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Even with increase, MBTA fares would still be cheaper than in most major US cities

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By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF JANUARY 04, 2016

Even if proposed fare increases are ultimately adopted, taking the subway in Boston would remain cheaper than riding transit systems in most other major US cities.

Currently, only one other large municipal subway system — in San Francisco — charges less than the T for monthly passes, and only two systems — in Los Angeles and Philadelphia — charge less per ride, according to a Globe review of fares in eight other cities.

If the T adopted its latest proposed fare increases, it would still offer the second-cheapest monthly pass of the group.

Meanwhile its per-ride fare would move into a tie with systems in three other cities: Chicago, Miami, and San Francisco. The T per-ride fares would still be lower than those in Atlanta, New York, and Washington D.C.

The most expensive city among those the Globe reviewed was Washington, D.C., where users pay \$237 for a monthly pass and up to \$5.90 for a ride. Washington, D.C.'s subway, the Metro, was also the only system that charged regular riders based on distance and time of day and not a flat rate.



Subway fares in major cities around the US

The MBTA is among the cheapest in terms of both monthly pass and per-ride fares

City	System/operator name	Monthly pass	Base fare for regular riders/passholders
Boston (proposed fares)	MBTA	\$84.50	\$2.25
Boston (current fares)	MBTA	\$75.00	\$2.10
New York	MTA	\$116.50	\$2.75
Washington D.C.	Metro	\$237.00	\$2.15-\$5.90
Chicago	"L"	\$100.00	\$2.25
San Francisco	SFMTA	\$70.00	\$2.25
Los Angeles	Metro Rail	\$100.00	\$1.75
Philadelphia	SEPTA	\$91.00	\$1.80
Atlanta	MARTA	\$95.00	\$2.50
Miami	Metrorail	\$112.50	\$2.25

DATA: Subway system operators

Note: Rates in some cities are higher for riders who do not regularly use the system and/or do not own the system's payment card (i.e. CharlieCard). Fares in some cities also vary depending on the time of day.

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