SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
COMPREHENSIVE FARE ORDINANCE

An Ordinance Establishing a Regional Fare Pricing Schedule

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) ordains as follows:

SECTION 1: FINDINGS

This Ordinance is adopted to implement a Comprehensive Fare Ordinance setting forth a fare structure for all public transit service providers in San Diego County.

SECTION 2: REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE DEFINITIONS

2.1 **Access:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit service operated by the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS).

2.2 **ADA:** Americans with Disabilities Act, as defined in Title 49, Part 37, of the United States Code of Federal Regulations.

2.3 **ADA Complementary Paratransit Service:** Specialized origin-to-destination transportation services provided to persons who qualify as eligible for such services under the guidelines of the ADA.

2.4 **Adult Fare:** Applies to all persons aged 19 and older, except persons eligible for Senior, Disabled, and Medicare (SDM).

2.5 **BREEZE:** North County Transit – San Diego Railroad (NCTD) fixed-route bus service brand name.

2.6 **Bus:** Rubber-tired transit vehicles operated by MTS and NCTD.

2.7 **Cash Fare:** Term used to describe fares purchased with United States currency.

2.8 **Child:** Any person five years of age or under.

2.9 **COASTER:** The brand name of the commuter rail service operated by NCTD in the coastal corridor from Oceanside to San Diego.

2.10 **Companion:** In relation to the ADA complementary paratransit service, a companion is someone who accompanies an ADA passenger on board a paratransit vehicle, but is not a Personal Care Attendant.

2.11 **Day Pass:** A fare medium that allows a passenger unlimited travel on eligible modes during one Service Day.

2.12 **Demand Response:** A flexible, non-fixed route public transportation service that operates on-demand, typically providing curb-to-curb or door-to-door transportation in vans, small buses, or sedans.

2.13 **Discount:** A reduction in the price of a fare or fare product.

2.14 **Fare Capping:** Fare capping capabilities to ensure riders using the PRONTO fare system do not pay more than the day or month price. Additional boardings made during the day or month after reaching the cap are free.

2.15 **FLEX:** The brand name of the deviated fixed-route and point-deviated fixed-route service operated by NCTD.

2.16 **LIFT:** The ADA complementary paratransit service operated by NCTD.

2.17 **LOSSAN:** The Los Angeles–San Diego–San Luis Obispo (LOSSAN) rail corridor is a 351-mile heavy rail passenger and freight route connecting these three cities, serving as the second-busiest intercity rail network in the US. In San Diego County, it hosts Amtrak's *Pacific Surfliner,* Metrolink, COASTER commuter trains, and BNSF freight.

2.18 **Medicare Recipient:** Any person to whom the federal government has issued a Medicare identification card, regardless of age.

2.19 **Metrolink:** The Commuter rail service operated by the Southern California Regional Rail Authority.

2.20 **Mobile ticketing**: A mobile phone application allowing for the purchase of many of the fares available.

2.21 **Monthly Pass:** A fare medium that allows a passenger unlimited travel on eligible modes during one Calendar Service Month.

2.22 **MTS:** The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, operating under and pursuant to California Public Utilities Code sections 120000, et seq., operating services in the cities of San Diego, Chula Vista, National City, Imperial Beach, Coronado, Lemon Grove, La Mesa, El Cajon, Santee, Poway, and adjacent unincorporated areas of San Diego County. MTS operates MTS Bus, MTS Rural Bus, MTS Rapid, MTS Rapid Express, MTS Trolley service, and ADA Access Service.

2.23 **NCTD:** North County Transit District, operating under and pursuant to California Public Utilities Code sections 125000, et seq., and referred to as North County Transit – San Diego Railroad, operating services in the cities of Del Mar, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad, Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, Escondido, and adjacent unincorporated areas of San Diego County. NCTD services include the BREEZE, COASTER, SPRINTER, FLEX, NCTD+, and LIFT.

2.24 **NCTD+:** The brand name of a demand response/microtransit service operated by NCTD.

