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Joint News Release

4.6% REDUCTION IN BUS & TRAIN FARES FROM 1 APRIL 2009

LOWER FARES FOR COMMUTERS – 2 to 14-cent reduction

1 On 23 January 2009, SBS Transit and SMRT announced that they will not apply for fare adjustments this year and instead work with the Public Transport Council (PTC) to pass the savings they will receive from the 2009 Singapore Budget to commuters.

2 From 1 April 2009, commuters will see an overall 4.6% reduction in bus and train fares. This more than offsets the fare increases of the past three years combined (0.7% in 2008, 1.1% in 2007, and 1.7% in 2006). It also does not include the increase of up to 5% under the fare adjustment formula that the public transport operators have foregone by not applying for a fare adjustment in 2009.

3 The fare revision exercise for 2009 has been brought forward to April instead of October so that commuters can benefit earlier from the reduction in fares.

Reducing fares to help commuters

4 The 4.6% fare reduction package comprises both a fare rebate and an increase in transfer rebate. It is as follows:

(i) Fare rebate – 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2010

- All adult EZ-Link fares for buses and trains will see a reduction of 2 cents per trip, across all farebands.
- Senior citizen concession EZ-Link fares, which are pegged to the lowest adult EZ-Link fares, will correspondingly be reduced by 2 cents per trip.
- Child/student concession EZ-Link fares will be reduced by 1 cent per trip, across all farebands.
- The prices of all monthly primary and secondary student bus and train concession passes will be reduced by \$1; that of student hybrid concession passes will be reduced by \$2.
- Tertiary students and NS-men will see the prices of their monthly bus and train concession passes reduced by \$2; that of hybrid concession passes will be reduced by \$4.
- There is no change to all cash fares for buses and all single-trip ticket fares for trains.
- This fare rebate will be in effect from 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2010.

(ii) Increase in transfer rebate – from 1 April 2009 onwards

- The transfer rebate for all adult and senior citizen concession EZ-Link journeys will be further increased by 10 cents, from the current 40 cents to 50 cents from 1 April 2009.
- This is on top of the earlier increase of 15 cents, from 25 cents to 40 cents, which took effect 5 months ago in October 2008 to reduce the fare penalty for transfers.
- The existing 10-cent transfer rebate for child/student concession EZ-Link fares will remain unchanged.

5 EZ-Link fares for adult and senior citizen concession journeys will therefore see a range of fare reduction, from a reduction of 2 cents for a direct journey with no transfer, to a reduction of 14 cents for a journey with 1 transfer. Journeys with multiple transfers will see correspondingly greater fare reductions, of up to 38 cents.

6 The 4.6% fare reduction package is summarised in the table below.

Types of journey	Savings on EZ-Link fares per journey	
	Adults & senior citizens	Child/student
Direct journeys	-2 cents	-1 cent
Transfer journeys		
- 1 transfer	-14 cents	-2 cents
- 2 transfers	-26 cents	-3 cents
- 3 transfers	-38 cents	-4 cents
Monthly concession passes	N.A.	-\$1 to -\$4 per month

Moving closer towards distance-based through-fares

7 To benefit commuters, the PTC has decided that the public transport operators shall bear a larger share (two-thirds) of the cost of this year's 10-cent increase in transfer rebate. This is a permanent loss of \$22 million per year of revenues for the operators.

8 Similar to last year, commuters will bear the remaining, smaller share (one-third) of this year's 10-cent increase in transfer rebate. This re-distribution of the transfer cost amongst commuters will amount to an average fare increase of about 1 cent for adult EZ-Link fares. However, the operators will more than offset this increase such that fares are reduced by 2 to 14 cents and no commuter will see any fare increase this year.

9 In working together with the public transport operators to reduce fares, the PTC took into consideration the need to continue to move closer towards distance-based through-fares and spread the benefits across as many commuters as possible. However, in view of the poor economic conditions, the PTC decided not to fully implement through-fares this year to reduce the burden of adjustment for both commuters and operators. The full implementation of through-fares will now take place in 2010.

Operators to pass on Budget savings and more

10 This 4.6% fare reduction package will cost the public transport operators about \$80 million over a 15-month period (from 1 April 2009 to 30 June 2010). It comprises a fare rebate of \$52 million, of which about \$37 million are the savings from the Government Budget measures that the operators are passing

on to commuters. Another \$28 million is the amount over a 15-month period to fund the transfer rebate increase.

11 Mr Gerard Ee, Chairman of the PTC said,

“In the recent past, both operators have chosen not to apply for fare increases when economic conditions were poor. This had happened in 2003 and 2004. This year, not only are they not applying for a fare increase, they have decided to give a fare rebate to commuters.

