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March 7, 2018

Chair Georgette Gómez
Board of Directors
Metropolitan Transit System
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Bus Transfers in the Development of the Regional Fare Study Packages

Chair Gómez,

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to urge the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Board of Directors to include free or discounted bus transfers in all packages of the Regional Fare Study.

MTS is one of only two of the twenty largest transit agencies in the United States that does not provide free or reduced-price transfers for bus riders. (Attachment A). This inequity should be corrected at the next possible opportunity, and that is the Regional Fare Study that is currently being undertaken.

Circulate has discussed the problematic lack of bus transfers with staff and urged them to plan for allowing transfers. We commend MTS staff for bringing forward a proposal for a new pass, the 3-Hour \$3 Pass. We hope the MTS board considers this proposal favorably as a means to allow greater access and ease of use for our region's bus system.

An option for transfers such as the 3-Hour \$3 Pass should be incorporated into all of the fare packages being analyzed in the Regional Fare Study, incorporated into the amendments to SANDAG's Comprehensive Fare Ordinance, and incorporated into the amendments to MTS' Ordinance 4, An Ordinance Establishing a Metropolitan Transit System Fare Pricing Schedule.

Sincerely,

Maya Rosas
Advocacy Manager
Circulate San Diego

CC:

Paul Jablonski, Chief Executive Officer, MTS

Sharon Cooney, Chief of Staff, MTS

Attachment A—Transfer Policy Comparison - Top 20

Attachment A – Transfer Policies for Top 20 United States Transit Agencies

(Ridership Source Data from: <http://www.apta.com/resources/statistics/Documents/FactBook/2016-APTA-Fact-Book.pdf>.)

Rank	Agency	Largest city served	Yearly Unlinked Passenger Trips (Thousands)	Transfer for Local Bus	Free Transfer for Rail?	Card Name	Bus Transfer Policy	Rail Transfer Policy	Notes
1	MTA¹	New York City	3,861,099	Free	Free	MetroCard	http://web.mta.info/nyct/bus/howto_bus.htm	http://web.mta.info/nyct/bus/howto_bus.htm	When paying with MetroCard, passengers may transfer free from bus to rail, rail to bus, or bus to bus within two hours.
2	CTA	Chicago	514,217	Discount	Free	Ventra	http://www.transitchicago.com/fares/	http://www.transitchicago.com/fares/	When paying with Ventra, a transfer is 25c, valid for 2 additional rides within 2 hours.
3	LACMTA	Los Angeles	479,654	Free	Free	TAP (Transit Access Pass)	https://www.metro.net/riding/fares/	https://www.metro.net/riding/fares/	When paying with TAP card, free transfer for 2 hours, additional charges apply for express buses or metro silver line, 50c transfer available to some non-metro buses.
4	WMATA	Washington, D.C.	411,324	Free	Distance	SmarTrip	https://www.wmata.com/rider-guide/transfers.cfm	https://www.wmata.com/rider-guide/transfers.cfm	Rail is paid by number of stops travelled independent of transfers. Rail to bus and bus to rail transfers are discounted. Bus to bus is free for unlimited transfers within 2 hours.
5	MBTA	Boston	409,248	Free	Free	CharlieCard	http://www.mbta.com/fares_and_passes/subway/	http://www.mbta.com/fares_and_passes/subway/	Must use CharlieCard for transfer. Rail to bus includes one free bus transfer. Bus to bus transfer is free. Bus to rail transfer requires an upgrade to rail fare. Transfers valid for 2

¹ MTA includes MTA New York City Transit, MTA Bus, MTA Long Island Rail Road, MTA Metro-North Railroad, and MTA Staten Island Railway. Calculated by Circulate from dataset.