2.25 **Open Loop Payment:** a physical credit card or mobile wallet enabled credit card used to pay a one-way fare by tapping on a PRONTO validator.

2.26 **Paratransit:** comparable transportation service required by 42 United States Code section 12143 for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use fixed route transportation systems.

2.27 **Person with Disability:** A person with a permanent or temporary mental or physical disability that entitles them to a fare discount under federal law (See 49 CFR Part 37, 49 USC 5307(d); 49 CFR 609.23; 49 CFR 609.3 and 49 CFR 609 Appendix A) or state law (Cal. Pub. Util. Code § 99155, Cal. Pub. Util. Code § 99206.5; Cal. Veh. Code § 295.5 and Cal. Veh. Code § 295.7).

2.28 **Personal Care Attendant (PCA):** In relation to the ADA complementary paratransit service, a personal care attendant is a person who is designated by the ADA eligible passenger to aid in their mobility. The person may be a friend, family member, or paid employee.

2.29 **PRONTO:** The region's Fare Collection system that allows passengers to pay the fare to ride transit services using a PRONTO card or through the PRONTO mobile app.

2.30 **Post-Secondary Institution:** An institution that provides education to students beyond the secondary school level (beyond grade 12). This includes, but is not limited to, colleges, trade schools, or language academies.

2.31 **Rapid:** MTS brand name for a premium rapid transit service operated wholly or partly on exclusive bus lanes, guideways, Managed Lanes, or use of other transit priority measures. Depending on specific route characteristics, individual Rapid routes may be classified as MTS Rapid or MTS Rapid Express for purposes of Tables 1 through 3.

2.32 **Regional Fare System:** The Regional Fare System is governed by SANDAG Board Policy No. 018: Transit Service Policies, SANDAG Board Policy No. 029: Regional Fare Policy and Comprehensive Fare Ordinance, this Ordinance, MTS and NCTD transit operations ordinances and policies, and any other fare agreements, including agreements entered into by SANDAG with transit operators.

2.33 **Rural:** MTS bus routes operating in the eastern, rural portion of San Diego County. Compared with most other bus routes, rural routes typically operate over longer distances.

2.34 **Scan:** The act of reading a barcode associated with a virtual PRONTO card to validate trips or deduct fares from Stored Value.

2.35 **Senior:** Any person aged 65 and older.

2.36 **Senior, Disabled, and Medicare (SDM):** A fare category referring to Senior, Disabled, and Medicare eligible passengers who qualify for discounted fares.

2.37 **Service Day:** From 3:00 AM to 2:59 AM on the following day.

2.38 **SPRINTER:** The brand name of the Oceanside to Escondido hybrid rail service operated by NCTD.

2.39 **Station:** A passenger boarding / deboarding facility with a platform, which may include stairs, elevators, escalators, passenger controls, canopies, wind shelters, lighting, signs, and buildings.

2.40 **Stored Value:** Cash value placed on PRONTO accounts that can be deducted to purchase fare products.

2.41 **Sworn Peace Officers:** San Diego County, state, and federal sworn peace officers. Sworn peace officers include but are not limited to all municipal police department officials, all County Sheriff Department deputies, County Marshals, all County of San Diego Probation Officers, State Highway Patrol officers, State Police, U.S. Marshals, Federal Bureau of Investigation Officers, the MTS Chief of Police, and U.S. Immigration and Customs officers.

2.42 **Tap:** The act of placing a PRONTO card/app or Open Loop Payment on a validator to pay a transit fare.

2.43 **Transfer:** The action of a passenger leaving one bus, train, or other transit vehicle and boarding a subsequent bus, train, or other transit vehicle.

2.44 **Trolley:** Light-rail transit service operated by MTS.

2.45 **TVM:** Ticket Vending Machine used for the sale of fare products.

2.46 **Universal Pass (U-Pass):** Provides unlimited rides on select transit services for an agreed upon period of time to individuals associated with a sponsoring entity, where the sponsoring entity guarantees universal participation/purchase by its employees, students, or other membership.

