally 11 different results. New York City only recovers 12 25 percent; Taipei recovers 100 percent. Why? Let's 13 look at what they're --</p> <p>14 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5011, please go 15 ahead.</p> <p>16 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. Can you hear me? My 17 name is Sim --</p> <p>18 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We can hear you.</p> <p>19 PUBLIC SPEAKER: -- Los Angeles.</p> <p>20 We are vehemently opposed to raising fare 21 prices. You know, we're facing a climate crisis here in 22 south LA and all across Los Angeles. This is no time to 23 be dissuading riders from riding public transit. You 24 know, this is actually kind of embarrassing that you guys 25 would suggest increasing fare prices when you well know</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> | <p>1 name is Elizabeth Medrano. I am a community organizer 2 and advocate at the intersection of housing and 3 transportation and hunger and all kinds of vital services 4 that people need to thrive.</p> <p>5 I agree with everyone. I just want to say that 6 moving us or forcing people to go on TAP is not the 7 solution. People pay ride by ride because people don't 8 have money. They cannot pay up front. Many people earn 9 in cash, if people have jobs. People have not recovered 10 from the pandemic. The pandemic is still happening.</p> <p>11 This is a huge opportunity for LA to be the 12 actual leader of fare less transit. Let's find solutions 13 centered on bus riders, not on what other big cities are 14 doing or other big countries. Let's focus on what's the 15 local solution for the LA people -- LA city people, 16 LA County people. Fare less transit --</p> <p>17 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 6753, please go 18 ahead.</p> <p>19 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi, everyone. My name is 20 (Inaudible).</p> <p>21 As the previous (inaudible), I oppose this fare 22 hike as it is really bad for our low-income communities. 23 As well, I currently use the Metro to get around to the 24 museums and all that. This fare increase will hurt not 25 only my family, but also being able to take my siblings</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> |
| <p>1 everyone wants fare-free public transit -- even 2 demonstrated on this call. So, you know, I hope you take 3 into consideration the public. It is public transit 4 after all. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5142, please go 6 ahead.</p> <p>7 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. I'm Mya. I'm a resident 8 of CD-13, and I rely on Metro to get everywhere -- mainly 9 the 4, the 2, and the 603. And I also frequently pay 10 cash for Metro. I vehemently oppose the fare hikes.</p> <p>11 It's not riders' fault that you can't get 12 anywhere without a transfer, and riders shouldn't be 13 paying double because their rides are less efficient. 14 For people like me, having to buy a weekly pass every 15 week, it's confusing and also doesn't make sense for 16 people who have irregular schedules and don't know how 17 often they'll be on Metro every week.</p> <p>18 I also echo everyone that the meeting should be 19 rescheduled due to issues of scheduling and technology. 20 And, also, fares should be ended overall. Thank you.</p> <p>21 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5322, please go 22 ahead.</p> <p>23 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Can you hear me?</p> <p>24 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We can hear you. Go ahead.</p> <p>25 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. Hi. Good evening. My</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> | <p>1 out and getting to know LA County.</p> <p>2 As well, I also echo that this meeting needs 3 to be rescheduled, as we had a lot of technical 4 difficulties. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5826, please go 6 ahead.</p> <p>7 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Michael Texter, and 8 I live in West Hollywood.</p> <p>9 I am firmly against this proposal because I feel 10 like all it's really trying -- or, all it's really 11 ultimately going to do is make Metro twice as expensive 12 for the vast majority of riders. I really try hard to 13 get people out of owning cars and out of that mindset and 14 on to buses, but this is just making it way harder for 15 what I strive to daily, which is talk people into taking 16 the bus and Metro lines out here, which actually are 17 wonderful. And I really wish Metro would get more credit 18 for the wonderful lines that exist before this proposal.</p> <p>19 Also, eliminating free transfers, to me, is a 20 huge disappointment. That wasn't clear in any of the 21 documentation that I saw prior to this meeting, so I wish 22 you would have made that much more clear. But that's 23 just a total disaster, and since LA is so spread out, we 24 really need those free transfers because we often need to 25 take more than one line to get to where we need to go.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Also, in regards to the tech issues, if you 2 didn't reschedule, holding another meeting like this 3 would --</p> <p>4 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5684, please go 5 ahead.</p> <p>6 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Yes. Hi. This is Eli Lipmen, 7 representing Move LA.</p> <p>8 The staff -- while we believe that fare capping 9 can be more equitable (audio distortion) including the 10 increase (audio distortion). The staff report bases its 11 assumptions -- sorry, Move LA asks the board to step back 12 and direct the staff to restructure this proposal.</p> <p>13 The staff report basis its assumption on an 14 ideal rider that's going to benefit from fare capping, 15 but that rider has a regular 9:00 to 5:00 job and then 16 goes to his doctor appointment in the middle of the day, 17 which we believe is not the typical Metro rider. 18 For instance, seniors, students, and people with 19 disabilities. The off-peak fare is currently 35 cents, 20 but this plan proposes almost tripling the cost for 21 rides. When we passed Measure M, 2 percent was dedicated 22 to keeping fares low for these riders, and this breaks 23 that promise.</p> <p>24 Second, cash riders who are approximately a 25 quarter of riders and 38 percent of bus boardings -- what</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> | <p>1 quality, but furthers inequity.