**Subject Line:  SEPTA Announces Major Fare Increase Proposal for Jan. 1 and 20% Service Cut Proposal in early 2025**

Despite the tireless efforts of advocacy partners, Pennsylvania has not found a solution to fund the daily operating expenses of public transit systems. As a result, SEPTA today announced a new fare increase proposal that would see rates jump by more than 20% across all modes and payment methods. Customers would see fares climb by nearly 30% starting January 1, 2025. The fare for Bus and Metro trips will increase to $2.90.

This historically high fare increase would be paired with major service cuts, which SEPTA expects to announce and hold public hearings on in early 2025. While some details of the service reduction plan are still being finalized, it would result in an overall 20% cut in service across all modes. Dozens of routes would be eliminated, and those that remain would operate with significantly less frequency. These cuts will also force SEPTA to postpone its plans to [overhaul the bus network](https://wwww.septa.org/initiatives/bus/), previously known as Bus Revolution.

Some people will lose SEPTA service completely, as SEPTA will be forced to eliminate dozens of routes. SEPTA will become overcrowded and unreliable – quickly pushing people to no longer use transit with major consequences for traffic congestion, air pollution, and equity.

* For those that will still have service, the number of overcrowded bus trips during the peak period will double.
* With fewer buses, it will be impossible to keep buses on schedule, reducing reliability and increasing the number of people “passed up” by overcrowded buses.
* Fewer Metro trips serving the same amount of people on the Broad Street Line, Market Frankford Line, and Trolleys means more times when a train arrives at a station without any space for more people to board.
* Regional Rail trains will exceed standing capacity, leading to crowded platforms that create unsafe conditions while service becomes practically unusable on the weekends and off –peak times as wait time doubles.
* The 55,000 student passholders who use SEPTA will no longer have a reliable way to get to school on time or access vital after-school activities – not to mention countless children under 12 who don’t even need a pass.

SEPTA serves a critical role in getting people to work, school, medical appointments, and everywhere in-between. SEPTA’s ridership continues to grow every month as more people return to in-person work, but increased fare revenue cannot cover all of the costs that the Authority has taken on over the last few years to enhance cleaning, safety and security for riders and employees. In addition, inflation has resulted in increased costs for fuel, power, supplies and other items that are needed for day-to-day operations, adding to budgetary pressures. Even with the additional fare revenue and some savings from service and cost-cutting, SEPTA still expects it will have to take more actions to close the budget deficit.

Public hearings on the new fare proposal will be held on December 13 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. For more details, visit  [Winter 2025 Proposed Fare Changes, Notice of Public Hearings – Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority](https://wwww.septa.org/news/proposed-fare-adjustments-winter-2025/).

Respectfully,