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County Connection to Cut Service Routes and Raise Fares

By Jean Follmer

	Current	Effective April, 2009
Adult/Youth Cash	\$1.75	\$2.00
Adult/Youth Monthly Pass	\$53.00	\$60.00
Adult/Youth 12-Ride	\$17.00	\$20.00
Senior/Disabled Cash	\$.85	\$1.00
Senior/Disabled 10AM-2PM with RTC Card	Free	\$1.00
BART Transfer Senior/Disabled	\$.40	\$.50
Senior/Disabled 20-Ride	\$13.00	\$15.00
Commuter/ Adult Cash with BART Transfer	\$2.60	\$3.00
Commuter Card (20 Bus + 20 BART)	\$36.00	\$40.00
Transfers/BART	\$.85	\$1.00
Express Bus Cash	\$2.00	\$2.25
Bus to Bus Transfers	Free	Free
Link Paratransit	\$3.00	\$4.00

As a result of severe budget shortfalls, the Contra Costa County Transit Authority (CCCTA) needs to cut 74,600 service hours (23%). CCCTA plans to make the cuts by reducing its routes, eliminating mid-day free rides, closing its transit center and increasing its fares earlier than expected. The approved fare increases that were expected to take place on July 1, 2009, may take hold as early as April 1, 2009. Fare changes follow:

CCCTA has scheduled six public workshops "to discuss cost saving measures which include service reductions and fare increases equivalent to 74,600 hours of service." As of this publication date, November 12, there are two meetings left:

November 12, 2008 from 4:00-7:00 pm
at the Orinda Community Center and
November 13, 2008 from 4:00-7:00 pm
at the Pleasant Hill City Office

"We really are looking for community input. People can drop in and we'll be there throughout the evening to answer questions," said County Connection Administrator Mary Burdick. Burdick said they want the public to tell them which routes they use most frequently so CCCTA can determine where it can most effectively cut services. CCCTA has two route reductions options: either discontinue weekend service and shorten the weekday service from 6am-6pm or implement "selective service reductions requiring system analysis." If you're unable to attend one of the meetings, CCCTA has established a dedicated e-mail link at www.cccta.org. "We have already received a few e-mails from people asking us to keep their route," said Burdick.

For more information including detailed maps of proposed route reductions in Lamorinda and throughout Contra Costa County, visit www.cccta.org and click on "Spring 2009 Systemwide Service and Fare Changes."

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