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VITRAN Announces Changes to Senior Citizen Free Ride Policy and Fare Increases

Senior Ride Policy Revision: Limited free ride hours to off-peak times for seniors.

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The Department of Public Works, alongside VITRAN, has announced upcoming changes to its transportation policies, affecting both the fare structure and the Senior Citizen Free Ride Policy, starting March 18, 2024.

The revision to the Senior Citizen Free Ride Policy will restrict free rides to the hours between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and will exclude peak morning and evening commute times. This adjustment aims to alleviate overcrowding during the busiest hours when transportation is crucial for reaching employment and other vital locations.

Further changes will come into effect on April 15, 2024, with a planned fare increase for fixed-route bus services and paratransit services. These services have maintained the same price since VITRAN's inception in 1994. However, due to escalating fuel and maintenance costs, the Department of Public Works has found it necessary to revise its pricing to continue providing service. The upcoming fare changes are as follows:

- Fixed Route Bus: Currently \$1.00, proposed to increase to \$2.50.
- Paratransit Van: Currently \$2.00, proposed to increase to \$5.00.

It's important to note that discounts for Medicare cardholders and free rides for seniors will still be available under the new fare structure.

The public is invited to provide feedback on these fare changes by March 26, 2024. Comments can be submitted via email to vitrانplanning@dpw.vi.gov or by leaving a voice message at 340-244-2269. All feedback will be considered in the final decision-making process.

As a recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) financial assistance, VITRAN is obligated to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and follow the Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice. This ensures that no discrimination based on race, color, or national origin occurs under any program receiving federal financial assistance. Transit agencies receiving federal funds are also required to develop and implement a Title VI Program as per FTA Circular 4702.1B, which includes the stipulation that minority and low-income populations must not face disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects.