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MBTA to implement \$1 fare hike for 'premium' service on the RIDE paratransit system

Posted by Matt Rocheleau September 27, 2012 12:03 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A planned \$1 fare increase will go into effect on Monday for passengers using the MBTA's RIDE paratransit system for "premium" services.

Starting Oct. 1, passengers will be charged \$5 in two cases: if a trip starts or ends outside of the RIDE's core zone and more than three-quarters of a mile from existing T bus, trolley or subway stops; or for same-day RIDE reservations, according to an advisory from the public transit agency.

RIDE passengers and their guests will continue to pay \$4 for regular service, the MBTA advisory said. Personal care assistants travelling with passengers will continue to ride for free.

The RIDE provides door-to-door, shared-ride paratransit service in 60 municipalities. Eligible customers who cannot use subways, buses, or trains due to a physical, mental, or cognitive disability can register to become RIDE

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When the T implemented other fare increases and service cuts across its system on July 1, the RIDE's fare increased from \$2 to \$4. The agency announced then that "premium" trips on the RIDE would increase by \$1 starting in October. Trips on the RIDE can be booked up to 14 days in advance. RIDE staff who schedule reservations began confirming fares with passengers on Sept. 17, officials said. Passengers can also view fare information when scheduling service online. scheduled trips and fares or cancel trips at www.mbta.com/theride.

The MBTA also said it has upgraded its website for the RIDE, allowing passengers to better manage their trips. Users can make reservations, review

For more information about RIDE fares, visit www.mbta.com/fares_and_passes/ride.

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