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# MEMORANDUM

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Date: January 21, 2009

To: Priscilla Cornelio, Director  
Department of Transportation

From: C.H. Huckelberry  
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Attached Article from the Arizona Republic Regarding Fare Increases for the Valley Metro Transit System**

Please review the attached news article. In the article it says "The agency is required to cover at least a quarter of its operating costs with fares." Please confirm this requirement and how the requirement would affect transit in the Pima County metropolitan area if the policy was applied uniformly. In addition, please continue to report on the fare increases proposed in the Valley Metro system and the actions of the Phoenix City Council that will apparently take place on or before February 3, 2009.

CHH/jj

Attachment

c: John Bernal, Deputy County Administrator - Public Works



## Final hearing set on fare increases for Valley Metro

by **Glen Creno** - Jan. 20, 2009 12:00 AM  
The Arizona Republic

Valley Metro holds its last public hearing this week on proposed fare increases designed to counteract a slumping economy.

Any increase would affect Valley Metro bus service, Metro light rail and Dial-a-Ride. It hasn't been decided whether an increase will be instituted or, if one is, how large it will be.

A range of options is being considered, including an increase of up to \$1 for a one-way local fare that now costs \$1.25.

The seventh and final public hearing is Thursday in the Glendale City Council Chambers, 5850 W. Glendale Ave. There's an open house at 5:30 p.m., and the hearing starts at 6 p.m.

Transit relies on sales taxes, and collections are down. The agency is required to cover at least a quarter of its operating costs with fares. Officials also say costs are increasing and fares aren't making the percentage.

Valley Metro spokeswoman Susan Tierney said the agency has gotten mixed appraisals of the fare proposal from the public, with the majority leaning against the idea. Valley

Metro increased fares in December in a move that also eliminated transfers.

Tierney acknowledged that it's not the best time to ask riders to pay more, but she noted "it's always tough to ask for a fare increase."

The Valley Metro board and the Phoenix City Council must sign off on any fare changes. Valley Metro says a decision could come in February, with any fare changes hitting in July.

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