

# WMATA Fare Policy Discussion

Gary Erenrich

September 30, 2021

# Fare Policy Principles

- Customer Focused – position Metro as attractive choice in a competitive travel market
- Simple and Convenient – simple to purchase and use
- Equitable – promote broad access to regional destinations
- Seamless – seamless experience across modes and operators
- Built to Drive Ridership – maximize ridership, maintain adequate revenue and sustain service

# Potential Fare Policy Concepts

- \$1 bus fare
- Cheaper parking
- Discount fares for low income riders
- Flat fare for MetroAccess
- \$2 late night rail fare
- Consolidate peak and off-peak rail fares
- Update pass products to reflect ridership patterns

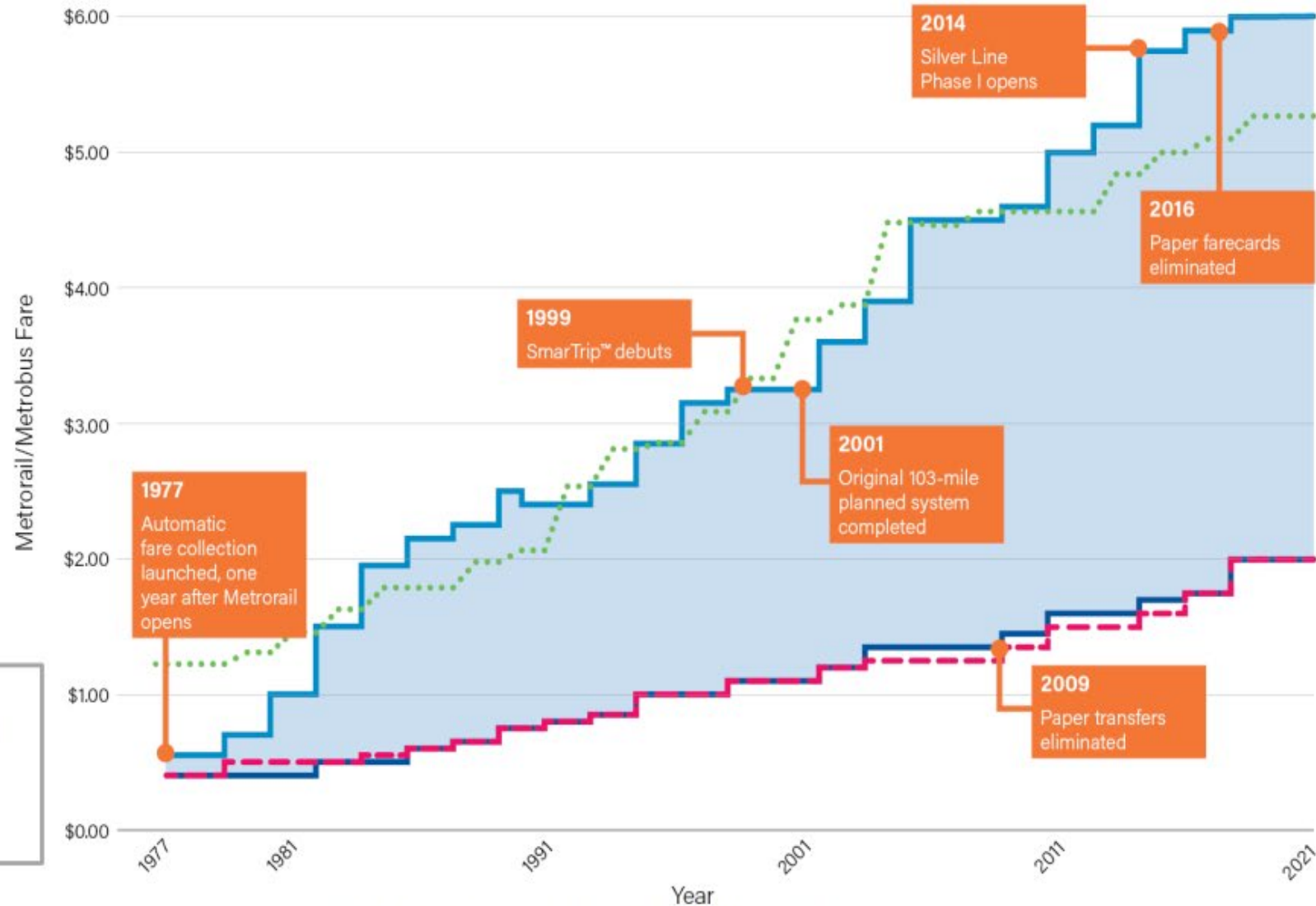
# Recent Fare Actions

- No fare increases for four years (since June 2017) o
- Added bus trips to short-term and monthly rail passes (2019) o
- Reduced price of 1-day and 7-day combo rail/bus passes and launched 3-day combo pass (2019) o
- Free rail-bus transfers – up to \$2 transfer credit (2021) o
