

## Fare increase begins Sept. 1

Fares for RTA customers will go up 25 cents per ride on Sept. 1.

The action will help RTA balance its 2009 operating budget, which has been severely impacted by a projected \$18 million shortfall in revenue from a one percent countywide sales tax.

The base fare for one ride will go to \$2.25, and the price for an All-Day Pass will rise to \$5.

For a complete list of all new fares, see the chart in this issue, or go to [rideRTA.com/fares](http://rideRTA.com/fares).

### Monthly Passes

September Monthly Passes will be sold at the current amount, because they are purchased before the Sept. 1 fare increase takes effect.

October Monthly Passes will be sold at the new rate.

Customers who have fare media purchased at the old rate can continue to use them.

### Other info

Customers can go to [rideRTA.com/fares](http://rideRTA.com/fares) to obtain information on:

- How to purchase passes and farecards online
- The locations of vendors (grocery stores, pharmacies, etc.), that sell fare media
- How to have your employers sign up for Commuter Advantage.

Public hearings on this fare increase were held in August 2008. The fare increase was included in the 2009 operating budget, which was approved by the RTA Board in December. RTA hoped it would not have to implement the increase, but when revenue from the one-percent countywide sales tax dipped \$18 million from the previous year, there were no options for balancing the budget.

### For more info on purchasing RTA fare media:

- Call the RTAanswerline, 216-621-9500
- The Customer Service Center at the Tower City Station

## More budget info added to RTA Web site

The next time you hear budget facts about RTA, you'll know where to check them out.

"Information on RTA's revenues, expenses and actions taken to balancing the budget have been posted on [rideRTA.com](http://rideRTA.com) to help keep our customers, employees, and the general public informed on our financial challenges and how we are attempting to meet those challenges," says Joe Calabrese, RTA CEO and General Manager.

The information, which will be updated regularly, is at [riderta.com/budgetchallenges/](http://riderta.com/budgetchallenges/)

If you want to offer a suggestion or ask a question, send e-mail to [public-comment@gcrta.org](mailto:public-comment@gcrta.org)

The local information is part of national picture about transit systems in distress.

According to a national survey the American Public Transit Association (APTA):

- More than 80 percent of public transit systems – including RTA -- have seen flat or decreased funding from local, regional, and state sources.
- Among transit systems facing this decreased funding, nine out of 10 transit systems – including RTA -- were forced to raise fares or cut service.
- Almost half of the systems affected – including RTA – have taken both actions.

The report is based on a survey of 98 transit systems representing more than one-half of the nation's transit riders, and includes 10 of the top 15 agencies in terms of annual ridership.

Among those public transit systems reducing service, nearly two-thirds (65 percent) have eliminated or reduced off-peak service and nearly half (48 percent) have reduced the geographic coverage of public transit service.



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority  
[rideRTA.com](http://rideRTA.com)

# Rider's Digest



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REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

## Fare increase will help balance budget

No transit system ever wants to raise fares or reduce service. But RTA needs to do both to balance its operating budget for 2009.

Because of a weak economy, revenue is down about \$20 million from last year. We were able to take care of much of that by seeking one-time revenue sources, reducing salaries of non-bargaining unit employees by 3 percent, and leaving many positions vacant. Despite our efforts, we still face a year-end deficit of \$5.5 million.

A Sept. 1 fare increase, and a Sept. 20 service reduction, will help us resolve much of that.

Decisions to raise fares and reduce service are never easy ones. We know your bills are going up, while your income is staying the same or going down. We are in the same boat.

We know that you depend on RTA to get to work, school or medical care. That is why we have delayed these decisions as long as possible.

We are working hard to provide world-class service, while keeping our costs as low as possible. Thank you for supporting RTA during these difficult times for everyone.

## These 15 big-bus routes will change on Sept. 20, Circulator service to be eliminated

On Sept. 20, all 12 Community Circulator routes will be discontinued due to the availability of other service in the same general area and/or low ridership.