</p> <p>2 Fares should be eliminated and eliminate costs 3 it would make to enforce collecting them. This would 4 be -- this would actually save money for Metro. And 5 lastly, I agree with other callers. This meeting should 6 be rescheduled so that the callers --</p> <p>7 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 4480, please go 8 ahead.</p> <p>9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is (Inaudible) 10 Morales, and I am a community organizer here with SAJE, 11 and I am in total opposition of this proposal.</p> <p>12 I take Lines 251, 182, 94, and the Gold and 13 Red Lines, and I am in strong agreement that this meeting 14 needs to be rescheduled in order for more community 15 members to voice their concerns on this very important 16 proposal.</p> <p>17 It's extremely disappointing to hear Metro's 18 attempting to raise fares during a pandemic, housing 19 crisis, and time of economic instability. This proposal 20 hurts Metro's most vulnerable riders, including cash 21 riders, seniors, low-income families, and low-income 22 riders in general.</p> <p>23 We already pay for Metro. It is a public good, 24 and if it's public, it should just be free. And, again, 25 many people have lost loved ones, their jobs, and have</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> |
| <p>1 is the income of these cash riders? Are these are lowest 2 income riders? Why are we burdening them without knowing 3 who they are? It isn't clear that the staff examined 4 alternative strategies to get these riders to use TAP. 5 As such, raising fares is unjust, unfair, and likely to 6 drive them off the system, so it's a --</p> <p>7 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 6256, please go 8 ahead.</p> <p>9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Diana, and I am 10 a transit rider in Los Feliz.</p> <p>11 I'm urging you to reject the plan to restructure 12 fares. It's being patterned as a way to help riders 13 save money, but in reality, it's going to hire fares for 14 many situations, including paying cash and transfers. 15 63 percent of transit users earn less than \$25,000 a year 16 and are already burdened by the current fares. This is a 17 fare hike for most rides because most trips require 18 transfers, as you heard in this call.</p> <p>19 I agree with other commenters. Our city should 20 be moving toward fare less public transportation. Metro 21 does not even rely on revenue from fares to operate, so 22 what is the purpose of it being effectively raised? More 23 money is spent on law enforcement to enforce that people 24 pay the fares than is even generated from the fares. 25 It's senseless and does almost nothing to further</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> | <p>1 lost financial stability. So it would hurt and penalize 2 the riders that need the most support. And if you want 3 to increase ridership and more equitable ridership, just 4 make transit free.</p> <p>5 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 8634, please go 6 ahead.</p> <p>7 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My name is Adriana. I live in 8 CD-10, and I'm a frequent transit rider.</p> <p>9 I notice that your presentation did not include 10 how many transit users have to transfer as part of their 11 ridership. Getting rid of free transfers will kill 12 casual ridership and make commutes even more difficult in 13 a city where it is rare to be able to get to a 14 destination with only one ride.</p> <p>15 According to the exceptional budget tool that 16 Metro O&B released this month, Metro spends \$175 million 17 a year on LAPD contracts and eliminating fares is 18 expected to cost \$105 million a year. Metro has the 19 budget to eliminate fares, and it should. I urge the 20 board to reject the fare hike and reconsider this 21 proposal.</p> <p>22 I'd also like to support and echo all the 23 previous comments about rescheduling this meeting due to 24 the many technical issues. Thank you.</p> <p>25 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 3837, please go</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 ahead.</p> <p>2 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. This is Visatino.</p> <p>3 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I'm calling as a member of --</p> <p>4 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Hello.</p> <p>5 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Can you hear me? Hello?</p> <p>6 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can.</p> <p>7 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. I'm -- my name is --</p> <p>8 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We can hear you. Go ahead.</p> <p>9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. I'm calling from -- my</p> <p>10 name is Visatino. I'm calling from -- as a member of the</p> <p>11 LA Black Workers Center and Nature For All.</p> <p>12 I want to echo everyone -- what everyone has</p> <p>13 shared. City councils, Metro, shame on ya'll. Ya'll</p> <p>14 have not done the proper job to do the outreach so that</p> <p>15 communities know about this public comment event.</p> <p>16 It is sad to hear that the only languages that</p> <p>17 we're hearing is English and Spanish. Ya'll should know</p> <p>18 that LA County is a very diverse place, and there should</p> <p>19 be more languages available. There's no Asian languages</p> <p>20 available on here.</p> <p>21 And so I do want to say that once again how</p> <p>22 everyone has shared, this is going to impact a lot of</p> <p>23 people. We're still in a pandemic. People are still</p> <p>24 unemployed. People are being evicted, and this is not</p> <p>25 the moment to do this, and this is not the moment to do</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> | <p>1 guidelines.</p> <p>2 You did nothing to make these fares free</p> <p>3 permanently. And this bull shit fare restructuring plan</p> <p>4 hurts the low-income commuter's pocket. We need</p> <p>5 universal fare less transit right now. We've been</p> <p>6 demanding this for, like, several months. Fuck the fare</p> <p>7 hikes and fuck Metro. I yield my time.</p> <p>8 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 1589, please go</p> <p>9 ahead.</p> <p>10 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Miguel. I am a reward-winning</p> <p>11 activist and a rider here in Watts.</p> <p>12 I echo the previous comments about this meeting</p> <p>13 and their sentiments about this shitty fare hike. How</p> <p>14 grotesque of you guys to hike up prices when you wasted</p> <p>15 so much taxpayer money on terrible updates, buggy ass,</p> <p>16 a horrible knock off of Uber called Metro Micro that</p> <p>17 sucks, the amount of policing being spent on stations</p> <p>18 when they're so disgusting, unclean, and so many people</p> <p>19 have been assaulted and murdered and you've done nothing</p> <p>20 about it. You've brought no justice to riders.</p> <p>21 You've undercut several lines and hours of</p> <p>22 operation forcing people to be stranded and in unsafe</p> <p>23 areas at certain times. Your fare hike is a slap in the</p> <p>24 face of people during a pandemic that has not ended, has</p> <p>25 cost people lives, jobs, homes, health, and so much more.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> |
