



For Immediate Release

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**WTA WILL TAKE COMMENT ON
PROPOSED FARE INCREASE**

BELLINGHAM, March 16, 2009—WTA is proposing a fare increase to take effect in September 2009. The public can comment on the proposal at a public hearing on Thursday, March 19 at 6 pm. It will take place at the Bellingham Senior Center, located at 315 Halleck Street.

WTA is proposing to increase the cash fare from 75 cents to one dollar. The cost for a monthly bus pass would increase from \$20 to \$25. WTA is also proposing to eliminate transfers which would require cash paying passengers to pay two fares if their one-way journey required a transfer to a second bus.

Other changes include lowering the age at which senior citizens ride free, from 80 to 75 years of age, and increasing the cost for the monthly student bus pass from \$10 to \$15 per month.

Vanpool fares are also proposed to increase. Currently fares from vanpool participants cover 80% of program costs; the proposal would raise fares to recover 100% of program costs. Vanpool fares vary based on the distance traveled and number of participants for each individual group.

Those unable to attend the public hearing can comment by calling 715-4500 or sending an email to comment@ridewta.com , no later than 4 pm on Wednesday, March 18. Detailed information regarding the fare increase proposal can be found by visiting www.ridewta.com and clicking on “Rider Alert.”

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