Rank	Agency	Largest city served	Yearly Unlinked Passenger Trips (Thousands)	Transfer for Local Bus	Free Transfer for Rail?	Card Name	Bus Transfer Policy	Rail Transfer Policy	Notes
									hours.
6	SEPTA	Philadelphia	347,178	Discount	Discount, limited free	SEPTA Key Card	http://www.septa.org/fares/transit/	http://www.septa.org/fares/transit/	Free rail transfers are only offered at limited locations. Otherwise, transfers are \$1 and must be in the same direction of travel.
7	NJ Transit	New York City	270,958	Discount	Distance	N/A	http://www.njtransit.com/sf/sf_servlet.srv?hdnPageAction=MainTo	http://www.njtransit.com/sf/sf_servlet.srv?hdnPageAction=MainTo	Transfer discounts are available, but discount varies by number of zones travelled.
8	Muni	San Francisco	228,749	Free	Free	Clipper	https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/transit/fares-passes/single-rides-transfers	https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/transit/fares-passes/single-rides-transfers	A rider may transfer any number of times within a 90 minute period.
9	MARTA	Atlanta	129,123	Free	Free	Breeze Card	http://www.atltransit.org/fares/transfers/	http://www.atltransit.org/fares/transfers/	MARTA partners with other agencies. Transfers are free without card MARTA to MARTA. Transfers are free with a card for other agencies, but the trip must start or end with MARTA. Trip up to 3-4 hours and 3-4 transfers depending on agency.
10	BART	San Francisco	228,749	N/A	Distance	Clipper	N/A	https://www.bart.gov/sites/default/files/docs/Basics_Guide_ENG_Dec%202014.pdf	Fare is calculated by distance regardless of transfer. BART does not operate buses.
11	King County Metro	Seattle	125,340	Free	Free	ORCA Card	https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/about/board/resolutions/2014/Resolution_R201	https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/about/	Transfer value is stored for two hours on the ORCA card, and is credited in full for

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							4-27.pdf	board/resolutions/2014/Resolution_R2014-27.pdf	transfers. The net result is the rider pays the highest individual fare of the rail or bus ridden.
12	MTA Maryland	Baltimore	113,996	None	None	CharmCard	https://mta.maryland.gov/regular-fares	https://mta.maryland.gov/regular-fares	Unclear from website, had to call (410)-539-5000 to confirm no transfers are offered.
13	Miami-Dade Transit	Miami	110,771	Free	Free	EASY Card	http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/transfers.asp	http://www.miamidade.gov/transit/transfers.asp	Transfers require an EASY card and are free from bus to bus or rail to rail. Bus to rail or rail to bus costs 60c. Transfers must be made within three hours and are not for return trips.
14	RTD	Denver	104,291	Free	Free	MyRide	http://www.rtd-denver.com/HowToTransfer.shtml	http://www.rtd-denver.com/HowToRideLR.shtml	Transfers are valid for three hours and may not be used in the opposite direction.
15	TriMet	Portland	99,494	Free	Free	n/a	https://trimet.org/fares/	https://trimet.org/fares/	One way ticket is a 2 ½ hour pass to ride anywhere on Trimet
16	MTS	San Diego	91,870	None	Free	Compass Card	https://www.sdmts.com/fares-passes	https://www.sdmts.com/fares-passes	No transfers involving buses. Rail to rail transfers are free for two hours.
17	METRO	Houston	85,370	Free	Free	METRO Q Card	http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/Fares.aspx	http://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/Fares.aspx	Free transfers in any direction for 3 hours.
18	Metro Transit	Minneapolis	84,536	Free	Free	Go-To Card	https://www.metrotransit.org/transfers	https://www.metrotransit.org/transfers	Free transfer unlimited rides at the same fare level in any direction for up to 2½ hours. Surcharges apply for higher fare levels.
19	PATH	New York City	84,168	N/A	Free	SmartLink	N/A	https://www.panynj.gov/path/fares.html	PATH does not operate buses. A one way rail ticket is valid for 2 hours from time of purchase.

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20	Metra	Chicago	74,382	N/A	Distance	N/A	N/A	https://metrarail.com/tickets/ticket-options#One-Way-Ticket	Metra is commuter rail only. Fares are paid by distance.