2.47 **Validator:** A validator is a device which may be a feature within a TVM, a handheld machine used by fare inspectors, or a standalone device on a rail platform or transit vehicle.

2.48 **Youth:** A person aged 6 through 18.

SECTION 3: ONE-WAY FARES, DAY PASSES, AND MONTHLY PASSES

3.1 Fare Product Limitations

3.1.1 Regional fare products may only be used on MTS Trolley, Bus, and Rapid, and NCTD BREEZE and SPRINTER.

3.1.2 Premium Regional fare products may only be used on MTS Trolley, Bus, Rapid, Rapid Express, and Rural services, and NCTD BREEZE, SPRINTER, and FLEX routes.

3.1.3 COASTER Regional fare products may only be used on MTS Trolley, Bus, Rapid, Rapid Express, and Rural services, and NCTD BREEZE, SPRINTER, FLEX, and COASTER routes.

3.1.4 SPRINTER/BREEZE fare products may only be used on NCTD BREEZE and SPRINTER.

3.2 Fares and Pass Products

Tables 1 through 3 list transit fares available. The tables show the fare for each type of service by passenger category and which passes are accepted on specific services.

Table 1: One-Way Fares

	One-Way Fare Effective October 1, 2026		One-Way Fare Effective October 1, 2027	
Service	Adult	SDM & Youth	Adult	SDM & Youth
Regional: MTS Bus, Rapid, Trolley, NCTD BREEZE and SPRINTER	$3.00	$1.50	$3.25	$1.50
Premium Regional: MTS Rapid Express	$6.00	$3.00	$7.00	$3.00
NCTD FLEX	$6.00	$3.00	$6.50	$3.00

MTS Rural	$10.00	$5.00	$11.00	$5.00
NCTD COASTER	$6.50	$3.25	$7.00	$3.50
MTS Access/NCTD LIFT	$6.00		$6.50	

Table 2: Day Pass Prices

	Day Pass Price Effective October 1, 2026		Day Pass Price Effective October 1, 2027	
Service	Adult	SDM & Youth	Adult	SDM & Youth
Regional*	$7.00	$3.50	$7.00	$3.50
SPRINTER/BREEZE*	$4.50	$4.50	$4.50	$4.50
Premium Regional*	$14.00	$7.00	$16.00	$7.00
COASTER Regional	$15.00	$7.50	$17.00	$8.50

* Regional, SPRINTER/BREEZE, and Premium Regional Day Passes are only available for institutions and organizations via Limited Use (LU) cards, or via marketing promotions. Passengers can obtain a Day Pass through fare capping, by riding with Stored Value and validating on eligible modes.

Table 3: Monthly Pass Prices

	Monthly Pass Price Effective October 1, 2026		Monthly Pass Price Effective October 1, 2027	
Service	Adult	SDM & Youth	Adult	SDM & Youth
SPRINTER/BREEZE	$65.00	$20.00	$70.00	$23.00
Regional	$85.00	$28.00	$95.00	$30.00
Premium Regional	$125.00	$42.00	$140.00	$45.00
COASTER Regional	$185.00	$60.00	$190.00	$70.00

3.3 Free Transfers for one-way fares

Riders using the PRONTO Stored Value feature or Open Loop Payment can transfer free to Regional services (transfers from Regional to Regional, Premium Regional to Regional, Rural to Regional) within two (2) hours of paying a one-way fare. No transfers are allowed for NCTD+, MTS Access, and NCTD LIFT. No transfers are allowed for a SPRINTER paper ticket. There are no transfers allowed for cash fares paid on bus. A single COASTER transfer is allowed to SPRINTER, BREEZE, or FLEX (not MTS service) within two (2) hours of paying a one-way COASTER fare.

3.4 Senior/Disabled/Medicare and Youth

The one-way Cash Fare for persons eligible for SDM and Youth fares shall be no more than 50 percent of the one-way regular fare, rounded down to the nearest $0.05.