| <p>1 this ever.</p> <p>2 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 1117, please go</p> <p>3 ahead.</p> <p>4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name's Greg Heining.</p> <p>5 I live in CD-13. I'm a public transit rider who depends</p> <p>6 on the Metro to get to my job at the Pasadena Symphony.</p> <p>7 "I think the fare hike is a great idea," said no</p> <p>8 one. I think this really hurts our seniors, folks who</p> <p>9 have to use cash.</p> <p>10 I agree with what everybody else has said that</p> <p>11 the technical difficulties and the lack of notice about</p> <p>12 this meeting, should mean that it should be rescheduled</p> <p>13 so more folks can weigh in on the subject. Once again,</p> <p>14 I'm firmly against the fare hike. Thanks.</p> <p>15 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 0959, please go</p> <p>16 ahead.</p> <p>17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Can you hear me?</p> <p>18 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can. Go ahead.</p> <p>19 PUBLIC SPEAKER: You all remember when you guys</p> <p>20 assumed the fares in the middle of the pandemic ten</p> <p>21 months ago? Like, this is a bad move for Metro. How</p> <p>22 many passengers and your employees got COVID? People are</p> <p>23 getting sick because your unreliable transportation</p> <p>24 agency mishandled its Covid19 protocols and also not</p> <p>25 following the LA public health and CDC's Corona virus</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> | <p>1 It's grotesque, it's disgusting, it's wrong, and you</p> <p>2 people should be ashamed -- ashamed to ask more money of</p> <p>3 us riders who still have to depend on this. I end my</p> <p>4 time.</p> <p>5 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 6371, please go</p> <p>6 ahead.</p> <p>7 (Interruption in proceedings.)</p> <p>8 MODERATOR: Caller, we'll come back to you.</p> <p>9 Okay. That caller hung up.</p> <p>10 Caller ending in 3139, please go ahead.</p> <p>11 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Yes. Hello. My name is</p> <p>12 (inaudible). I live in the city of Downey, and I ride</p> <p>13 the Green Line C train every day to work.</p> <p>14 I'm against the current proposal and agree with</p> <p>15 the previous speakers that LA Metro needs to move towards</p> <p>16 a free, fare less system. I'm against this proposal not</p> <p>17 just because of the elimination of free transfers and the</p> <p>18 increase in fares, but it will increase -- lead to the</p> <p>19 increase of fare evasion, and that's because a majority</p> <p>20 of riders do not ride LA Metro more than three times a</p> <p>21 day or more than ten times a week. And when riders</p> <p>22 realize they won't reach the daily or weekly cap, this</p> <p>23 will cost an unintended consequence of making fare</p> <p>24 evasion even worse.</p> <p>25 Having a daily fare cap after two times or a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 weekly cap after five times a week makes much more sense, 2 but currently, Metro wants to daily cap after three times 3 a day and weekly cap after ten times per week, which 4 doesn't make sense. Lastly, I do agree that we should be 5 having --</p> <p>6 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 1148, please go 7 ahead.</p> <p>8 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Yeah. My name is Andrew Neal. 9 I'm a Metro rider, and I want to echo the overwhelming 10 call for both rescheduling this meeting and also to make 11 it fare less, not do this fare hike.</p> <p>12 I think that there's just been an changing of 13 the guard in LA politics -- both a new mayor coming in, 14 a new county supervisor probably coming in, multiple new 15 elected positions in significant power, and I think that 16 there's a changing of priorities. I think that you 17 should rethink this. I think you need to reschedule this 18 meeting. I think you need to make riding fare less, and 19 I think you need to listen to the overwhelming amount of 20 people saying to reject this rate hike. I yield my time.</p> <p>21 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 0119, please go 22 ahead.</p> <p>23 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name's 24 Scarlett De Leon, and I am with Alliance for Community 25 Transit Los Angeles, ACT-LA.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> | <p>1 this is not right.</p> <p>2 Furthermore, this adds more complexity to the 3 system rather than simplicity. The majority, about 4 70 percent, of Metro's funding comes from local sales 5 taxes, so we're already paying for public transit when 6 we make purchases. Los Angeles is well positioned to 7 lead the way in the U.S. in creating a universally and 8 permanently fare less countywide transit system. Let's 9 concentrate on that and reject this proposal. Thank you.</p> <p>10 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 7329, please go 11 ahead.</p> <p>12 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you. Good evening, Metro 13 directors. My name is Hector Huezo. I'm a California 14 director with Jobs to Move America and a member of the 15 Alliance for Community Transit.</p> <p>16 I want to echo the calls to reject this fare 17 restructuring. It has disproportionate impacts to riders 18 of color and transit-dependant riders, but more 19 importantly, you know, at a time when, you know, major 20 companies, like Amazon or DoorDash or Instacart or Uber 21 and Lyft are congesting our streets -- they're polluting 22 our air, they're treating workers like garbage -- to 23 consider any kind of fare restructuring on the backs of 24 working people when you have this humongous opportunity 25 in front of you to really go after bad actors while</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> |
