

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Agenda Item #:

6H-2

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 12, 2006

☐ Consent ☒ Regular  
☐ Ordinance ☐ Public Hearing

Department: Palm Tran

Submitted By: Palm Tran

Submitted for: Palm Tran

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title:** Staff recommends motion to approve: a proposal to increase fares on Palm Tran's Fixed Route and Palm Tran Connection services.

**Summary:** At the June 8, 2006 Budget Workshop, staff was directed by the Board to examine the potential impact of a modest fare increase to Palm Tran's fares. The current non-discounted fixed route fare structure is \$1.25 for a one-way trip (no transfer), \$3.00 for an all-day pass (unlimited access), and the monthly pass of \$50.00. The reduced fare offered to those riders meeting eligibility requirements is \$.60 for a one-way trip, \$2.00 for an all-day pass and \$35.00 for the monthly pass. Pass and Farebox revenue under the current fare structure for fixed route operations is budgeted at \$6,220,720 in fiscal year 2006, which represents approximately 18% of total operating costs. The proposal is to increase the fixed route base fare from \$1.25 to \$1.50, for a single trip. Staff proposes to maintain the current \$3.00 all-day pass level and to increase the monthly pass from \$50 to \$55. Under this proposal the reduced/discounted fares would increase from \$.60 to \$.75 for a one way trip. We would maintain the \$2.00 all-day pass and the monthly pass would increase to \$39.

Palm Tran Connection's current paratransit fare is \$2.50 per trip. Revenue from Connection's operations is budgeted at \$1,056,797 in FY06, which represents just 4% of total costs. We propose to increase the paratransit base fare from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per trip and increase the sixteen (16) trip "Connection Ticket to Ride" booklet from \$40 to \$45. ADA allows for para-transit fares to be twice that of the fixed route service.

It is estimated that the overall fare increase would generate approximately \$1,250,000 annually. We project that such a fare increase would also increase the farebox recovery ratio by 2 - 3%. This recovery ratio would be more in line with national averages for farebox recovery. If the Board concurs, staff plans to hold the required public hearing on this proposal on November 17, 2006. **The fare increase is proposed to become effective March 1, 2007. Countywide (DR)**

**Background and Policy Issues:** Palm Tran's operating costs have increased 8% annually. Ridership has grown by over 60% since the last fare increase was instituted in 2001. Staff is proposing (see attachment) as part of this proposal to maintain the purchase price of the one day passes and to increase the discount for regular riders who purchase the monthly pass and the Connection 16 trip coupon book. Such discounts are routine in the transit industry encouraging transit use, while also simplifying/speeding up the boarding process by keeping fares to easy to pay amounts.

**Attachments:** Recap of proposed fare increases

Recommended By:

  
Department Director

  
Date

Approved By:

  
Assistant County Administrator

  
Date

## II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

### A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

| Fiscal Years                            | 2006 | 2007    | 2008-     | 200- | 200- |
|---|------|---------|-----------|------|------|
| Capital Expenditures                    |      |         |           |      |      |
| Operating Costs                         |      |         |           |      |      |
| External Revenues                       |      | 729,167 | 1,250,000 |      |      |
| Program Income (County)                 |      |         |           |      |      |
| In-Kind Match (County)                  |      |         |           |      |      |
| NET FISCAL IMPACT                       |      | 729,167 | 1,250,000 |      |      |
| # ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative) |      | -0-     | -0-       |      |      |

**Is Item Included In Current Budget?**      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X  
**Budget Account No.:**      Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Dep't. \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Object \_\_\_\_\_  
    Program \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

**C. Departmental Fiscal Review:**

John Murphy Finance Manager

### **III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

**A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:**


John Dink 8-24-06  
OFMB  
Legal Sufficiency: *W 8-23-06 PM 8-23-06*

N/A

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Contract Dev. and Control

**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

 8/24/02  
Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

**Department Director**

### **Fixed Route**

|                              | <b>Current</b> | <b>Proposed</b> |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Base Fare</b>             | <b>\$1.25</b>  | <b>\$1.50</b>   |
| <b>Discount Fare</b>         | <b>\$0.60</b>  | <b>\$0.75</b>   |
| <b>One Day Pass</b>          | <b>\$3.00</b>  | <b>\$3.00</b>   |
| <b>Monthly Base Pass</b>     | <b>\$50.00</b> | <b>\$55.00</b>  |
| <b>Reduced one Day Pass</b>  | <b>\$2.00</b>  | <b>\$2.00</b>   |
| <b>Monthly Discount Pass</b> | <b>\$35.00</b> | <b>\$39.00</b>  |

### **CONNECTION**

|  | <b>Current</b> | <b>Proposed</b> |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Connection Base Fare</b>              | <b>\$2.50</b>  | <b>\$3.00</b>   |
| <b>Ticket to Ride Booklet (16 trips)</b> | <b>\$40.00</b> | <b>\$45.00</b>  |