



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is transit service paid for in the City of Vallejo?

The City receives federal, state and local grants, fare revenue, and miscellaneous revenue (advertising, lease agreements, et cetera) to pay for ferry and bus service.

Who oversees the Transit program?

The City's Transportation Division is responsible for, but not limited to, obtaining grants to operate the service and for the capital program, meeting Federal, State and local regulatory agency requirements, certifications, audits, and reviews, for contract administration, financial management, budget development and adherence, establishing service levels, and procurement.

Who operates the ferries and buses?

The City contracts for its services with a ferry contractor (Blue & Gold Fleet) and a bus contractor (MV/VCTC). Their crews and bus operators operate the system. The City also retains the services of a Marine Service Manager.

Why are we raising the fares?

Fuel prices have risen an average 63 cents in the last year and there is no relief in sight. Presently we are operating in deficit mode (we will not be able to pay for the service we are providing) as the price of fuel is more than what was budgeted for (\$2.50 price per gallon this year). We cannot pay for the same level of services if fuel reaches the budgeted rate of \$4.00 ppg next year.

Additionally, the State of California budget crisis has negatively impacted all transportation providers who receive funding.



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What about the newly created Water Emergency Transportation Authority?

At this point, Senate Bill 1093 (introduced by Senator Patricia Wiggins) is working its way through the State legislature. Working closely with WETA and City of Vallejo officials, this “clean up” legislation will clarify the transition plan for the Vallejo Baylink service. SB 1093 is supported by Senators Perata and Torlakson, as well as Assemblywoman Noreen Evans. Important provisions of SB 1093 include a preservation of the level of service currently enjoyed from Vallejo to San Francisco; continued coordination with local bus service to ensure a seamless transition from bus to ferry schedules; prevent any changes to the Vallejo terminal facility that could potentially impact Vallejo’s redevelopment and/or waterfront plans; and requires a public process if the WETA Board should propose any future changes to the operational schedule or fares.

Until then, the service will continue to be owned and operated by the City of Vallejo.

What is a fuel surcharge?

A fuel charge is a temporary fare increase that is tied to a fuel index. It would be charged to each passenger on a per trip basis.

Why implement a fuel surcharge?

Fuel prices have been too volatile and difficult to predict. In order to protect the service from wild escalations a surcharge is the answer.

How will the fuel surcharge be implemented?

Effective July 1, 2008, the surcharge would be implemented if fuel prices rise above the budgeted amounts. The fuel surcharge would be tied to US Department of Energy index and posted on the ferries and the City’s website. The rate will be adjusted every quarter and be implemented at 50 cent increments. Revenues from the surcharge would be kept separate and when they total \$300,000 the fuel surcharge would be absorbed into the regularly scheduled fare increase.