

# MTS FARE ENFORCEMENT DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM

Phase 1 of the MTS Fare Enforcement Diversion Pilot Program, introduced by Councilmember Montgomery, will begin early September 2020—an important step to decriminalize transit and poverty for our communities. MTS should invest their budget supporting transit riders, not criminalizing them. Transit riders and working families deserve proactive investment and support.



For almost 10 years, our communities have called for Youth Opportunity Passes (YOP), no-cost transit passes for youth.

[JOIN THE FIGHT AT SUPPORTYOP.COM](https://www.supportyop.com)

## CURRENT FARE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS:

### Citation enforced if found without fare:

- MTS first/second violation is \$75 (sometimes reduced to \$25). Unpaid tickets go to criminal court, which adds additional fees, increasing citation to \$177.50 to \$382.50.
- MTS fare evasion and other citations are eligible for resolution in San Diego Homeless Court Program (<https://www.homelesscourtprogram.org/>)

### Limited exceptions available:

- Juvenile diversion
- Senior/Disabled/Medicare - with proof of eligibility
- Case by case request for dismissal

## PHASE 1 - FARE ENFORCEMENT DIVERSION PILOT PROGRAM

All fare violations would be eligible, unless there was another violation (e.g., vandalism, assault, failure to comply) at the time of citation. No graduated offense levels with graduated penalties (e.g., first offense, second offense, etc.) would be included because officers do not have the ability to efficiently check prior citation history when in the field. Unpaid tickets will proceed to criminal court with fines up to \$382.80 \*\*

### Options to resolve violation:



Pay reduced fine of \$25 within 120 days. Payments can be made online, by mail or in person at Transit store



Can complete 3-4 hours of community service within 120 days. It can be at the San Diego Food Bank or other provides (upon pending review)



Appeal within 15 days with proof of paid ticket or malfunctioning ticket machine. If appeal denied, the option to pay fine or community service

For more information about transportation justice, contact Rosa, Community Organizer, [rolas@midcitycan.org](mailto:rolas@midcitycan.org)

\*\*<https://www.sdmts.com/inside-mts/news-release/mts-board-approves-diversion-program-fare-violators-reveals-electric-bus>