



**SFMTA**  
Municipal  
Transportation  
Agency

# Municipal Fees and Fines Task Force Overview

Presentation to the SFMTA Board of Directors  
June 6, 2017

# Background

- Task Force created through Board of Supervisors resolution (July 2016)
- Composed of staff from city and county departments and community organization representatives (including SFMTA)
- Directed to study the impact of fines, fees and other financial penalties on low-income San Franciscans
- Task Force met over six months and forwarded recommendations as part of final report
- Additional evaluation of fiscal impact, implementation, ongoing administration, and deterrent effects required

# Summary of Existing Programs

## Transit

- Lifeline – Discount monthly pass for income qualifying adults (ages 19-64)
- Free Muni – Free Muni rides for income qualifying Youth (5-18), Seniors (65+) and People with Disabilities and students enrolled in SFUSD Special Education and Foster Care programs (19-22)
- Token – Half-price tokens/passes for social service/government agency client distribution
- Youth Fares – Increased youth discount through age 18

## Citations

- Community Service – Perform community service in San Francisco in lieu of payment
- Payment Plan – Extends citation due date
- First Time Tow – Discount administrative fee for first time tow and first time low income tow

## Taxis

- Fees – Reductions and waivers for taxi-industry related fees

# Estimated FY18 Financial Impact of Existing Low-Income Programs

Program	Revenue Loss/Admin Costs
Lifeline	\$7,965,000
Free Muni	\$19,545,000
Half Price Tokens/Pass (Social Service/ Government Agency Client Distribution)	\$1,000,000
Youth Age through 18 Years	\$2,200,000
Citations - Community Service Program	\$227,500
Citations – Payment Plan	\$50,000
Fist Time/Low-Income Tow Waiver	\$3,500,000
Taxi Fee Waivers/Reductions	\$1,100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,587,500</b>

# Community Service & Payment Plan

## TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Waive enrollment fees and increase repayment period
- Send out reminders regarding deadlines and amount due
- Streamline administrative processes
- Increase hourly rates for community service
- Allow community service to be satisfied by participation in social services programs
- Add information about alternative payment options to the initial citation.

## RESPONSE

- Hourly rates have been increased from \$7/hour to \$13 and will remain consistent with minimum wage
- Tickets have been updated to include notification of alternative payment options
- Eliminating/reducing enrollment fees will result in decreased revenue and increased administrative costs
- Results of comprehensive evaluation expected early Fall 2017

# Fine & Fee Reductions

## TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Allow fine reductions at the appeal stage based on ability to pay
- Waive fare evasion citation when person applies for free or reduced Muni pass
- Proposed reductions in ticket costs of certain offenses, such as fare evasion, in the San Francisco Transportation Code
- Implement first-time and low-income boot fee reduction (consistent with tow fees)

## RESPONSE

- Impact of potential reduced compliance with local and state laws must be evaluated
- Decreased revenue and increased administrative costs likely
- Citywide standard and process for income verification should be established

# Miscellaneous

## TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand use of Free Muni for homeless people and people on need-based public benefits.
- Expand use of reduced-fare muni tokens distributed by HSA to disabled, elderly, or youth passengers who currently qualify for reduced fare.
- Establish an accessible, simple process for the waiver of towing fees for individuals residing in their vehicles.
- Notices and reminders should be sent by text/email in addition to U.S. mail.

## RESPONSE

- Fifty-percent discount for tokens and monthly passes for HSA implemented 9/1/16
- Evaluating improvement for noticing and tow fee waiver process

# Policy Considerations

- Maintain Parking Enforcement Goals
  - Promote safe and efficient paths of travel (bicyclists/pedestrians)
  - Enhance traffic/transit flow
  - Support access to small businesses
- Fiscal Impacts
  - Citation revenue supports Muni Operations
  - Trade-offs for reduced revenue (increased fines/decreased service)
- Administrative Costs
  - Low-income eligibility certification (administered by HSA for Lifeline)
  - Increased processing required for expansion of alternative payment programs



# Next Steps

- Board of Supervisors to schedule hearing to discuss specific Task Force Transportation Recommendations
- Staff will review Task Force recommendations for fiscal and administrative impact
- Update, and potential action, to be provided to SFMTA Board of Directors early Fall