

Examples of Fare Capping Programs in Portland, Oregon and Dallas, Texas

Overview

Fare capping transit policies are growing in popularity across the globe due to the mutual benefits that they offer to transit agencies and riders alike. These policies allow riders to purchase single-ride fares, and when the single fare charges reach the cost equivalent of an unlimited-ride pass, such as a daily, weekly or monthly pass, the fare is capped, ensuring that riders who can't afford the upfront cost of an unlimited-ride pass no longer end up paying more overall. Transit agencies benefit from fare capping policies since they incentivize riders to switch to mobile or card payment options, reducing agency overhead costs that are associated with cash handling, and additionally advance transit equity by removing the upfront cost barriers that are associated with recurrent transit passes.

Portland, Oregon

In June of 2017, Portland's transit system became one of the first in the country to adopt a fare capping system for daily and monthly passes. The Portland-Vancouver Metro Area offers region-wide service by bus, light rail, commuter rail and streetcar, and the fare capping policy was introduced alongside the debut of the "Hot Fastpass", an open payment system for the multi-agency partnership between TriMet, the Portland Streetcar and neighboring C-Tran in Vancouver, Washington.

TriMet's public information officer, Tia York, stated that the fare capping policy emerged out of conversations with Portland's advocacy community, and is one of many

strategies TriMet is using to make public transportation more equitable.

Dallas

In August 2018, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) introduced fare capping for daily and monthly passes for riders that use the GoPass mobile app or the GoPass Tap Card. After spending a total of \$6 on any one day, which is the equivalent to an unlimited day pass, riders aren't charged another fare until the following day. If a rider purchases 16 day passes in a calendar month, they aren't charged another fare for the remainder of that month. DART strategically introduced fare capping alongside bus and rail fare increases, in hopes that the policy would help offset the financial blow that riders faced.