



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 28, 2020

CONTACT: Nicole C. Lacey
Office: 901.722.7156
Mobile: 901.277.4546
nlacey@matatransit.com

MATA Board of Commissioners Approves Extension of Free Fares on All Modes
Free Fares Will Continue Until Groups of 25 or More Allowed Onboard Fixed Route Buses & Trolley Cars

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) Board of Commissioners today unanimously approved the extension of temporary free fares until it is safe for groups of 25 people or more to board MATA fixed route buses and Trolley cars. MATA began offering free fares on Wednesday, March 25.

The move to extend free fares is part of an ongoing overall strategy to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Public health experts have indicated that the virus can live on paper (such as money and farecards) for days. Free fares also help MATA to reinforce social distancing measures since passengers are boarding through the rear doors to limit direct contact with the operators. Passengers using assistive devices will still be able to board using the front door/ramp.

In addition, the following guidelines related to managing the COVID-19 virus remain in effect until further notice:

MATA Fleet

- Per the Mayor's Executive Order, no more than 10 people will be allowed to board fixed route buses and Trolley cars.
- Signage is onboard fixed route buses and Trolley cars to encourage social distancing for customers to sit apart.
- No more than two passengers will be allowed to ride on any MATApplus paratransit vehicle (includes personal care attendant and/or escort).
- MATA will only transport MATApplus paratransit customers to work, medical-related destinations (including dialysis, doctor appointments and pharmacies) and to purchase/collect food from grocery stores, restaurants, or food distribution centers at non-profit organizations.

MATA Facilities

- MATA headquarters, located at 1370 Levee Road, is closed to the public.
- The Trolley facility, located at 547 North Main, is closed to the public.
- The customer lobby areas and public restrooms at each Transit Center are closed to the public.
- The Assessment Center located in the Airways Transit Center is closed to the public.

MORE

MATA Board of Commissioners Approves Extension of Free Fares on All Modes
Page Two

As the disease continues to spread, MATA **will continue** performing its daily fleet and bus shelter cleanings which includes comprehensive disinfecting and sanitizing measures. In addition, customers can practice the following preventative measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Stay home if possible.
- If you are sick, stay home.
- Practice social distancing. Place **at least six feet** between yourself and others to reduce your risk of being exposed.
- **Wash your hands. Wash them often. Wash them thoroughly using soap and water for 20 seconds.** Use hand sanitizer frequently **if it is available.**
- Please avoid direct contact with others. No handshaking. A friendly wave, a head nod, a fist or elbow bump are all acceptable forms of greeting others.
- Eat right (fruits and vegetables) and drink plenty of fluids like water.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your mouth, nose or eyes.
- Practice respiratory etiquette by using a tissue if coughing or sneezing, then throwing the tissue away into a trashcan and washing your hands.
- Wear a mask or face covering when not at home. Please continue to practice social distancing even if you are wearing a mask or face covering.

About MATA

The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) is the public transportation provider for the Memphis area. As one of the largest transit operators in the state of Tennessee, MATA transports customers in the City of Memphis and parts of Shelby County on fixed-route buses, paratransit vehicles and vintage rail trolleys. For more information, visit www.matatransit.com.

###