

## SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

### Public Hearing for: 2026 Taxicab Maximum Rates of Fare

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Taxicab Advisory Committee will hold a Public Hearing for the 2026 Taxicab Maximum Rates of Fare.

The Public Hearing will be held on February 27, 2026 at 1:00p.m., James R. Mills Building, 10<sup>TH</sup> Floor, Board Meeting Room; 1255 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, CA, 92101-7490. The public may alternatively participate via webinar during the meeting itself. Instructions for joining the webinar can be found under Agenda & Materials in the link below. Those who wish to submit remarks but cannot participate in the webinar may provide their comments to MTS no later than 4:00 p.m., February 26, 2026 by calling MTS Customer Service at (619) 557-4555, email [customerfeedback@sdmts.com](mailto:customerfeedback@sdmts.com)

In-person inspection of the materials are available upon request at the MTS Transit Store located at 1255 Imperial Ave. San Diego CA 92101. Business hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. A 24-hour digital copy of the materials shall be posted 15 days prior to the hearing on the MTS website, and can be accessed by following the link below.

<https://www.sdmts.com/about/meetings-and-agendas/other-committee>



**Metropolitan  
Transit  
System**

## **Policies and Procedures No. 34**

**Board Approval: 3/14/2024**

**SUBJECT:**

**FOR-HIRE VEHICLE SERVICES**

**PURPOSE:**

To establish a policy with guidelines and procedures for the implementation of MTS Ordinance No. 11.

**BACKGROUND:**

Regulation of for-hire vehicle service is in the interest of providing the citizens and visitors to the MTS region and particularly the Cities of Chula Vista, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, and Santee, with a good quality local transportation service. Toward this end, MTS finds it desirable to regulate the issuance of taxicab permits, to establish maximum rates of fare, and to provide for annual review of cost-recovery regulatory fees.

**POLICY:**

**34.1 City of San Diego Entry Policy**

New City of San Diego taxicab permits will be issued in accordance with San Diego City Council Policy No. 500-02, "Taxicab Permits".

**34.2 Maximum Rates of Fare Policy**

Except for Electronically Booked taxicab trips, as further defined at MTS Ordinance No. 11, maximum rate of fare for exclusive ride and group ride hire of taxicabs shall be made in accordance with the change in the Annual All Urban Western Transportation Consumer Price Index (CPI)/San Diego. The fare structure shall consist of the dollar amounts charged by permit holders for the flag drop, the per-mile charge, waiting-time charge, first zone, and each additional zone charge. The maximum rates of fare shall be computed annually by the Chief Executive Officer and presented at a noticed public hearing of the Taxicab Advisory Committee.



#### 34.2.1 Maximum Rates of Fare Determination

Unless Section 34.2.2 applies, the maximum fare determination shall be adjusted annually based on the 1990 Western transportation CPI/San Diego amounts of \$1.40 flag drop, \$1.50 per mile, and \$12.00 per hour waiting. Adjustments shall be rounded up or down, as appropriate, to the nearest even \$0.10 increment.

#### 34.2.2 Maximum Rates of Fare Determination - Only for Taxicabs Equipped with Point Of Sale Devices Electronically Connected to the Taximeter and Equipped with Printed or Electronically Conveyed Receipt Capability

Taxicabs equipped with point of sale devices electronically connected to the taximeter and capable of printing or electronically conveying receipts may charge the an increase of 6% more than the Maximum Rates of Fare for Taxicabs without such devices, as determined pursuant to Section 34.2.1. Adjustments shall be rounded up or down, as appropriate, to the nearest \$0.10 increment.

#### 34.3 Airport Taxicab Fare Policy

In addition to the applicable maximum rate of fare described in Section 34.2.1, a taxicab operator may charge an “extra” equal to the Airport Trip Fee assessed against the individual taxicab operator by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. The extra may not be charged on any trip that does not originate at the airport or on any trip where the taxicab operator does not pay the fee to the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. The extra charge may only be charged to the customer by utilizing the extra button on the taxicab meter. A driver may not verbally request payment.

#### 34.4 Regulatory Fee Review

The following procedures will be utilized for the establishment of for-hire vehicle regulatory fees.

34.4.1 In accordance with State of California Public Utilities Code Section 120266, MTS shall fully recover the cost of regulating the taxicab and other for-hire vehicle industry. Pursuant to MTS Ordinance No. 11, Sections 1.3(b), 1.4(a), 1.4((c), and 1.5(d), the Chief Executive Officer establishes a fee schedule to effect full-cost recovery and notify affected permit holders of changes in the fee schedule.

34.4.2 The procedure for establishing a regulatory fee schedule will include an annual review of the audited expenses and revenue of the previous fiscal year associated with MTS for-hire vehicle activities. The revised fee schedule will be available for review by interested parties in November each year and is subject to appeal as provided for in Ordinance No. 11, Section 1.5(d).