| <p>1 We're opposed to any fare increases, elimination 2 of transfer window, and penalizing cash riders. This 3 will directly impact the most vulnerable in our 4 community, your riders. This is an inequitable solution 5 that causes harm to those you serve. We call for an 6 overall fare less system -- for a system that -- we call 7 for a universal fare less system.</p> <p>8 This system, Metro already gets a majority, 9 70 percent, of its funding from local sales tax. 10 LA County residents, including me, already pay for public 11 transit, so do better. Thank you.</p> <p>12 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 0381, please go 13 ahead.</p> <p>14 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Good evening, board members. 15 My name's Laura Raymond. I'm the director of ACT-LA, a 16 coalition of 42 community organizations working on behalf 17 of transit and housing justice in the county. Our 18 coalition urges you to reject this fare restructuring 19 proposal.</p> <p>20 Metro riders are overwhelmingly extremely 21 low-income, and transit is often riders' second highest 22 living expenses behind rent. Staff's current proposal 23 raises fares, especially for seniors, eliminates free 24 transfers, and especially impacts cash-paying riders. 25 It's not equitable, so using the language of "equity" for</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> | <p>1 cleaning up our streets and our air making this county 2 more just for people who are just trying to get to work 3 and get to their appointments. I urge you to reject this 4 fare hike and to please come back with a fair --</p> <p>5 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 4971, please go 6 ahead.</p> <p>7 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. I approve the fare cap 8 system, but I oppose the increasing the fare. That not 9 only burdens the low-income, but also short-distance 10 riders, especially with eliminating free transfers.</p> <p>11 I am sorry to those who are saying it, but 12 I oppose universal free transit also. It doesn't make 13 sense. No metropolis in the world is able to run free 14 transit, especially in a metro the size of LA County. We 15 should be looking at ways to move away from forever being 16 dependant on taxpayer dollars by increasing Metro's 17 independence to self-sustainability.</p> <p>18 I propose a third alternative -- move away from 19 pay per ride and move to a pay-by-the-mile system similar 20 to every other mode of transportation but just at a 21 cheaper rate. Many cities in the world do this. Why is 22 this not considered, but we just look at increasing pay 23 per ride or no fares at all? There are other 24 alternatives to think about. Thank you.</p> <p>25 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 3347, please go</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 ahead.</p> <p>2 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. Hello. Yeah, the same</p> <p>3 as everybody, I disagree with increasing the fares. That</p> <p>4 literally makes sense to nobody. It's really</p> <p>5 disrespectful that it's even being suggested.</p> <p>6 And to respond to the last caller -- it hasn't</p> <p>7 ever been done, but that doesn't mean it can't be done.</p> <p>8 Actually, it was already done. We literally had free</p> <p>9 transit during the pandemic. So the current system is</p> <p>10 actually a retrograde from that. We used to actually</p> <p>11 literally have free transit literally a couple months</p> <p>12 ago, and then we came back to the system which costs more</p> <p>13 money.</p> <p>14 So yeah, honestly, you guys could lead the way.</p> <p>15 We could lead the way in the whole world. Be the first</p> <p>16 fully free transit system. This would alleviate so much</p> <p>17 tension, would make living here easy -- easier for people</p> <p>18 because it's already so difficult for working-class</p> <p>19 people to live here. So, yeah. That's that.</p> <p>20 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 9608, please go</p> <p>21 ahead.</p> <p>22 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi there. This is Kevin Leer</p> <p>23 calling. I am a Metro rider and someone who is also</p> <p>24 studying transportation at UCLA as an urban planning</p> <p>25 student.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> | <p>1 me?</p> <p>2 SECRETARY GOINS: Go ahead. We can hear you.</p> <p>3 PUBLIC SPEAKER: (Inaudible.) This fare</p> <p>4 increase shows that you were not listening to your</p> <p>5 riders. Very few people would benefit from such a fare</p> <p>6 structure, and the casual riders like myself would be</p> <p>7 less inclined to use public transit as opposed to using</p> <p>8 my car. We're obviously in a climate crisis right now.</p> <p>9 We can't -- we have to encourage more people to use</p> <p>10 public transit, and this is not the way to do it. Thank</p> <p>11 you.</p> <p>12 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 4478, please go</p> <p>13 ahead.</p> <p>14 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. Now you can hear me.</p> <p>15 I think the fare increase is good. I mean, like, things</p> <p>16 cost more money -- inflation. So I think that's a good</p> <p>17 idea, but the whole taking away the transfers, I think</p> <p>18 that might be -- I don't know. I kind of like that.</p> <p>19 That's kind of a good -- if you have to take different</p> <p>20 busses and stuff like that.</p> <p>21 But yeah, I don't -- I don't agree with the</p> <p>22 whole going fare less because when you had no fares,</p> <p>23 there was a lot of people, like, that just didn't have</p> <p>24 houses that were on there and just trash everywhere, so</p> <p>25 I think you got to keep some money there and yeah -- but</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> |
| <p>1 I strongly urge you to listen to the people on</p> <p>2 this line, especially those of you that don't have your</p> <p>3 cameras on, maybe aren't even at your desks listening to</p> <p>4 the people that have taken time out of their evenings to</p> <p>5 come and protest this awful policy.</p> <p>6 Everything has been said already about</p> <p>7 the issues with the fare hike, and this really</p> <p>8 disproportionately affects seniors, it disproportionately</p> <p>9 affects cash users, and nothing here points to this being</p> <p>10 a solution at all.</p> <p>11 So consider rescheduling this meeting because so</p> <p>12 many have been disenfranchised in this process. And</p> <p>13 also, this is just a laughable policy. This is terrible,</p> <p>14 so please take the time to listen to your constituents if</p> <p>15 you're going to provide them the venues to provide their</p> <p>16 opinions. So, yeah, I yield.</p> <p>17 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 9121, please go</p> <p>18 ahead.</p> <p>19 (No audible response.)</p> <p>20 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 9121, your line has</p> <p>21 been unmuted.</p> <p>22 (No audible response.)</p> <p>23 MODERATOR: We will come back to you.</p> <p>24 Caller ending in 2040, please go ahead.</p> <p>25 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello? Hello? Can you hear</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> | <p>1 yeah, I think the fares are good. And I think that's it.</p> <p>2 Thanks so much.</p> <p>3 MODERATOR: We will now return to the next</p> <p>4 callers who did not speak when unmuted, but if we do not</p> <p>5 hear anything after ten seconds, we will move on to the</p> <p>6 next caller and you will not be back in the queue. The</p> <p>7 first is caller ending in 8255. Please go ahead.</p> <p>8 (No audible response.)</p> <p>9 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 8255, your line has</p> <p>10 been unmuted again.</p> <p>11 (No audible response.)</p> <p>12 MODERATOR: We're not getting any audio.</p> <p>13 Caller ending in 2720. Please go ahead.</p> <p>14 (No audible response.)</p> <p>15 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 2720, please go</p> <p>16 ahead. Your line is unmuted.</p> <p>17 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. I already spoke</p> <p>18 previously, but I will just add to that. I think you</p> <p>19 should listen to what everybody has been saying in terms</p> <p>20 of making it more accessible to everybody. Obviously,</p> <p>21 it's not convenient. It's not clean. It's not</p> <p>22 efficient. People should be incentivized to use it. It</p> <p>23 would be a win/win. We should go for the win/win to</p> <p>24 actually make it more accessible by reducing fares, not</p> <p>25 increasing them. And that would reduce -- you know, that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 would address our climate goals. That would address 2 alleviating congestion, and it would increase ridership. 3 So at the same time I think that you need to 4 take additional public comment because of all the 5 technical difficulties, and that includes via e-mail and 6 possibly having another hearing as well because a lot of 7 people were shut out and they were obstructed from making 8 their public comment. Thank you very much. 9 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 6371, please go 10 ahead. 11 PUBLIC SPEAKER: People haven't spoken yet. 12 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 6371, your line is 13 unmuted. 14 PUBLIC SPEAKER: All right. I've been on here 15 waiting for two hours, and I have somewhere to go. 16 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We can hear you. Go ahead and 17 speak. It's your turn to speak. 18 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. Bye. 19 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay. 20 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 6371, your line is 21 unmuted and you can be heard. 22 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Can you hear me? Hello? 23 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can. Yes, we can hear 24 you. 25 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello? Can you hear me?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> | <p>1 rider rides -- I'm sorry. I can -- can you hear me? 2 SECRETARY GOINS: Yes, we can hear you. Please 3 go ahead. We can hear you. 4 (No audible response.) 5 DIRECTOR KREKORIAN: Please remind the callers 6 to turn their devices down. That's the problem. They're 7 listening to the meeting on the device, and there's a 8 lag. 9 MODERATOR: That caller has disconnected. We 10 will now go to caller ending in 9121. 11 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name's Shekina. 12 First of all, to the person that made the anti 13 unhoused comment earlier, fuck you in your rear for that. 14 And second of all, I'm an organizer with 15 Pilipino Workers Center in HiFi, and just like everyone 16 else except for that person on the call, I'm calling 17 against fare hikes and against collecting Metro fares at 18 all. 19 First of all, fares account for less than 20 1.5 percent of your revenues. Metro spends over 150 -- 21 \$15 million more on security and police that have failed 22 to protect or care for Metro riders leaving community 23 members to care for each other. There is literally no 24 legitimate reason to mandate fares. 25 Secondly, a Metro fare at any price bars</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> |
| <p>1 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes. 2 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Can you hear me? You can 3 address the board. 4 MODERATOR: Yes. 5 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I'm not sure why you can't -- 6 DIRECTOR KREKORIAN: You need to remind people 7 to turn down their devices. There's a lag, so people 8 need to turn down their devices. 9 DIRECTOR GARCETTI: Maybe the clerk can tell 10 people that we can hear them. 11 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Can you hear me? I'm trying to 12 talk to you. 13 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can hear you, but you 14 can't hear us. 15 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Can you hear me? Hello? 16 Hello? 17 CHAIR NAJARIAN: We can hear you. We can hear 18 you. 19 (Simultaneous speakers.) 20 SECRETARY GOINS: Okay. 6371, 6371, we can hear 21 you. Please go ahead. 22 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay. Great. 23 SECRETARY GOINS: We can hear you. 24 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. I urge you to reject the 25 fare hike and cap proposal. The average regular bus</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> | <p>1 children from regularly attending school, bars parents 2 from going to work and being able to provide for their 3 families, and bars elders from accessing lifesaving 4 medical needs. 5 Furthermore, many are in our undocumented 6 community who cannot obtain drivers id's because they're 7 rightfully afraid of interacting with any government 8 entities and rely on Metro just to exist. City, county, 9 and federal government already fail to provide support -- 10 MODERATOR: Our final question -- caller ending 11 in 8927, please go ahead. 12 PUBLIC SPEAKER: My main concern is getting rid 13 of the transfers. Right now people pay only \$1.75 for a 14 one-way trip regardless one or two or how many transfers, 15 but most people, they require more than a, you know, 16 transfer to get to their destination. So with two 17 transfers, you have to pay \$6.00 instead of \$1.75. 18 That's three and a half times increase, three and a half 19 times increase from the fare they're paying right now, so 20 this is a big, big fare increase. This is something you 21 really should think about. This is just simply too much. 22 Thank you. 23 SECRETARY GOINS: Okay. That was the last 24 caller. 25 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you. Thank you, staff,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 and thank you callers who called in.</p> <p>2 All the lines are cleared, Madam Secretary?</p> <p>3 SECRETARY GOINS: One person just raised their</p> <p>4 hand.</p> <p>5 Do you want to take them?</p> <p>6 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 6638, please go</p> <p>7 ahead.</p> <p>8 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. I just want to</p> <p>9 reiterate the person that did say that comment, it was</p> <p>10 anti unhousing (audio distortion).</p> <p>11 City council did not do their job. (Audio</p> <p>12 distortion.) People can join in on this conversation.</p> <p>13 I want to say it's in violation of the Brown Act.</p> <p>14 Two, you guys want to say that this is</p> <p>15 accessible for everyone, but (audio distortion) public</p> <p>16 comment.</p> <p>17 Can you all hear me?</p> <p>18 SECRETARY GOINS: Yes, we can hear you. If you</p> <p>19 can just mute your other devices.</p> <p>20 (Simultaneous speakers.)</p> <p>21 PUBLIC SPEAKER: No, it's not my problem.</p> <p>22 There's a problem -- you guys did a poor job of being</p> <p>23 able to access this call. There's a lag, and now it</p> <p>24 doesn't allow for everyone to speak on time. And you</p> <p>25 guys are just giving a certain amount, and then there's a</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> | <p>1 People are going through a lot, and it is not okay. It</p> <p>2 is not okay that you guys are trying to --</p> <p>3 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you.</p> <p>4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: And it sounds like because of</p> <p>5 the Olympics, you guys might be wanting to raise fares to</p> <p>6 make more profit, and that should be shame on you. You</p> <p>7 want to talk about accessibility? Equity? People can't</p> <p>8 even access this public comment. This is ridiculous.</p> <p>9 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay.</p> <p>10 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 91 --</p> <p>11 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you, speaker.</p> <p>12 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 9193 -- there are</p> <p>13 some callers who have already spoken.</p> <p>14 Would you still like me to call on those</p> <p>15 callers?</p> <p>16 SECRETARY GOINS: No.</p> <p>17 CHAIR NAJARIAN: No. If they've had their one</p> <p>18 minute to speak, that is our policy not to.</p> <p>19 MODERATOR: There are nine callers lined up, and</p> <p>20 all of them have already spoken at least once.</p> <p>21 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay. So everyone who has</p> <p>22 desired to speak has had at least one minute to speak.</p> <p>23 That young person maybe addressed us three times. So</p> <p>24 yeah, she was complaining about not being able to call</p> <p>25 in.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> |
| <p>1 lag. I just want to reiterate this is horrible and it</p> <p>2 needs to be rescheduled.</p> <p>3 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay.</p> <p>4 MODERATOR: (Inaudible) callers in the queue.</p> <p>5 CHAIR NAJARIAN: There are how many?</p> <p>6 (Audio distortion.)</p> <p>7 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Are there any other callers in</p> <p>8 the queue?</p> <p>9 MODERATOR: There are no callers (audio</p> <p>10 distortion).</p> <p>11 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay. Supervisor Dutra, you</p> <p>12 can mute yourself. We're getting some extra calls from</p> <p>13 there.</p> <p>14 Are there any other calls in the queue?</p> <p>15 SECRETARY GOINS: Yes. Hands are being raised</p> <p>16 once again.</p> <p>17 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Let's take them, please. We</p> <p>18 are going to continue to take calls until there are no</p> <p>19 more calls to take or 9:00 -- whichever comes first.</p> <p>20 MODERATOR: Caller (audio distortion), go ahead.</p> <p>21 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Again, I want to reiterate you</p> <p>22 guys need to reject this hike increasing fares and go</p> <p>23 back to free transportation. We are still in a pandemic.</p> <p>24 People are being evicted. There was just someone that</p> <p>25 ended up killing themselves because they were evicted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> | <p>1 Okay. That concludes the business of this</p> <p>2 meeting. It was a public hearing. I'm going to now</p> <p>3 officially close the public hearing.</p> <p>4 Madam Secretary, is there anything on your end</p> <p>5 that we need to announce?</p> <p>6 CLERK LANGSTON: Chair, there's nothing on my</p> <p>7 end that I need to announce, but I have been taking down</p> <p>8 the last four digits of everybody's phone number that has</p> <p>9 spoken or has attempted to speak, and I would like to just</p> <p>10 give myself one second to check the numbers that are in</p> <p>11 the queue to make sure that they have not spoken just to</p> <p>12 give everybody the opportunity so that we don't have</p> <p>13 somebody say that they tried to speak and were rejected so</p> <p>14 if you can just give me two seconds --</p> <p>15 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Please review.</p> <p>16 CLERK LANGSTON: -- real quick.</p> <p>17 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Please go ahead and do that.</p> <p>18 Yes, we will pause and you do your thing.</p> <p>19 CLERK LANGSTON: Great. Thank you.</p> <p>20 CLERK LANGSTON: Okay, Chair. We do have a</p> <p>21 couple that have not spoken. We would like to call them</p> <p>22 now.</p> <p>23 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay. I'm going to reopen the</p> <p>24 hearing then, and let's hear from the public.</p> <p>25 CLERK LANGSTON: Thank you, Chair.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 9193, please go 2 ahead.</p> <p>3 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Oh, hello. Good evening, Board 4 of Directors. My name is (Inaudible). I live in 5 La Mirada.</p> <p>6 I ride the Metro from the Norwalk station about 7 a couple of times a week. I'm probably the only person 8 tonight who actually supports, you know, this proposal 9 because I do -- you know, I want to recognize the 10 benefits of this is -- it is a good alternative compared 11 with the monthly pass which a lot of Metro riders just 12 simply don't have the money to buy a monthly pass at the 13 beginning of this month. I do want to give credit for 14 this proposal.