“The PTC is pleased that the operators are mindful of prevailing economic conditions. They are passing on the Budget savings and more. Due credit must be given to the operators for this significant gesture.

“This \$80 million fare reduction package will certainly go a long way to help commuters lower their transport expenditure during this difficult period.”

12 Mr Gan Juay Kiat, Chief Operating Officer of SBS Transit, said,

“These are difficult times and we believe in doing our bit to help our commuters. We hope that by reducing fares during these tough times, commuters will be able to get some relief from cost pressures.”

13 Mdm Saw Phaik Hwa, President of SMRT Corp, said,

“SMRT has decided to reduce fares to benefit commuters given the severe economic crisis. As commuters are increasingly relying on

public transport for their travel needs, we believe these measures will bring some relief to them, and in part, help lower their cost of living.”

Fare revision exercises moved to 1 July with effect from 2010

14 In light of rapidly changing economic conditions, the PTC has decided that future fare revision exercises will be brought forward to 1 July instead of 1 October, with effect from 2010.

15 Under the existing timeframe, the deadline for public transport operators to submit applications to the PTC is 1 August of the year. Any fare adjustment approved by the PTC will then be effected on 1 October of the year. From next year (i.e., 2010), the annual fare revision exercise will be brought forward by three months. The deadline for applications will be 2 May of the year (since 1 May is Labour Day) and any fare adjustment, if approved, will take effect from 1 July of the year.

16 The next fare revision exercise will therefore take place on 1 July 2010.

Keeping the Public Transport Fund for future eventualities

17 The Government has topped up the Public Transport Fund to \$10 million. Given that the most recent set of public transport vouchers were distributed from October 2008, and in view of the overall fare reduction of 4.6% being effected on 1 April 2009 ahead of the normal schedule, the Government will not distribute public transport vouchers in tandem with this round of fare revision. Given the extremely uncertain economic outlook, the Government will instead hold the Public Transport Fund in reserve for now, for future eventualities.

18 The Government recognises that even with the \$80 million fare reduction package, some low-income families may still need additional assistance. The Government's approach for helping such families is to provide targeted help through various community-led initiatives and work support schemes under MCYS/Community Development Councils and the CCC ComCare Fund.

Approved fares with effect from 1 April 2009

19 The PTC has decided that the approved bus and train fares that the public transport operators shall charge are as set out in **Annex A**.

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**BUS FARES FOR BASIC BUS SERVICES
(from 1 April 2009 to 30 Jun 2010)**

a) Adult Bus Fare Structure (Aircon Trunk Services)

Distance Travelled	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Cash	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	
4 or less fare stages	71	69	-2	100	<i>No change</i>
4.5 – 7 fare stages	93	91		120	
7.5 – 10 fare stages	113	111		140	
10.5 – 13 fare stages	123	121		150	
13.5 – 18 fare stages	133	131		160	
18.5 – 23 fare stages	143	141		170	
23.5 – 29 fare stages	152	150		180	
29.5 – 35 fare stages	162	160		190	
35.5 and more fare stages	167	165		190	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10	NA	

b) Adult Bus Fare Structure (Non-Aircon Trunk Services)

Distance Travelled	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Cash	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	
4 or less fare stages	66	64	-2	90	<i>No change</i>
4.5 – 7 fare stages	78	76		100	
7.5 – 10 fare stages	88	86		110	
10.5 – 13 fare stages	98	96		120	
13.5 – 18 fare stages	108	106		130	
18.5 – 23 fare stages	118	116		140	
23.5 – 29 fare stages	127	125		150	
29.5 – 35 fare stages	137	135		160	
35.5 and more fare stages	142	140		160	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10	NA	

c) Adult Bus Fare Structure (Residential Feeder Services)

Type of Bus	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Cash	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	No change
Non-Aircon	66	64	-2	90	
Aircon	71	69		100	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10	NA	

d) Jurong Industrial Estate Services (Aircon) Adult Bus Fare Structure

Distance Travelled	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Cash	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	No change
4 or less fare stages	71	69	-2	100	
4.5 – 7 fare stages	93	91		120	
7.5 – 10 fare stages	113	111		140	
10.5 – 13 fare stages	123	121		150	
13.5 and more fare stages	133	131		160	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10	NA	

e) Jurong Industrial Estate Services (Non-Aircon) Adult Bus Fare Structure

Distance Travelled	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Cash	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	No change
4 or less fare stages	66	64	-2	90	
4.5 – 7 fare stages	78	76		100	
7.5 – 10 fare stages	88	86		110	
10.5 – 13 fare stages	98	96		120	
13.5 and more fare stages	108	106		130	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10	NA	

f) Senior Citizen Concession Bus Fare Structure

Type of Bus	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Cash	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	No change
Non-Aircon	66	64	-2	90	
Aircon	71	69		100	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10	NA	

g) Child/Student Concession Bus Fare Structure

Type of Bus	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Cash	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	
Non-Aircon	40	39	<i>-1</i>	45	<i>No change</i>
Aircon	45	44		55	
Transfer Rebate	10 (<i>No change</i>)			NA	

