

**SBS TRANSIT TO EXTEND \$7.2 MILLION IN ASSISTANCE
TO REDUCE IMPACT OF FARE INCREASES ON NEEDY COMMUTERS**

- *\$7.2 million contribution to the Public Transport Fund which aims to provide assistance to lower income households.*
- *Cost of monthly concession passes for Polytechnic Students to be reduced by \$20 - \$46.*
- *Cost of monthly concession passes for Full-time National Servicemen to be reduced by \$5 - \$26.*
- *Cost of hybrid monthly concession passes for all to drop by \$1.50 - \$46.*
- *Free travel for children under seven years old.*
- *New monthly adult pass for unlimited bus and train travel at \$120.*
- *New monthly senior citizen pass for unlimited bus and train travel at \$60.*
- *Adult ez-link fares to increase by 4-6 cents.*
- *Senior citizens ez-link fares to increase by 2-3 cents.*
- *Student ez-link fares to increase by 2 cents.*
- *Net effect is a 3.2% increase in fares.*

16 January 2014 – The Public Transport Council (PTC) today announced fare revisions for bus and train fares which will come into effect on 6 April 2014.

Under the new fare structure, adult ez-link fares will be increased by 4-6 cents while adult cash and single trip fares will rise by 20 cents. Senior citizen ez-link fares will increase by 2-3 cents while senior citizen cash fares will increase by 10 cents. Student ez-link fares will increase by 2 cents while student cash fares will increase by 10 cents.

All children below the age of seven with the child concession card will enjoy free travel on all SBS Transit buses and trains.

A new \$120 adult monthly travel pass and a \$60 senior citizen monthly travel pass will also be introduced for use on all buses and trains.

Monthly concession passes for polytechnic students will be reduced from \$52 to \$27.50 for unlimited bus travel and from \$45 to \$25 for unlimited train travel. The hybrid pass for bus and train travel will be priced at \$51, down by almost half from the current \$97. Significantly, the maximum cap of four train rides per day has also been removed for unlimited travel.

Full-time National Servicemen will also pay less for their monthly concession passes. From 6 April 2014, they will pay \$52 instead of \$61 for bus passes and \$45 instead of \$51 for train passes.

The monthly hybrid pass for both NSmen and University students will cost \$85, down from the current \$111 and \$97 respectively. Primary, secondary and university students will also enjoy cheaper hybrid monthly passes. For a primary student, it will be \$41 and secondary student \$51.

To mitigate the impact of the fare changes, SBS Transit will be contributing \$7.2 million to the Public Transport Fund.

SBS Transit Chief Executive Officer, Mr Gan Juay Kiat, said: "In the last three years, operating costs have increased significantly. While we have tried to mitigate this increase with productivity improvements, costs such as manpower, repairs and maintenance and depreciation, have continued to rise. In fact, our bus operations have been experiencing losses since 2011. The fare increase announced today by the PTC will help to alleviate some of these cost pressures.

"That said, we are aware that any increase in fares, however small, will have more of an impact on certain groups of commuters. To ensure that needy families are not severely impacted, we will contribute \$7.2 million to the Public Transport Fund to assist these needy commuters."

Cost pressures aside, SBS Transit continues to invest in new buses to ensure a more comfortable ride for commuters. In 2012, we placed a \$433 million order for 1,000 new buses for delivery over three years. Since 2006, we have purchased 2,679 new buses at a total cost of \$1.1 billion.

We have also been adding more trips to our rail network to meet rising demand. Since 2013, 2,497 weekly trips have been added to the Punggol and Sengkang Light Rail Transit networks. Just this year alone, we have added 409 weekly trips to the North East Line.

Commuters will be informed of the new fares through various channels including posters, leaflets and SBS Transit and TransitLink websites (www.sbstransit.com.sg and www.transitlink.com.sg).

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