On the same day, 15 other service reductions will be made, mostly because of low ridership. These reductions will help RTA balance its 2009 operating budget, where a \$5.5 million deficit is looming.

**#5 Chagrin** - Service to/from Chagrin Falls will not be restored.

**#18 W. 11th-Hinckley** - Discontinue route.

**#33 Central** - Discontinue route. Customers may consider using the #8 Cedar or the #11 Quincy-Buckeye.

**#43 Lake-Wolf** - Discontinue route, except for two early morning westbound trips and two early evening eastbound trips.

**#46 Rocky River-Westlake** (Detroit Road) - Discontinue evening and weekend service. Operate throughout the business day Monday-Friday, and end route at the Westgate Transit Center, instead of the Triskett Red Line Station, for transfer to other services.

**#49 Center Ridge** - Serve Crocker Park and end route at the Westgate Transit Center, instead of the Triskett Red Line Station, for transfer to other services.

**#68 Bagley** - Discontinue route, except weekday service between Tri-C West and Southwest General Hospital.

**#70 Bunts-W. 150th** - On weekends, operate only the part of the route between the Triskett and Puritas Red Line Stations. Weekend service hours will be 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

**#76 Broadway-Turney** - Weekend service hours will be 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

**#83 W. 130th** - Weekend service hours will be 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Weekday evening alignment will be used all day on weekends.

**#86 Warren-Berea** - Weekend service hours will be 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

**#87 Westwood** - Discontinue route.

**#88 Broadway-Northfield** - Discontinue weekend service. Weekend ridership is low and other weekend service is available.

**#90F Broadway-Libby** - Discontinue service beyond Oakwood Loop.

**#96 Butternut** - Discontinue route.

## Please vote this fall on issues and candidates

There are several important dates to remember for voting in elections this fall.

**Sept. 8** is a primary election in some cities, including Cleveland. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Sept. 29** is a primary election in some cities, including East Cleveland. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Oct. 5** at 9 p.m. is the deadline to register for the Nov. 3 general election.

**Nov. 3** is the general election. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Absentee ballots will be accepted from Sept. 29-Nov. 2.

If you would like to be a poll worker on Nov. 3, call 216-443-3277.

For more information:

- Contact the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections, 216-443-3200, or [Boe.cuyahogacounty.us](http://Boe.cuyahogacounty.us)
- Contact the League of Women Voters, 216-781-8375, or [lwvcef.org](http://lwvcef.org)

## New fares on Sept. 1

The fare increase is effective Sept. 1. This fare structure expires March 31, 2010. In the coming months, the Board of Trustees will review the fare structure that will take effect April 1, 2010.

**September monthly passes purchased in August will be sold at the old rate.**

Cash fares	Now	As of 9-1-09
Senior/Disabled	\$0.85	\$1.00
Bus/Rapid	\$2.00	\$2.25
Park-n-Ride Bus	\$2.25	\$2.50
Out-of-county	\$3.25	\$3.50

Farecards	Now	As of 9-1-09
Students, per trip	\$1.60	\$1.75
5-trip Senior/Disabled	\$4.25	\$5.00
5-trip Bus/Rapid	\$10.00	\$11.25
Park-n-Ride Bus	\$11.25	\$12.50

All-Day Pass	Now	As of 9-1-09
Senior/Disabled	\$2.00	\$2.50
Child (ages 6-12)	\$2.00	\$2.50
Individual	\$4.50	\$5.00

Weekly Pass	Now	As of 9-1-09
Senior/Disabled	\$8.50	\$10.00
Bus/Rapid	\$20.00	\$22.50
Park-n-Ride Bus	\$22.50	\$25.00

Monthly Pass	Now	As of 9-1-09
Senior/Disabled	\$32.00	\$38.00
Bus/Rapid	\$76.00	\$85.00
Park-n-Ride Bus	\$85.00	\$95.00

Paratransit	Now	As of 9-1-09
Cash Fare	\$2.00	\$2.25
5-trip Farecard	\$10.00	\$11.25
Weekly Pass	\$20.00	\$22.50
Monthly Pass	\$76.00	\$85.00