3.5 Children

NCTD and MTS may each determine (in Board approved Policies and referenced in their Rider's Guides) how many children five years old and under may ride free on all bus, light rail, and commuter rail services when traveling with a paying passenger.

3.6 Classroom Day Pass

Classroom Day Passes may be issued to school and youth groups (up to 18 years of age) on an advance sales basis only. Each group must consist of a minimum of 12 people. One chaperone per every five students may ride at the Classroom Day Pass price.

Valid on	Price
MTS Bus, SPRINTER, BREEZE, and Rapid Express	$1.50
COASTER only	$5.00
COASTER plus any of the following: MTS Bus, MTS Trolley, Rapid Express, SPRINTER, and BREEZE	$6.50
Coronado/San Diego Bay Ferry	$3.50 One-Way/$7 Round-Trip

A maximum of 135 students and adults per group are permitted to ride a single scheduled COASTER train. Advance confirmation of the availability of space is required at the time of purchase for all COASTER Classroom Day Pass.

3.7 Juror Day Pass

Any state or federal court in San Diego County may purchase Juror Passes after signing an agreement with MTS and NCTD. The agreement may include a portion of passes to be supplied free of charge to the courts in exchange for promoting transit use in all juror summons.

A Regional Juror Day Pass is valid for travel on all NCTD and MTS services except Rapid Express, COASTER, FLEX, Rural services, NCTD+, MTS Access, and NCTD LIFT. A COASTER Regional Juror Day Pass is valid for

travel on all NCTD and MTS services, except NCTD+, MTS Access, and NCTD LIFT. Transit agencies reserve the right to determine the expiration dates of the passes.

The price for Regional Juror Day Passes sold to the courts will be based on the price of the Regional Day Pass and included in the agreement with the court. The price for COASTER Regional Juror Day Passes sold to the courts will be based on the price of the COASTER Regional Day Pass and included in the agreement with the court.

Each Juror Day Pass becomes activated/valid on the day it is tapped by the passenger.

3.8 Advance Purchase Group Day Pass Sales

Entities (e.g., social service agencies/groups, employers, schools) wishing to purchase Day Passes in bulk or for other authorized purposes, are entitled to obtain passes at discount rates set by each transit operator for services they operate. Transit agencies reserve the right to set and modify expiration dates, terms, and conditions for advance purchase group day passes.

3.9 Monthly Passes

All Monthly Passes are valid until the end of the Service Day on the last day of the calendar month.

SECTION 4: MULTI RIDE TICKETS

4.1 Round Trip Tickets

Any transit operator may, at its option, sell round trip tickets at two times the price of a one-way ticket for any fare category or service. Outbound and return trips must be taken on the same Service Day and are valid roundtrip from the point of origin to the destination.

4.2 Multi-Trip Ticket Packs

Any transit operator may, at their option, bundle multiple one-way tickets or day passes for any service they operate, and sell the tickets for the full face value of the tickets or with a discount of up to 50 percent.

SECTION 5: PRONTO CARDS

5.1 Card Acquisition and Registration

MTS, the administrator of the PRONTO card program, may require a nonrefundable fee for passengers wishing to acquire a PRONTO card. The fee will not exceed $7.

PRONTO card users may elect to register their card. If registered, users will be entitled to one free replacement if the card is lost or stolen. Additionally, registered users of the PRONTO card are entitled to balance protection. Upon request, the remaining stored value or transit product on the registered user's card at the time it is reported lost or stolen will be provided on a new, replacement PRONTO card. An unregistered user may not transfer a PRONTO card balance if the card is lost or stolen. Registered PRONTO cards are not transferable.

Whether or not a user participates in the registration program, the PRONTO card is the property of MTS and may be revoked and/or confiscated by MTS or NCTD.

5.2 Paying Fare

Riders must pay their fare using their PRONTO card/app with stored value or a pre-paid day, monthly, or promotional fare product; Open Loop Payment; a paper-ticket; or cash directly on the bus. Fare products are not transferrable between riders.

