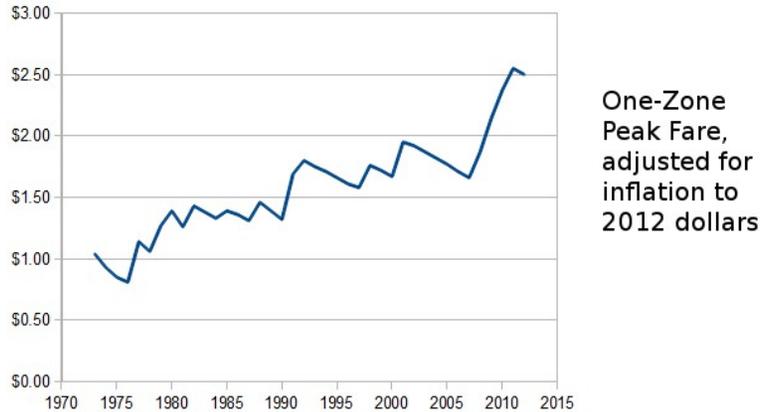


Has Riding the Bus Really Gotten More Expensive?

In the mid-1970s, it cost 20 cents to ride a Metro bus. Adjusted for inflation, that's still less than a dollar. Today we pay \$2.50 in peak hours – that's a **fare increase of 250%**. And fares will go up again next year.

The Rising Cost of Riding the Bus



When you take into account stagnating wages, this picture gets even worse. It used to be someone in Seattle earning minimum wage had to work for just over 10 minutes to pay for their bus rides to and from work. Today, **you have to work for 35 minutes to cover your commute** – and Washington State's minimum wage is the highest in the country!

Working More to Ride to Work



Can We Win a Low Income Fare?

YES WE CAN, but the **Transit Riders Union needs your help!!**

We're not alone. In December 2012, 28 Seattle and King County organizations joined TRU in sending a letter to the Council in support of a low income fare.

In January 2013, the King County Council created an **Advisory Committee** to research a low income fare program.

This is a good step forward, but the result could be a lousy program, or none at all if new funding for it isn't found.

To win a really good low income fare, we need to show the Advisory Committee and the King County Council that this is important!! **Sign the petition** and submit public comment.

It's not going to happen unless we organize as transit riders. The **TRU needs you** to join us! (See back side for more information.)

Who is Low Income?

A common measure of low income is twice (200%) the Federal Poverty Level

Household Size	200% FPL
1	\$22,980
2	\$31,020
3	\$39,060
4	\$47,100
5	\$55,140
6	\$63,180
7	\$71,220
8	\$79,260

According to the 2010 Census, **48% of the U.S. population was low income.** That's almost half of us!

Look at the chart to the left. Is your income below this level for your household size? If so, then you're "low income". Join the club!

Low income isn't "them", it's "us": young and old, students and people with college degrees, mothers and fathers, people laid off from decent jobs, service industry employees and people working for low wages, part-time, or in temp jobs.

Take Action!

Join the Transit Riders Union

The TRU is a grassroots, all-volunteer, democratic union of transit riders fighting for better public transit. We're only as strong as our numbers and our organizing. Do you ride the bus? Do you care about the future of public transit? Then we want you to join us!

Membership meetings take place on the **first Monday of every month**:

TRU Membership Meeting

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Labor Temple, Hall #6

2800 1st Avenue (in Belltown)

If you can't make it to the next Membership Meeting, visit our website at <http://transitriders.org> or contact us:

Email: contact@transitriders.org **Phone:** 206-651-4282

Put the Pressure On!

Attend an Advisory Committee Meeting. Meetings will take place on the following Wednesdays:

March 27 April 10 May 8 May 29 June 12

Low Income Fare Advisory Committee Meetings

4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

King Street Station, 8th Floor Conference Room

201 S. Jackson St.

Public comment. If you can't attend a meeting, you can submit comments online:

Project site: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/LowIncomeOptions>
Comment form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QB7JS7R>

Tell the County Council you're paying attention! Sign the petition on the Transit Riders Union website:

<http://transitriders.org/low-income-fare-petition>

Is \$2.50 too much to pay for the bus?

Do you plan your day to save on bus fare?

Would you ride more if it was affordable?

Together we can win a Low Income Fare!



What can you do?

- Inform yourself: read this pamphlet, and visit <http://transitriders.org/low-income-fare-campaign>
- Join the Transit Riders Union!
- Sign the Petition and submit a public comment
(see back side for details)

contact@transitriders.org <http://transitriders.org> 206-651-4282