</p> <p>15 I just have two comments. I think first -- 16 and I feel like you guys might reconsider the transfer 17 because I think it does hurt people who only ride the 18 Metro, like, two to three times a week. I'm wondering 19 whether you guys can share more about what's your 20 understanding about the barriers, you know, so many 21 people are not using TAP card and --</p> <p>22 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5586, please go 23 ahead.</p> <p>24 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Thank you. I just wanted 25 to reiterate that the majority of Metro's funding comes</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> | <p>1 reducing traffic, and yet we're still having meetings 2 about Metro as a business instead of Metro as a service. 3 Please consider the people that use Metro who need this 4 service to survive and who are being punished for the 5 crime of being poor. I really don't understand how this 6 is not wildly out of line with the priorities this 7 community and this board claims to have. Metro should be 8 free. Metro should always be free. Thank you.</p> <p>9 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 8555, that's 8555, 10 please go ahead.</p> <p>11 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Yadirah, and 12 I'm a member of ACT-LA.</p> <p>13 We want to urge you to reject the fare hike and 14 fare restructuring proposal. Transit is Metro's -- Metro 15 riders' second highest living expense behind rent, and 16 staff's current proposal raises fares, especially for 17 seniors, eliminates free transfers, and harms cash-paying 18 riders.</p> <p>19 Considering also parents who have to deal with 20 also paying for their youth, their kids, and, like, their 21 rides, it also adds more complexity to the system rather 22 than simplicity. It is an inequitable solution that 23 would further harm the most vulnerable in our community.</p> <p>24 The majority, 70 percent, of Metro's funding 25 comes from local sales tax, and LA County residents,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> |
| <p>1 from local sales taxes and there's literally little to no 2 reason why we need to have fares at all and also 3 reiterate that we are still in a pandemic and people are 4 getting evicted and we're navigating a completely 5 different economic climate than we were two, three years 6 ago.</p> <p>7 Metro should be universally and permanently fare 8 less for everyone, and I urge you to end the fare change 9 proposal. Thank you.</p> <p>10 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 0508, please go 11 ahead.</p> <p>12 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Can you hear me?</p> <p>13 SECRETARY GOINS: Yes.</p> <p>14 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can.</p> <p>15 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Thank you. Metro, as others 16 have said, should be permanently free, and I believe this 17 because Metro should be a service, not a business. With 18 just around 6 percent of the city's -- the revenue 19 actually coming from Metro fares and the average median 20 income of the user of Metro being \$19,000 a year, this is 21 just -- it's a cost for the people who are preventing us 22 from having more traffic.</p> <p>23 And I don't understand because every time this 24 board meets, we hear about climate justice. We hear 25 about reducing our carbon footprint. We hear about</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> | <p>1 including myself, have already paid for public transit. 2 Instead of adding to transit riders' already burdensome 3 cost of living and maintaining expenses in a fare 4 collection enforcement system, Metro should be 5 universally and permanently fare less for everyone. 6 I urge you to --</p> <p>7 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 0568, please go 8 ahead.</p> <p>9 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name is Jennifer. I am 10 a resident of the San Fernando Valley.</p> <p>11 I used to go Los Angeles Pierce College and now 12 attend Cal State North Ridge. I currently use a Metro U 13 pass, but it does not cover the whole year. Therefore, 14 when it is not active, I am on my own. When I'm on my 15 own, I don't have the funding for the buses that I need 16 or enough of fare for the buses. So this is also 17 detrimental to college students -- additionally to the 18 senior citizens, like my parents who also rely on the 19 cash fare on the buses to get to work and other necessary 20 activities and stuff -- for shopping. Thank you.</p> <p>21 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 7982, please go 22 ahead.</p> <p>23 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. Good evening. I'm 24 completely against the fare hike. Particularly, removing 25 the fare transfers makes riding the Metro more expensive.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 I take the Metro every day to work, and I take the Gold 2 and Expo Lines. Making things more expensive will 3 discourage people from taking public transportation, 4 especially when it's so dirty and unsafe. You need to 5 improve the transfer times between the lines to make 6 riding the Metro more efficient, and it will discourage 7 people from riding their cars.</p> <p>8 Also, please reschedule the meeting to allow 9 people to voice their opinion. This is a horrible idea. 10 Please think of the people who actually ride the train 11 every day. Thank you.</p> <p>12 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 5080, please go 13 ahead.</p> <p>14 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi. My name's Tim (Inaudible). 15 I'm a San Pedro resident, and I'm calling to advocate for 16 fare less transit.</p> <p>17 And I really agree with the caller that said the 18 Metro really should consider itself a service more than a 19 business. And I think LA could really be a leader in a 20 sense with implementing universal fare less transit, and 21 I just think it's kind of ridiculous to increase fares 22 when service and wait times are already so inconsistent. 23 And anyway -- thank you.</p> <p>24 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 2 -- caller ending 25 in 2796, please go ahead.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> | <p>1 inequitable because who knows what a consumer price index 2 is. And you're using words like that to describe this to 3 the general public, so I find that to be extremely 4 disappointing.