- 7-day regional bus pass reduced to \$12 (2021) o
- \$2 weekend one-way fares (2021) o
- Fall pass sale (2021) o
- Rail-bus combo passes including other local bus operators (in progress)

# Fare System Modernization Capital Investments

- Mobile payment launched during FY2021 – Apple and Google
- Metrorail faregate replacement underway
- Metrobus farebox replacement design underway – implementation begins in CY2022
- Pilot test of Metrobus rear-door payment targets also planned to begin CY2022
- Initiated market research on back-office systems modernization; will improve flexibility to support future fare policy

# Rail and Bus Fare History



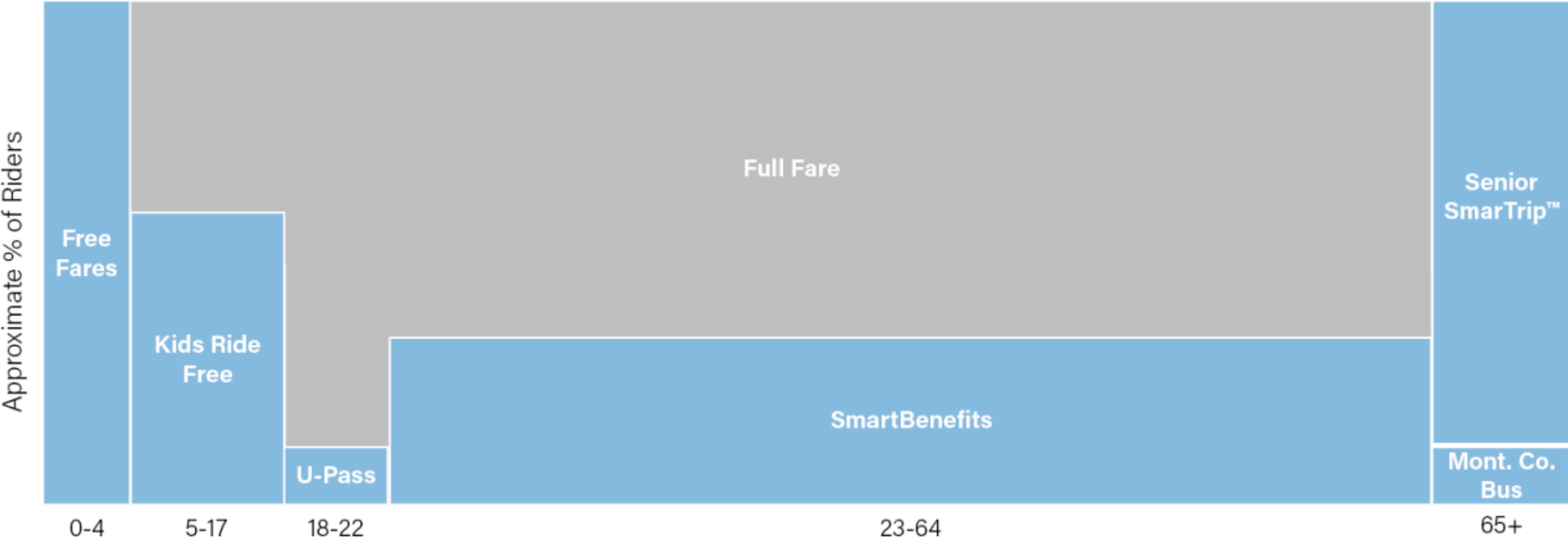
## 1976 Fares:

- Metrorail (peak): \$0.55
- Metrorail (off-peak): \$0.40
- Metrobus: \$0.40

# Riders benefit from subsidized fares

Discounts offered based on age, disability, or participation in school or employer-based programs

Approximate Share of Riders with Subsidized Fares by Age Group



Note: Pre-pandemic estimates; data not to scale

Age (years)