5.3 Validating a PRONTO Fare

PRONTO card or PRONTO app users, or paper ticket holders who have a transit fare product or Stored Value loaded on their physical or virtual card must validate their card each time they board a bus or train. Passengers who fail to tap or scan and validate their fare as required may result in a violation of MTS and NCTD ordinances and rules and may be subject to citations and/or fines.

5.4 Inspection and Use of PRONTO Card/App, Paper Tickets, and Open Loop Payment

Riders must produce a PRONTO card/app, their Open Loop Payment, or paper ticket for inspection by authorized MTS or NCTD personnel or their designated agents. Passengers who do not produce the necessary fare product are in violation of MTS and NCTD ordinances and rules and may be subject to citations and/or fines.

5.5 Refunds of Stored Value and Transit Products

All fare media purchases are non-refundable. Refunds for unused fare products or Stored Value will not be issued.

5.6 Photographs of Cardholders

A photograph of a registered card holder may be printed onto a PRONTO card and/or saved onto their PRONTO account. MTS or NCTD may charge a fee for placement of a photograph on the PRONTO card. PRONTO cards bearing a photograph only may be used by the person whose photograph appears on the card.

5.7 Stored Value

The Stored Value feature allows passengers to load cash value into the PRONTO account for use with the PRONTO card or app. A PRONTO card with Stored Value may not be used to purchase an additional or replacement PRONTO card. A PRONTO card with Stored Value may not be used to purchase fare products or Stored Value to be loaded onto a different PRONTO card.

5.8 Fare Capping Using Stored Value

For PRONTO card/app users, the system will deduct stored value for each trip until the maximum fare for the Day has been reached for Regional and Premium Regional modes. Trips taken within a calendar month for Regional and Premium Regional modes will be capped at the at the monthly rate. Additional boardings during the day or the month after reaching the cap are free. COASTER service is not subject to fare capping. These capping rules may apply to future fare media as technology evolves.

SECTION 6: DISCOUNTED POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION AND GROUP PASSES

6.1 Post-Secondary Institution Discounted Passes

MTS and NCTD each have the right to negotiate agreements, individually or jointly, with post-secondary institutions. MTS and NCTD may establish their own policies, terms or eligibility rules regarding the sale or purchase of the passes in the sales agreements; however, the prices to the post-secondary institutions must conform to this Ordinance.

6.1.1 Discounted Post-Secondary Institution Monthly Pass

Post-secondary institutions are eligible to receive a 20 percent discount on all Adult Monthly pass types. The discounted pass is valid for unlimited travel during a calendar month.

6.1.2 Discounted Post-Secondary Institution Semester Pass

Post-secondary institutions are eligible to receive a 40 percent discount on all Adult Monthly pass types, multiplied by four months.

Pass validity shall be no less than four months, but final dates are at the discretion of MTS and NCTD. The discounted Post-Secondary Institution Pass is valid for unlimited travel during the pass period. All Pass rules apply to the Post-Secondary Institution Semester Pass.

6.2 Group Pass Program

6.2.1 PRONTO Partners Plus (PPP) Group Sales Pass Program

MTS and NCTD have the ability to negotiate fare discounts and terms with businesses, public agencies, or groups (collectively "group") for advance bulk transit pass orders. This program is for businesses, public agencies, or groups who pre-purchase monthly passes as part of a PPP participation agreement. To be eligible for a PPP participation agreement bulk discount, the participating group must pre-purchase at least 12-months of Adult monthly passes for 25 or more individuals. No additional discount is provided for SDM or Youth monthly passes beyond the discount provided in Section 3.2 (Table 3) as part of a PPP participation agreement.

One three-month trial program is permitted per employer, public agency, or group interested in testing the program.

6.2.2 Universal Pass (U-Pass) Program

MTS and NCTD each have the right to negotiate U-Pass agreements, individually or jointly, with sponsoring entities. MTS and NCTD may establish their own policies, terms, prices, or eligibility rules regarding the sale of the U-Pass in the sales agreements.