</p> <p>5 Mobility that is safe, sustainable, accessible, 6 and reliable is a human right, and I urge you to pivot to 7 using the resources that were so grossly displayed 8 tonight to create universal fare less transit. Thank 9 you.</p> <p>10 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 8781, please go 11 ahead.</p> <p>12 PUBLIC SPEAKER: I want to know if the EZ pass 13 is part of the proposal. And then the unlimited rides 14 with the EZ pass works better for me instead of stored 15 value pay per ride.</p> <p>16 CHAIR NAJARIAN: So we can't answer that 17 question directly, but if you leave your number with 18 staff, someone can answer that for you.</p> <p>19 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Okay.</p> <p>20 MODERATOR: We will now go to the two questions 21 on the Spanish interpretation line.</p> <p>22 Caller ending in 4172, please go ahead.</p> <p>23 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: Yeah, my name is 24 Magda Fernandez, and I do not agree that there would be 25 an increase on our fare and -- because if you increase</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> |
| <p>1 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hello. Good evening everyone. 2 I live in south Los Angeles. I'm calling to urge the 3 board members to reject the fare increase and to not take 4 away the 30 monthly day passes because I am in the LIFE 5 program, and I pay \$26, but if you guys take it away, I'm 6 going to pay \$100. And I'm the only one that works in my 7 household.</p> <p>8 And also, I have a testimony. I was in the bus. 9 The operator told a lady with a 4-year old kid to get out 10 of the bus because she couldn't pay the fare. It was sad 11 to see that the lady had to walk from Berlin all the way 12 to Western. It broke my heart. And please reflect on 13 your choices. Thank you.</p> <p>14 MODERATOR: Caller ending in 0527, please go 15 ahead.</p> <p>16 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Hi there. My name is Kimberly, 17 and I'm a grad student at UCLA, and I also happen to be a 18 761 pass rider.</p> <p>19 During your presentation tonight you said the 20 word "equitable" and then followed it shortly after with 21 the words "market rate." There's nothing equitable about 22 consumer price indices, and as a grad student, I didn't 23 know what that was until about two weeks ago, which, to 24 me, indicates that your program and this whole fare 25 less -- or, fare hike initiative is incredibly</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> | <p>1 the fares, the most affected group would be the students 2 because they would not be able to attend school because 3 they would not be able to afford the fare to go on Metro. 4 It would be better if the bus, the Metro, and 5 transportation in general would be free. Thank you. 6 It would afford more opportunities to the general public, 7 and it would allow us to recover from this pandemic. 8 Thank you so much.</p> <p>9 SECRETARY GOINS: Next Spanish speaker, 88 -- 10 MODERATOR: Caller ending -- 11 SECRETARY GOINS: Go ahead. 12 MODERATOR: 887, please go ahead. 13 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: Yes. Good evening. 14 Can you hear me? 15 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Yes, we can. 16 SPANISH TRANSLATOR: Yes. My name is Rolando, 17 and I live in south -- in the south. And I am a member 18 of SAJE. I am in disagreement with the fare changes that 19 Metro would like to enforce on the transportation. I do 20 not agree on any increases on passes for buses and for 21 individuals, seniors in particular, and students and 22 people of lower income. People disabled like myself. 23 I am not (audio distortion). I believe that (audio 24 distortion). I believe public transportation should also 25 be free because public transit, it's already being (audio</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 distortion) taxes. I would like to request --</p> <p>2 MODERATOR: There are no more questions on</p> <p>3 either the Spanish interpretation line or the English</p> <p>4 line.</p> <p>5 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay. Thank you. And I'm</p> <p>6 informed there are no more callers on English or Spanish</p> <p>7 speaking lines. Therefore, the agenda suggests that I</p> <p>8 entertain a motion to close the public hearing.</p> <p>9 Would any one of my directors like to do so?</p> <p>10 DIRECTOR DUPONT-WALKER: I move to close the</p> <p>11 public hearing. Dupont-Walker.</p> <p>12 DIRECTOR BARGER: I second it.</p> <p>13 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you Supervisor Barger.</p> <p>14 With no objections, that will be the action of the board.</p> <p>15 If that's okay.</p> <p>16 Mr. Safer, we don't need a roll call on that, do</p> <p>17 we?</p> <p>18 SECRETARY GOINS: No.</p> <p>19 (Simultaneous speakers.)</p> <p>20 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Okay. And therefore, if</p> <p>21 someone will make a motion to adjourn, we will adjourn.</p> <p>22 TIM SANDOVAL: I move to adjourn.</p> <p>23 DIRECTOR BUTTS: I move to adjourn.</p> <p>24 CHAIR NAJARIAN: Thank you Butts and Sandoval.</p> <p>25 Thank you, directors, for listening to the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> | <p>1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)</p> <p>2 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)</p> <p>3</p> <p>4 I, Michele L. Wagner, hearing reporter</p> <p>5 in the matter of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Fare</p> <p>6 Capping and Fare Changes Public Hearing, do hereby</p> <p>7 certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken before</p> <p>8 me via videoconference at the time herein set forth; that</p> <p>9 a verbatim record of the proceedings was made by me using</p> <p>10 machine shorthand, which was thereafter transcribed under</p> <p>11 my direction; and that the foregoing is a true and</p> <p>12 accurate transcription thereof.</p> <p>13 I further certify that I am neither financially</p> <p>14 interested in the action nor a relative or employee of</p> <p>15 any attorney of any of the parties.</p> <p>16</p> <p>17 In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed</p> <p>18 my name.</p> <p>19</p> <p>20 Dated: November 14, 2022</p> <p>21 Michele L. Wagner</p> <p>22 Michele L. Wagner</p> <p>23 Hearing Reporter</p> <p>24 Dismantling of transcript will void Reporter's</p> <p>25 certificate.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> |
| <p>1 public this evening, and this will be an item that the</p> <p>2 board will take up shortly. We are adjourned. Thank</p> <p>3 you.</p> <p>4 (Whereupon, the public hearing was adjourned at</p> <p>5 7:29 p.m.)</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> | |