



SFMTA
Municipal
Transportation
Agency

Municipal Fees and Fines Task Force Recommendations Review

SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council FAC Committee
June 22, 2017

Background

- Task Force created through Board of Supervisors resolution (July 2016)
- Composed of staff from city and county departments and community organization representatives (including SFMTA)
- Directed to study the impact of fines, fees and other financial penalties on low-income San Franciscans
- Goal: Ensure that consequences for transportation violations hold people accountable, but do not pose an inequitable burden for San Franciscans
- Task Force met over six months and put forward initial findings and recommendations
- Additional evaluation of fiscal impact, implementation, ongoing administration, and deterrent effects will occur over coming months
- Plan in place to work with task force subcommittee to explore recommendation implementation over the coming months

Summary of Existing Programs

Transit

- Lifeline – Discount monthly pass for income qualifying adults (ages 19-64)
- Free Muni – Free Muni rides for income qualifying Youth (5-18), Seniors (65+) and People with Disabilities and students enrolled in SFUSD Special Education and Foster Care programs (19-22)
- Token – Half-price tokens/passes for social service/government agency client distribution
- Youth Fares – Increased youth discount through age 18

Citations

- Community Service – Perform community service in San Francisco in lieu of payment
- Payment Plan – Extends citation due date
- First Time Tow – Discount administrative fee for first time tow and first time low income tow

Taxis

- Fees – Reductions and waivers for taxi-industry related fees

Estimated FY18 Financial Impact of Existing Low-Income Programs

Program	Revenue Loss/Admin Costs
Lifeline	\$7,965,000
Free Muni	\$19,545,000
Half Price Tokens/Pass (Social Service/ Government Agency Client Distribution)	\$1,000,000
Youth Age through 18 Years	\$2,200,000
Citations - Community Service Program	\$227,500
Citations – Payment Plan	\$50,000
First Time/Low-Income Tow Waiver	\$3,500,000
Taxi Fee Waivers/Reductions	\$1,100,000
TOTAL	\$35,587,500

Citations – Community Service Program

- Program allows customers to volunteer at non-profits in lieu of payment
- Maximum of two contracts and a combined total of \$1,000 of fines and penalties can be enrolled each calendar year
- Customers are credited \$13/hour of volunteer time
- Administrative fee is due at time of sign up

Citation Amount Owed	Administrative Fee
\$50-\$400	\$75
\$401-\$800	\$100
\$801-\$1000	\$150

Citations – Payment Plan

- Maximum of two contracts and a combined total of \$1,000 of fines and penalties can be enrolled each calendar year
- Not available for vehicles currently booted or towed
- \$60 Administrative fee is due at time of sign up
- Timeline for Payment Plan completion based on amount owed

Citation Amount Owed	Timeline for Completion
\$50-\$400	6 weeks
\$401-\$800	10 weeks
\$801-\$1000	14 weeks

Community Service & Payment Plan

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Waive enrollment fees and increase repayment period
- Send out reminders regarding deadlines and amount due
- Streamline administrative processes
- Increase hourly rates for community service
- Allow community service to be satisfied by participation in social services programs
- Add information about alternative payment options to the initial citation.

RESPONSE

- Hourly rates have been increased from \$7/hour to \$13 and will remain consistent with minimum wage
- Tickets have been updated to include notification of alternative payment options
- Results of comprehensive evaluation expected early Fall 2017

Parking and Traffic Enforcement

- Goals
 - Safe and efficient paths of travel
 - Enhance traffic/transit flow
 - Support small business access
- Fines serve as a deterrent
- Increases set through MTA Board approved indexing policy

Fine & Fee Reductions

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Allow fine reductions at the appeal stage based on ability to pay
- Waive fare evasion citation when person applies for free or reduced Muni pass
- Proposed reductions in ticket costs of certain offenses, such as fare evasion, in the San Francisco Transportation Code
- Implement first-time and low-income boot fee reduction (consistent with tow fees)

RESPONSE

- Further evaluation of fiscal and administrative impact and state vehicle code required
- Encourage development of citywide standard and process for income verification

Miscellaneous

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Expand use of Free Muni for homeless people and people on need-based public benefits.
- Expand use of reduced-fare muni tokens distributed by HSA to disabled, elderly, or youth passengers who currently qualify for reduced fare.
- Establish an accessible, simple process for the waiver of towing fees for individuals residing in their vehicles.
- Notices and reminders should be sent by text/email in addition to U.S. mail.

RESPONSE

- Fifty-percent discount for tokens and monthly passes for HSA implemented 9/1/16
- Evaluating improvement for noticing and tow fee waiver process

Policy Considerations

- Maintain Parking Enforcement Goals
 - Promote safe and efficient paths of travel (bicyclists/pedestrians)
 - Enhance traffic/transit flow
 - Support access to small businesses
- Fiscal Impacts
 - Citation revenue supports Muni Operations
 - Trade-offs for reduced revenue (increased fines/decreased service)
- Administrative Costs
 - Low-income eligibility certification (administered by HSA for Lifeline)
 - Increased processing required for expansion of alternative payment programs