SECTION 7: TRANSFERS WITH OTHER TRANSIT OPERATORS

MTS, NCTD, LOSSAN, and/or Metrolink may develop policies for transfers and joint ticketing as deemed necessary by the respective entities. Policies for transfers and joint ticketing shall be included on the respective agency

websites and in rider information guides. These policies may include the acceptance of fare media outside of the PRONTO system.

SECTION 8: PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL FARE SYSTEM

The requirements for participation in the Regional Fare System by transportation providers are as follows:

8.1 Transit operators participating in the Regional Fare System must operate fixed-route transit service with fixed, published schedules.

8.2 Transit Operators must serve an area not currently served by an existing publicly subsidized, fixed-route bus operator.

8.3 New transit operators will be incorporated into the PRONTO card system to the extent feasible and practical as determined jointly by MTS and NCTD.

8.4 Any transit provider selling or receiving PRONTO card/app, or other MTS and NCTD fare media shall have a secure handling procedure for all fare media. All tickets, passes, and transfers shall be handled as cash-value media, with appropriate security provided for acceptance, inspection, storage, distribution, and disposal.

SECTION 9: SPECIAL FARES

9.1 Sworn Peace Officers

MTS and NCTD transit operators will allow all San Diego County, state, and federal sworn peace officers, in uniform or in civilian clothes, to ride on scheduled bus and train routes without charge. Officers must show identification when requested by MTS or NCTD.

9.2 Pilot and Promotional, and Free or Reduced Fare Programs

9.2.1 Pilot Fares

MTS and NCTD may implement pilot fares. Pilot fares are defined as fares implemented for no more than 36 months, to allow the transit operator the necessary time to gather data and feedback on the fare impact, in order to determine if the fare can become permanent. Any pilot fare which meets or exceeds six months in length must comply with FTA requirements.

9.2.2 Promotional Fares for Marketing Purposes

MTS and NCTD may establish promotional fares for no more than 12 consecutive months. Promotional fares are temporary fares designed to encourage ridership for seasonal events or other marketing purposes. These fares, because of their temporary nature, are not included in this Ordinance. Discounts and promotions are determined by the transit operator. Any promotional fare which meets or exceeds six months in length must comply with FTA requirements.

9.2.3 Free or Reduced Fare Programs

Subject to funding availability, MTS and NCTD may establish programs to provide free or heavily discounted passes to special interest groups to encourage ridership and/or provide affordability for groups in need. Examples of these are youth (Youth Opportunity Pass), foster youth, persons with low-incomes, and other population groups. Any free or reduced fare program which meets or exceeds six months in length must comply with FTA requirements.

SECTION 10: REDUCED FARE ELIGIBILTY AND REQUIREMENTS

10.1 Eligibility

To be eligible for a reduced fare PRONTO account, a passenger must complete a reduced fare application.

10.2 Seniors

If a person is 65 years or older, they automatically qualify for the SDM fare with NCTD and MTS. Seniors can apply for a SDM fare PRONTO account or purchase a discounted Fare with a valid government-issued photo-identification card.

10.3 Persons with Medicare

If a person has Medicare, they automatically qualify for the SDM fare with NCTD and MTS. Persons with Medicare can apply for a SDM fare PRONTO account or purchase a SDM Fare with a valid Medicare card with a corresponding government-issued photo identification card. No third-party cards are accepted.

10.4 Persons with Disabilities

A person of any age with a qualifying Disability can apply to NCTD and MTS's SDM fare program.

10.4.1 Cash Fares and Paper Tickets

All persons with a valid SDM PRONTO card, public transit agency disabled identification card, ADA Complementary Paratransit ID card, Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) disabled license or placard with evidence of issuance to that person, are permitted to pay the SDM one-way cash fare.

10.4.2 Reduced Fare PRONTO Accounts

Each transit agency will determine whether a person with a disability is eligible for the SDM based on the definition in Section 2.27.

