



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
**Department of Transportation
& Environmental Services**

Paratransit Fare Change





Summary

▶ **Request:** Consider adjustments to the DOT Paratransit fare structure, including a fare increase, new fare zone, and a peak-hour surcharge.

▶ **Council Action:** Adopt the resolution to approve updated DOT Paratransit fares effective Jan. 2026.

Key Elements of the Proposal:

- Maintain free service for ADA-mandated trips (Zone 1).
- Increase fares by \$1 in existing Zones 2 and 3.
- ▶ • Create a new Zone 4 (\$10) for trips extending 10+ miles from the City boundary.
- Implement a \$2 peak-hour surcharge (7–9 a.m. and 2–4 p.m.) for Zones 2–4.
- Align fares with inflation and regional peers while supporting cost-efficiency goals.



Background

► Existing Fare Structure:

- Zone 1 – ADA-Mandated Area: Free
- Zone 2 – Up to 5 miles from City boundary: \$4
- Zone 3 – Over 5 miles & D.C.: \$6
- (Last fare increase in 2020)

► Rationale for Change:

- DOT Paratransit provides service beyond ADA requirements.
- Operating costs and inflation have increased since the last fare adjustment.
- Council directed staff to identify cost-saving and efficiency measures.
- Proposed changes ensure long-term financial sustainability while maintaining access to essential destinations.



Benefits

► **Financial Sustainability:**

- Increases annual fare revenue by ~\$17,000 based on FY 2025 ridership.
- Additional \$5,000–\$7,500 potential from peak-hour surcharge.
- Offsets rising operating costs and supports DOT service stability.

► **Service Efficiency:**

- Peak-hour surcharge encourages more balanced trip scheduling.
- Reduces vehicle demand during high-volume periods.

► **Equity & Access:**

- ADA service remains free within $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile of fixed routes.
- No impact on access to key medical destinations.
- Fares remain competitive with regional peers (MetroAccess \$4.50 flat; Arlington STAR similar zone pricing).



Recommendation

- ▶ **Adopt the resolution to approve updated DOT Paratransit fares effective Jan. 2026.**