34.4.3 A fee schedule based on previous year expenses and revenue amounts will be put into effect each January.

POLICY.34.FOR-HIRE VEHICLE SERVICES

This policy was originally adopted on 12/8/88.

This policy was amended on 7/26/90.

This policy was amended on 5/9/91.

This policy was amended on 6/13/91.

This policy was amended on 1/28/93.

This policy was amended on 5/11/95.

This policy was amended on 10/31/02.

This policy was amended on 4/24/03.

This policy revised on 3/25/04.

This policy was amended on 4/26/07.

This policy was amended on 7/17/08.

This policy was amended on 4/19/12.

This policy was amended on 4/16/15.

This policy was amended on 12/12/2019.

This policy was amended on 10/19/2023.

This policy was amended on 3/14/2024.



# Metropolitan Transit System

## 2026 Maximum Rates of Fare

	<u>2026 Maximum Rate of Fare</u>	<u>2026 Maximum Rate of Fare, Point-of-Sale (POS) Device Equipped Taxicabs, Additional 6%</u>
Flag Drop	\$4.00 flag drop	\$4.20 flag drop
Per Mile Rate	\$4.30	\$4.60
Per Hour Waiting Time	\$34.00	\$36.00

### Instructions on How to Calculate Rates of Fare:

307.455 (Annual Consumer Price Index report value for 2025)

-121.000 (1990 Value)

186.455 (Replace "Y" with the subtracted value)

### Flag Drop

Step 1 -  $1.40 \times 186.455(Y) = 261.037$ , convert it into a dollar amount **\$2.61**

Step 2 -  $\$1.40 + 2.61 = \$4.01$  round up/down to the nearest .10 cent = **\$4.00 flag drop**

### Per Mile

Step 1 -  $\$1.50 \times 186.455(Y) = 279.682$ , convert it into a dollar amount **\$2.79**

Step 2 -  $\$1.50 + 2.79 = \$4.29$  round up/down to the nearest .10 cent = **\$4.30 per mile**

### Wait Time

Step 1 -  $\$12.00 \times 186.455(Y) = 2237.46$  convert it into a dollar amount **\$22.37**

Step 2 -  $\$12.00 + 22.37 = \$34.37$  round up/down to the nearest \$1.00 = **\$34.00 wait time**

### Fraction Calculation

Step 1 -  $\$4.30$  (per mile) / .10 cent (fraction in which the meter clicks) = 43 = 1/10<sup>th</sup> fraction

### The Time it Takes for Each Fraction to Click the Meter

Step 1 -  $\$34.00 / .43\text{cents} = 79.06$  (total clicks per hr.)

Step 2 -  $3600$  (seconds per hour) / 79.06 = 45 seconds the meter will click

## Databases, Tables & Calculators by Subject

 [Special Notices](#) 1/14/2026

Change Output Options:

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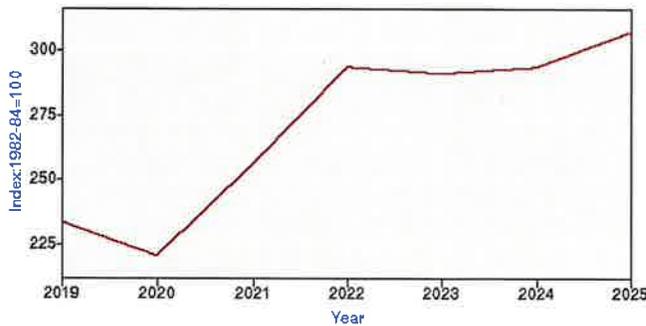
include graphs  include annual averages

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Data extracted on: February 2, 2026 (1:57:58 PM)

### Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

**Series Id:** CUUSS49ESAT  
 Not Seasonally Adjusted  
**Series Title:** Transportation in San Diego-Carlsbad, CA, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted  
**Area:** San Diego-Carlsbad, CA  
**Item:** Transportation  
**Base Period:** 1982-84=100



Download:  [.xlsx](#)

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual	HALF1	HALF2
2019	225.073		225.313		240.940		234.757		234.106		235.748		233.299	232.005	234.592
2020	231.819		223.714		210.241		218.122		218.701		224.415		220.628	220.500	220.757
2021	231.390		248.311		256.596		266.031		259.830		265.840		256.345	247.856	264.834
2022	274.672		295.251		300.607		301.990		299.113		289.404		293.475	291.916	295.033
2023	279.733		285.635		291.319		294.025		302.481		291.341		290.973	286.586	295.360
2024	286.099		294.740		302.397		294.030		290.951		291.556		293.422	295.089	291.756
2025	302.076		303.842		309.975		309.171		309.715		311.125		307.455	306.027	309.168

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