10.5 Youth

If a person is between the ages of 6 through 18, they automatically qualify for the reduced Youth fare rate with NCTD and MTS. Youth can purchase a discounted fare on transit vehicles or purchase paper tickets with a valid K-12 school and/or government-issued photo identification card.

10.6 Proof of Eligibility

Transit agencies reserve the right to request additional identification to validate eligibility of the reduced fare and/or the ownership of the PRONTO card. Possession of a valid fare or proof of reduced fare eligibility on MTS and NCTD transit vehicles or within the paid fare zone of an MTS trolley or NCTD rail station is required. If the cardholder's photograph is on file with PRONTO, that will satisfy the proof of eligibility requirement. If there is no photo associated with their PRONTO account, Senior and Youth must provide valid K-12 school or government-issued photo identification to verify. SDM riders must provide the items outlined under Sections 10.2, 10.3, and 10.4 above. Please refer to each agency for specific eligibility requirements.

SECTION 11: Demand Response Services

11.1 ADA Complementary Paratransit Fares

11.1.1 ADA-Certified Passengers

The fare charged to an ADA complementary paratransit certified passenger may be up to double the fare that would be charged to an individual paying the full fare (i.e., without regard to discounts), for a trip of similar length, at a similar time of day, on the fixed route system. For purposes of this provision, fixed route Monthly Passes, fixed route Day Passes, reduced fares for SDM, and promotional fares lasting fewer than sixty days are considered discounts that would not be used to calculate the fare charged on an ADA complementary paratransit trip.

11.1.2 Personal Care Attendants

One personal care attendant (PCA) may ride free with each ADA-certified passenger riding an ADA complementary paratransit service if a PCA requirement is designated. The requirement for agencies to transport PCAs without charging a fare only applies to complementary paratransit service and not to fixed route or public demand response services.

11.1.3 Companions

Transit agencies may charge a Companion of an ADA-certified paratransit passenger the same fare they charge the ADA-certified paratransit passenger.

11.1.4 ADA Fare Media

ADA fare media is only accepted by the agency that issued it. Each transit agency may determine what type of fare media or other fare payment will be accepted to pay for complementary paratransit trips. MTS and NCTD may establish their own policies and prices regarding the sale/issuance of daily/monthly/annual passes for fixed-route buses and trains to ADA-certified passengers; however, the prices to these customers must not exceed the SDM prices in Section 3.

11.2 LIFT and Access Transfers

Paratransit customers needing to transfer between MTS Access and NCTD LIFT will need to pay the corresponding fares for each service.

11.3 Other Demand Response Services

Transit operators that provide other demand response services (e.g. NCTD+ or other future microtransit services distinct from ADA Complementary Paratransit), may establish their own policies, prices, and discounts for such services. Fares shall comply with all applicable FTA regulations and guidance.

SECTION 12: REGIONAL TICKET AND PASS ADMINISTRATION, REVENUE SHARING

Processes and rules regarding regional ticket and pass administration and revenue sharing may be the subject of one or more separate agreements between MTS and NCTD.

SECTION 13: EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDINANCE OR AMENDMENTS

This Ordinance Amendment shall go into effect on August 24, 2026. Notwithstanding Board Policy No. 004: Rules of Procedure for Board of Directors and Committees, all amendments shall go into effect not less than 30 days after the second reading and approval of the Board of Directors or the Transportation Committee, unless approved in accordance with Board Policy No. 004 as an urgency measure.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th of July 2026.

CHAIRPERSON ATTEST: SECRETARY

Member Agencies: Cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Escondido, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee, Solana Beach, Vista, and County of San Diego. ADVISORY MEMBERS: California Department of Transportation, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, North County Transit District, Imperial County, U.S. Department of Defense, San Diego Unified Port District, San Diego County Water Authority, Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association, Mexico, and the Association of Planning Groups.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

I, Clerk of the Board of SANDAG, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an Ordinance approved by the SANDAG Transportation Committee at a regular meeting on 17th of July 2026, at the time and by the vote stated above, which said Ordinance is on file in the office of SANDAG.

DATED: July 17, 2026

Clerk of the Board