

Agenda Item No. 4

**Presentation from the Regional Transit Authority Regarding
Public Workshops to Discuss a Proposal to Increase Runabout Fares**

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Regarding Public Workshops to Discuss a Proposal to
Increase Runabout Fares**

(CC Mtg. 10/06/2014)



179 Cross Street, Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 781-4472 Fax (805) 781-1291
www.slorta.org

September 15, 2014

Re: **Proposal to Increase Runabout Fares**

Dear Runabout Rider:

At its September 10th meeting, the RTA Board of Directors asked me to conduct a series of public outreach meetings to obtain input on RTA's proposal to increase fares on the Runabout service. It is never an easy decision to raise fares, especially on a program that serves so many of our vulnerable community members. However, since the previous \$0.25 Runabout fare increase in 2010, the Runabout service levels have increased 57% and the annual cost to provide Runabout service is now equal to that of the fixed-route services – even though the fixed-route service carries roughly 15 times the number of passengers that Runabout carries. I have attached a *FACT SHEET* that provides more details about why RTA is considering a new increase in the Runabout fare structure.

I encourage you to contact me to tell us how this Runabout fare increase proposal would affect you. I welcome written testimony mailed to the address in the upper corner of this page or an email to info@slorta.org. I would also invite you to attend one of the public workshops listed below and to talk to us in person:

- Grover Beach Ramona Garden Park community center on October 14th
- Atascadero City Hall (Room 106) on October 15th
- San Luis Obispo Library Community Room on October 16th

All three of these workshops will be held from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. At those meetings, we will review large-print *Fare Tables* that list each and every possible Runabout fare in the county – both the *Current Fare Table* and the proposed *New Fare Table*. Our RTA reservationists (541-2544) can also help you to determine the new fares that RTA would charge under this proposal for trips that you often take. Finally, the RTA Board of Directors will consider testimony at a Public Hearing on November 5th in the SLO County Board of Supervisors Chambers. Our proposal is for the new fares to be effective on February 1, 2015.

I would appreciate your support to share more equitably in the cost to provide Runabout services so that together we can contribute to ensuring its long-term success in our region.

Sincerely,

Geoff Straw
RTA Executive Director

The Regional Transit Authority is a Joint Powers Agency serving residents and visitors of:

Arroyo Grande Atascadero Grover Beach Morro Bay Paso Robles Pismo Beach San Luis Obispo and The County of San Luis Obispo



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Proposal to Increase Runabout Fares

FACT SHEET:

1. Demand for Runabout is increasing dramatically & current funds cannot accommodate it.
2. Runabout hours of service have doubled in last seven years to meet increasing demand.
3. RTA fixed-route carries 760,000 passengers & Runabout carries 44,000. Annual costs equal.
4. Average public subsidy for each fixed-route trip is less than \$4. Runabout cost is \$60 per trip.
5. Both RTA fixed-route and Runabout services will need to be cut if we do nothing.
6. Federal law permits Runabout to charge twice the fixed-route cash fare.
7. Current Runabout fares lower than allowed, and in some cases lower than fixed-route fares.
8. Runabout fares last raised in 2010. This fare increase would be effective February 1, 2015.
9. Proposal is to increase Runabout fares to be twice the fixed-route fare; cap at \$10 per trip.

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Examples of most frequently used Runabout trips & resulting new fares:

Rank	Origin	Destination	Current Runabout Fare	Twice Fixed Route Fare	Net Fare Increase	% Increase
1	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$0.25	11.1%
2	Atascadero	Paso Robles	\$3.25	\$4.00	\$0.75	23.1%
3	Paso Robles	Atascadero	\$3.25	\$4.00	\$0.75	23.1%
4	San Luis Obispo	Los Osos	\$3.75	\$5.00	\$1.25	33.3%
5	Paso Robles	Paso Robles	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$0.75	33.3%
6	Los Osos	San Luis Obispo	\$3.75	\$5.00	\$1.25	33.3%
7	Cuesta Area	San Luis Obispo	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$1.25	45.5%
8	San Luis Obispo	Cuesta Area	\$2.75	\$4.00	\$1.25	45.5%
9	Templeton	Paso Robles	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$0.25	9.1%
10	Morro Bay	San Luis Obispo	\$3.25	\$5.00	\$1.75	53.8%
11	San Luis Obispo	Morro Bay	\$3.25	\$5.00	\$1.75	53.8%
12	Paso Robles	Templeton	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$0.25	9.1%
13	San Luis Obispo	Grover Beach	\$3.25	\$6.50	\$3.25	100.0%
14	Atascadero	Atascadero	\$2.25	\$3.00	\$0.75	33.3%

Proposal to Increase Runabout Fares

- Runabout is for persons with disabilities
- Demand is increasing dramatically
- Trend is not financially sustainable
- Proposal:
 - ***Set Runabout fares equal to twice the fixed-route fare; cap at \$10 per trip***
- Effective February 1, 2015

Seeking Public Input

- Public Workshops:
 - Grover Beach on October 14th
 - Atascadero on October 15th
 - San Luis Obispo on October 16th
- Individual Comments:
 - Email info@slorta.org
 - Call 781-4472
 - Send letter to: RTA, 179 Cross St., SLO, CA 93401
- November 5th RTA Public Hearing