TRAIN FARES (from 1 April 2009 to 30 Jun 2010)

a) MRT Adult Fare Structure (North-East Line)

Distance Travelled	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Single Trip Ticket	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	
Up to 1.0 km	75	73	-2	110	No change
1.01 to 2.0 km	80	78		110	
2.01 to 3.2 km	85	83		120	
3.21 km to 4.4 km	97	95		140	
4.41 km to 5.6 km	107	105		140	
5.61 km to 6.4 km	117	115		160	
6.41 km to 7.2 km	127	125		160	
7.21 km to 8.0 km	137	135		160	
8.01 km to 10.4 km	147	145		160	
10.41 km to 12.4 km	157	155		180	
12.41 km to 14.4 km	162	160		180	
14.41 km to 16.5 km	168	166		180	
16.51 km to 18.6 km	173	171		180	
18.61 km to 20.0 km	179	177		200	
Transfer Rebate	40	50		10	

b) MRT Adult Fare Structure (North-South and East-West Lines)

Distance Travelled	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Single Trip Ticket	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	
Up to 3.2 km	70	68	-2	100	No change
3.21 km to 4.4 km	82	80		120	
4.41 km to 5.6 km	92	90		120	
5.61 km to 7.2 km	102	100		140	
7.21 km to 8.0 km	112	110		140	
8.01 km to 10.4 km	122	120		140	
10.41 km to 12.41 km	132	130		160	
12.41 km to 14.4 km	137	135		160	
14.41 km to 16.5 km	143	141		160	
16.51 km to 18.6 km	148	146		160	
18.61 km to 21.1 km	154	152		180	
21.11 km to 23.6 km	159	157		180	
23.61 km to 26.0 km	164	162		180	
26.01 km to 28.0 km	169	167		200	
28.01 km to 30.0 km	174	172		200	
30.01 km to 32.0 km	179	177		200	
Over 32.0 km	184	182		200	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10	NA	

c) LRT Adult Fare Structure (Bukit Panjang and Punggol)

Number of Stations	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Single Trip Ticket	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	No change
1 – 5	70	68	-2	100	
6 – 7	82	80		110	
8 – 9	92	90		120	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10	NA	

d) LRT Adult Fare Structure (Sengkang)

Number of Stations	Fare Per Ride (cent)				
	Ez-link Card			Single Trip Ticket	
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change	Current	No change
1 – 4	70	68	-2	100	
5	82	80		110	
6 – 7	92	90		120	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10	NA	

e) Senior Citizen Concession Train Fare Structure

Description	Ez-link Card Fare Per Ride (cent)		
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change
North-South and East-West Lines	70	68	-2
BPLRT, SKLRT and PGLRT	70	68	
North-East Line	75	73	
Transfer Rebate	40	50	10

f) Child/Student Concession Train Fare Structure

Distance Travelled	Ez-link Card Fare Per Ride (cent)		
	Current	Reduced Fares	Change
Up to 5.6 km	40	39	-1
5.61 km to 14.4 km	45	44	
Over 14.4 km	50	49	
Transfer Rebate	10 (No change)		

MONTHLY CONCESSION PASSES (from 1 April 2009 to 30 Jun 2010)

a) Monthly Bus Concession Passes

Type of Cardholders	Current	Reduced Fare Per Month	Change
Primary Student	\$22.50	\$21.50	<i>-\$1.00</i>
Secondary Student	\$27.50	\$26.50	
Tertiary Student	\$52.00	\$50.00	<i>-\$2.00</i>
Full-time National Serviceman	\$61.00	\$59.00	

b) Monthly Train Concession Passes

Type of Cardholders	Current	Reduced Fare Per Month	Change
Primary Student	\$20	\$19	<i>-\$1.00</i>
Secondary Student	\$25	\$24	
Tertiary Student	\$45	\$43	<i>-\$2.00</i>
Full-time National Serviceman	\$50	\$48	

c) Monthly Hybrid Concession Passes (for bus and train combined)

Type of Cardholders	Current	Reduced Fare Per Month	Change
Primary Student	\$42.50	\$40.50	<i>-\$2.00</i>
Secondary Student	\$52.50	\$50.50	
Tertiary Student	\$97.00	\$93.00	<i>-\$4.00</i>
Full-time National Serviceman	\$111.00	\$107.00	

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