



Frequently Asked Questions about the Fare Deal:

Q: What is the “Fare Deal” promotion?

A: The “Fare Deal” promotion cuts bus fares by 50% from March 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023.

Q: Why is the Fare Deal promotion happening?

A: Ridership on transit systems in southern Maine, and across the country, is still below 2019 levels. The Fare Deal aims to welcome new and returning passengers back to transit by providing an even more affordable alternative to driving and rideshare services.

Q: I have single-ride tickets that I purchased before the Fare Deal promotional period. Will they still work?

A: Yes, all single-ride tickets will continue to work during the Fare Deal; however, they will remain single-ride tickets (they will not work twice). During the Fare Deal, single-ride tickets will be sold at the “Fare Deal” rate, and will no longer work after September 30, 2023. Passengers holding full-price single-ride tickets purchased before March 2023 can wait to use these tickets after the Fare Deal promotion expires.

Q: What payment methods are discounted as part of the Fare Deal?

A: All payment methods (DiriGo Pass, Umo, and cash) apply to the Fare Deal. You pay 50% of your base fare no matter how you pay.

Q: I’m a reduced fare (senior, veteran, medicare, disabled, youth, etc.) passenger. Does the Fare Deal apply to me?

A: Yes! Reduced fare passengers’ fares will be reduced from \$1 to \$0.50 during the promotional period (March 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023).

Q: I ride the METRO BREEZ or BSOOB Transit’s Route 70/Zoom. How does the Fare Deal affect me?

A: All fares are reduced by 50% during the promotional period (March 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023), including routes with higher base fares such as the BREEZ and ZOOM. The fare for BREEZ is reduced from \$4 to \$2, and the fare for ZOOM is reduced from \$5 to \$2.50. The 50% promotional fare reduction is applied to reduced fares as well.

Q: How does the Fare Deal affect fare capping?

A: As part of the Fare Deal, fare caps are also cut by 50% during the promotional period (March 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023). The fare caps for standard-fare, local bus trips is reduced from \$6 per day to \$3 per day and \$60 per month to \$30 per month. This 50% reduction is also applied to fare caps for higher-fare routes (BREEZ and ZOOM) as well as reduced-fare fare caps. To learn more about fare capping, [click here](#).

Q: Why is the Fare Deal a promotion, and not a permanent fare reduction?

A: The Fare Deal is made possible via funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a federal bill that allotted funding to METRO, South Portland, and Biddeford Saco Old Orchard Beach Transit (BSOOB) in a competitive regional process. This federal funding is being used to offset each agency's operating costs during the promotional period. The funding is limited, so it cannot be applied toward a permanent fare reduction.