

## EVALUATION OF EQUALIZING TAP CARD COSTS

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 4702.1B provides guidance for the conduct of equity evaluations of proposed service and fare changes. A transit operator must have a locally adopted process for determining when public hearings, and the equity evaluations associated with such proposals, are required. Impacts to both minority and poverty level persons must be assessed, and there must be locally adopted standards for when differences between impacted persons and everyone else are significant.

Metro's Administrative Code contains these rules and definitions in Section 2-50. A public hearing and equity evaluation is required for any fare change. The difference between the minority/poverty shares of impacted riders and all others is deemed significant if the absolute difference is either 5% or greater, or the relative difference is 35% or more.

### **Proposal to be Evaluated**

Metro prepaid fare media is stored on reusable TAP cards. Stored Value media may be added to TAP cards for convenient payment of individual fares. Once purchased the TAP card should be retained by the rider as it may be reused continuously for up to 10 years.

At the present time TAP cards may be obtained online at [taptogo.net](http://taptogo.net), by calling 866.TAPTOGO, at Metro Customer Centers, at TAP vending machines located at Metro rail, Silver Line and Orange Line stations, at El Monte Transit Center, at Patsaouras Bus Plaza, and at over 400 TAP vendor locations and onboard buses (if purchasing a Day Pass). The cards cost \$2 except when purchased at a TVM or onboard a bus. In the latter two instances, they cost \$1.

The proposed action would equalize the cost of a TAP card at \$2 wherever purchased.

### **Evaluation and Findings**

TAP cards are reusable with an expected life of 10 years. At \$2, amortized over 10 years, the cards cost less than 1.7 cents per month. This is considered de minimus and is therefore not subject to a equity analysis