

The Metro – this information was taken from Wikipedia

If you are not familiar with the Metro system and how it works this information should be interesting and valuable information. Note that the old paper tickets are to be phased out in March of 2016.



Standard self-service vending machines for passes and farecards located at each station

Riders enter and exit the system using a [proximity card](#) known as [SmarTrip](#). The fare is deducted from the balance of the card; on paper farecards, the new balance is printed upon exiting the system. If the [SmarTrip](#) card contains the exact fare needed to exit, you will need to add money to your card before leaving the station. SmarTrip cards can be purchased at station vending machines, online or at retail outlets, and can store up to \$300 in value.

Metro fares vary based on the distance traveled and the time of day at entry. During peak hours (weekdays from opening until 9:30 a.m. and 3–7 p.m., and Friday and Saturday nights from midnight to closing), fares (effective 2014) range from \$2.15 to \$5.90, depending on distance traveled. At all other times, fares range from \$1.75 to \$3.60 based on distance traveled.

Passengers may purchase passes at most farecard vending machines. The passes are used the same way as farecards but grant riders unlimited travel within the system for a certain period of time. All the passes are gate-activated, with the period of validity starting with the first use of the pass, and for the paper versions, the expiration date of the pass is printed on the pass when exiting the system at the end of the first trip. Four types of passes are currently sold:

- A One Day Pass for \$14.50, valid for one day of unlimited Metrorail travel. The pass expires at the end of the operating day. Since July 1, 2012, this pass has been available on SmarTrip as well as a paper pass. Prior to that time the cost of the pass was much less (\$9 vs. \$14), but it was not valid for the morning peak period on

weekdays. Since June 1, 2013, this has been the only pass available on a paper card.

- A 7-Day Short Trip Pass for \$36, valid for seven consecutive days for Metrorail trips costing up to \$3.60 (the maximum off-peak fare) during peak fare times and any trip during off-peak hours. (The \$1 paper farecard surcharge is not applicable.) If the trip costs more than \$3.60 the difference had to be paid at the Exitfare machine (for paper passes) before leaving, or is deducted from the cash balance of a SmarTrip card. A positive stored value is required to enter the Metrorail system. It became available on SmarTrip on May 20, 2013, and has not been sold as a paper pass after May 31, 2013.
- A 7-Day Fast Pass for \$59.25, valid for seven consecutive days of unlimited Metrorail travel. Since April 16, 2012, users have been able to purchase the Fast Pass on a SmarTrip card. The 7-Day Fast Pass has not been sold as a paper pass since September 1, 2012, and has not been accepted on a paper pass after December 31, 2012.
- Since July 1, 2012, a 28-Day Metrorail Fast Pass available on SmarTrip only for \$237. Like the version of this pass offered years ago on a thin plastic mag-stripe farecard, this is for convenience only, offering no savings over four uses of the 7-Day Fast Pass.

Users can add value to a [SmarTrip](#) card, but riders must pay an [exit fare](#) if the cost of a trip is higher than their card's balance. Riders may transfer for free, provided they do not exit through the faregates. SmarTrip users receive a \$0.50 discount on bus-to-rail and rail-to-bus transfers. On October 28, 2011 Metro launched Farragut Crossing, a "virtual tunnel" between [Farragut West](#) and [Farragut North](#) stations that allows SmarTrip customers to transfer above ground for free, provided that they do so within 30 minutes.

Metro's paper farecard system is also shared by [Bay Area Rapid Transit](#), which Cubic won a contract for in 1974. In May 2014, Metro announced plans to retrofit more than 500 fare vending machines throughout the system to dispense SmarTrip cards, rather than paper fare cards, and eventually eliminate magnetic fare cards entirely. This was completed in December 2015. The faregates are scheduled to stop accepting paper farecards on March 6th, 2016.