



NEWS RELEASE

Potomac and Rappahannock
Transportation Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fare Increase, Service Change Take Effect Dec. 15

PRTC will implement a fare increase and its Fall Service Change on Monday, December 15.

The Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission, PRTC, operates commuter and local bus services in Prince William County, the City of Manassas and the City of Manassas Park. PRTC implements a Service Change twice each year to reflect changes in running times and update schedule brochures with new trips and bus stops.

The fare increase comes 20 months after the last increase for the commuter bus services, and more than 4 years since the last increase for the local bus services. The fare increase is needed to help defray higher-than-budgeted fuel costs and the cost of more service to accommodate ridership growth, including the cost of acquiring additional buses.

PRTC will continue its policy of offering reduced fares to those 60 and older, those with a disability and those with a valid Medicare card, although those fares are also increasing. Reduced fares will continue to be half of the regular fares. The new fares will be:

OmniRide commuter service to and from Washington, D.C. and points in Northern Virginia

\$4.75/trip with SmarTrip;
\$6.50/trip with cash;
\$3.25/trip reduced fare (off-peak hours)

Metro Direct commuter service to and from nearby Metrorail stations

\$2.40/trip with SmarTrip;
\$3.00/trip with cash;
\$1.50/trip reduced fare (off-peak hours)

OmniLink and Cross County Connector local bus services

\$1.10/trip with SmarTrip or cash;
55 cents/trip reduced fare;
\$2.50 for a day pass;
\$1.25 for reduced fare day pass

On the same day that the fare increase takes effect, PRTC will implement its Fall Service Change. The most notable schedule changes are:

- All OmniRide trips serving Washington, D.C. have been retimed;
- Adjustments have been made to the timetables of all Metro Direct bus routes serving the Franconia-Springfield and West Falls Church Metrorail stations;
- The Woodbridge/Lake Ridge OmniLink timepoint at Route 1 & Occoquan Road has been relocated;
- The first morning trip on the Dumfries OmniLink leaving from Fuller Heights has a new departure time; and
- All transfers will be good for 3 hours rather than for 2 hours.

Starting December 8, those who are interested can view the new bus schedules online at PRTCtransit.org or by requesting a new schedule at the PRTC Transit Center or from a bus operator.

By extending the time that bus transfers are valid, PRTC's policy will be in line with other transit agencies serving the Metropolitan Washington area.

PRTC will continue to issue and accept paper transfers, although some area transit agencies have announced plans to eliminate them. Metrobus, Fairfax Connector and Arlington's ART bus plan to stop handing out or accepting paper transfers as of January 4, 2009. However, those agencies will continue to issue a transfer discount to those who pay their fares with an electronic SmarTrip card – provided that the transfer is made within 3 hours. As a result, PRTC passengers who transfer to or from Metrobus, Fairfax Connector or ART must use SmarTrip cards in order to receive a transfer discount starting on January 4.

For more information about PRTC's transportation services, contact our Customer Service Office at (703) 730-6664 or visit www.PRTCtransit.org.

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