

Table of fares for comparison group cities

	Philadelphia	Boston	New York City	Chicago	Los Angeles	Washington	San Francisco	Seattle
Agency	Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA)	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)	MTA New York City Transit (NYCT)	Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)	Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA)	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)	San Francisco Municipal Railway (MUNI)	King County Department of Transportation
Base fare—rail	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.75	\$2.67	\$2.75	NA
Base fare—bus	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$2.75	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.75	\$2.75
Transfer cost—rail to bus	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$2.75	\$0.00	\$1.75	\$1.50	\$0.00	NA
Transfer cost—bus to rail	\$2.50	\$2.75	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.75	\$2.67	\$0.00	NA
Transfer cost—bus to bus	\$2.50	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Base fare + transfer (mixed-mode trip)	\$5.00	\$4.75	\$5.75	\$4.25	\$3.50	\$4.42	\$2.75	NA
Base fare + transfer (bus-only trip)	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$2.75	\$5.00	\$3.50	\$4.00	\$2.75	\$2.75
Cash fare	Notes on base fare		Higher cost for rail includes \$0.25 cost for single-trip ticket.	Higher cost for rail includes \$0.50 cost for ticket. Fare from O'Hare only is \$5.		Base peak fare for rail is \$2.25 (i.e., lowest fare between any pair of stations). \$2.67 rail fare is the average peak fare between all destinations within Washington. Boarding rail requires purchase of a SmarTrip card, but the cost of the card (\$2) is not included in the fare.	Fares exclude cable car.	
	Notes on transfer cost	Full fare for transfer.	Full fare for transfer with cash.	Full fare for transfer between bus and rail; free transfers between buses.	Two free transfers are included with rail ticket, none with bus fare.	Full fare for transfer.	Full fare for transfer from bus to rail or bus to bus. Transfer from rail to bus qualifies for \$0.50 SmarTrip card discount on bus fare because purchase of a card was required for rail boarding.	Transfers are free within 90 minutes.
	Notes on base fare + transfer				Mixed-mode fare is average of total cost for trips beginning on bus or rail.		Mixed-mode fare is average of bus-to-rail and rail-to-bus transfer, where going from rail to bus is \$0.50 cheaper because purchase of a SmarTrip card was required to board rail first, but not vice versa.	

