

For Release
Friday, January 4, 2008



METRO RIDERS REACT TO SUNDAY'S FARE INCREASE

The Action Committee for Transit, the Washington region's largest organization of transit riders, issued the following statement about the Metro fare increases that will go into effect on Sunday, Jan. 6:

This Sunday will be a sad day. For the fourth time since 1993, Metro fares will increase. The inevitable result of this decision is more traffic jams and more pollution.

No one should blame Metro for this. The fault lies with our region's elected officials, who have chosen to who have chosen to give automobiles profligate subsidies while placing an increasing financial burden on transit riders. By denying Metro the funding it needs and deserves, they have made these fare increases unavoidable.

Just as Metro riders pay for Metro usage with fares, drivers are supposed to pay for road usage with gasoline taxes. Yet Metro fares have gone up four times in 15 years while gasoline taxes in our region have remained unchanged over that entire period.

We must change course. Our governments must heed the voice of the public and give Metro the resources required to provide the quality of service we deserve on the expanded bus and rail network that we need.

- end -