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Lowest single-trip fare	Base fare—rail	\$2.00	\$2.25	\$2.62	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$2.67	\$2.50	NA
	Base fare—bus	\$2.00	\$1.70	\$2.62	\$2.25	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.75
	Transfer cost—rail to bus	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.25	\$0.00	\$1.50	\$0.00	NA
	Transfer cost—bus to rail	\$1.00	\$0.55	\$0.00	\$0.25	\$0.00	\$2.17	\$0.00	NA
	Transfer cost—bus to bus	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Base fare + transfer (mixed-mode trip)	\$3.00	\$2.25	\$2.62	\$2.63	\$1.75	\$4.17	\$2.50	NA
	Base fare + transfer (bus-only trip)	\$3.00	\$1.70	\$2.62	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.75
	Notes on base fare	Requires token (no longer sold) or SEPTA Key card (smart card). Card cost is \$4.95; fee is waived if card is registered. Cost of card is not included in fare calculations.	Requires discount-ride CharlieCard (smart card). Card is free.	Using a MetroCard, the \$2.75 base is discounted by 5 percent if \$5.50 or more is added to the card, so the base fare is effectively \$2.62. There is a \$1 cost for a MetroCard. Cost of card is not included in fare calculations.	Requires Ventra card (smart card), which costs \$5. Cost of card is not included in fare calculations.	No additional discount applies to base fare; transfers are free. Discount-ride TAP smart card costs \$2. Cost of card is not included in fare calculations.	No additional discount applies to base fare. SmarTrip card (smart card) costs \$2 and is required to ride rail. Cost of card is not included in fare calculations.	Requires Clipper Card (smart card), which costs \$3; fee is waived if autoloading is set up. Excludes cable car. Cost of card is not included in fare calculations.	No discount with ORCA card (smart card), which costs \$5. Cost of card is not included in fare calculations.
Notes on base fare + transfer	Fare is achieved via smart card. Includes two transfers within 90 minutes of original ride.	Fare is achieved via smart card. Cost of mixed-mode trip is \$2.25 regardless of mode order. Includes one transfer within two hours of original ride.	Fare is achieved via discounted fare with pay-per-ride MetroCard. Includes free transfers within two hours of original ride.	Fare is achieved via smart card. \$0.25 fee provides up to two additional rides within two hours. Cost of mixed-mode trip is average of trip starting on rail (\$2.75) and starting on bus (\$2.50).	Fare is achieved via smart card. Card allows transfers to other Metro lines for up to two hours.	Bus-to-bus transfers are free for two hours with SmarTrip card; other transfers are \$0.50 less than the base fare. Cost of mixed-mode trip is \$4.17 regardless of mode order.	Fare is achieved via smart card. All transfers are free within 90 minutes.	Free transfers for two hours with ORCA card. Fare is for bus-only trip.	
Cheapest fare	Base fare—rail	\$2.00	\$2.01	\$2.62	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$2.67	\$1.79	NA
	Base fare—bus	\$2.00	\$1.31	\$2.62	\$2.25	\$1.75	\$1.67	\$1.79	\$2.36
	Base fare + transfer (mixed-mode trip)	\$2.29	\$2.01	\$2.62	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$3.63*	\$1.79	NA
	Base fare + transfer (bus-only trip)	\$2.29	\$1.31	\$2.62	\$2.50	\$1.75	\$1.67	\$1.79	\$2.36
	Notes on base fare	Fare is achieved via smart card Travel Wallet.	Fare is achieved via monthly pass.	Fare is achieved via discounted fare on pay-per-ride MetroCard.	Rail fare is the same with monthly pass or smart card; bus fare is achieved via smart card.	Fare is achieved via smart card.	Rail fare is achieved via smart card; bus fare is achieved via monthly pass.	Fare is achieved via monthly pass.	Fare is achieved via monthly pass.
	Notes on base fare + transfer	Fare is achieved via monthly pass.	Mixed-mode fare is achieved via monthly pass. Bus fare is achieved via monthly bus pass.	Fare is achieved via discounted fare on pay-per-ride MetroCard.	Mixed-mode fare is achieved via monthly pass. Bus fare is achieved via monthly pass or smart card.	Fare is achieved via smart card.	Mixed-mode fare is achieved via smart card. Bus fare is achieved via monthly (four-week) pass.	Fare is achieved via monthly pass.	Fare is achieved via monthly pass. Fare is for bus-only trip.

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Passes	Monthly pass (excluding bus only)	\$96.00	\$84.50	\$121.00	\$105.00	\$100.00	\$152.64	\$74.00	NA
	Monthly pass (bus only)		\$55.00				\$75.25		\$99.00
	Notes on monthly pass		\$84.50 for local bus, subway; same price for CharlieCard or CharlieTicket; CharlieTicket is also valid for travel on Commuter Rail Zone 1A and Charlestown Ferry; \$55 for bus.				*	\$94 for pass that is also valid on BART within San Francisco.	

* The cheapest fare for Washington was calculated as follows: Passes that allow travel on rail and bus are available only for trips with two different rail base fares: \$189 (for a \$3.75 base fare) and \$135 (for a \$2.25 base fare). For a rider paying the average rail fare of \$2.67 and transferring to or from a bus, the lowest-cost option would be to purchase a \$135 rail and bus monthly pass. The rider would be required to pay a surcharge of \$0.42 per rail trip (\$2.67-\$2.25), yielding a monthly cost of \$152.64 (\$135 plus \$0.42 per trip times 42 trips per month) and a per-trip cost of \$3.63 at 42 trips per month.

Because no monthly bus pass exists, the \$75.25 monthly bus pass cost is based on the purchase of an average of 4.3 weekly passes per month at \$17.50 each.

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