



## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Date: April 17, 2009

From: El Dorado County Transit Authority  
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### **El Dorado Transit to Reduce Service and Raise Passenger Fares**

Placerville, CA, April 17, 2009 – Faced with a projected \$408,255 budget shortfall in fiscal year 2009/10 related to declining retail sales tax receipts for El Dorado County and State legislative action that took funding previously sent directly to transit operators, El Dorado Transit is preparing to balance the budget by cutting service and raising passenger fares. Acknowledging that it is difficult to approve changes for persons dependent upon public transportation and those that choose to use transit, the Board of Directors recognize their fiduciary responsibility to operate within a balanced budget.

After a public hearing on April 2, 2009 and at the continuation of that meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>, the El Dorado County Transit Authority Board of Directors approved service modifications and set a public hearing for May 7, 2009 to discuss proposed fare increases.

Effective June 29, 2009, minor service reductions will be implemented on the local weekday Pollock Pines, Cameron Park and El Dorado Center routes. Saturday bus service will provide reduced schedules on the Placerville and Pollock Pines routes. El Dorado Transit will discontinue the underutilized Cameron Park and Diamond Springs Saturday bus service. El Dorado Transit does not provide Sunday bus service.

Included in the approved service reductions were the elimination of one (1) afternoon Sacramento commuter bus route and the reduction of the Iron Point Light Rail Connector route from the current seven (7) weekday runs to four (4) weekday runs.

Weekend Dial-A-Ride will remain intact however, weekday Dial-A-Ride will be reduced by 1 vehicle per day. Sac-Med and Senior Day Care services will continue at the current level of service with fare increases.

Proposed fare increases to be discussed at the public hearing include raising the one-way Sacramento Commuter bus fare in phased, 50¢ increments from the current \$4.00 to \$4.50 (\$162.00 for a monthly pass) on July 1, 2009 and to \$5.00 (\$180.00 for a monthly pass) on January 1, 2010.

Fare adjustments are under consideration for the Sac Med, non-emergency medical transportation service; including an increase to the current one-way fare from \$5.00 to \$10.00. An increase in the current one-way fare from \$1.50 to a maximum of \$4.00 for the Senior Day Care program will also be discussed.

The Public Hearing is set for Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 1:10 pm at 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA. Written comments received prior to May 5, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. will be included as testimony in the staff presentation. Send comments to [mmauk@eldoradotransit.com](mailto:mmauk@eldoradotransit.com) or El Dorado Transit, ATTN: Matt Mauk, 6565 Commerce Way, Diamond Springs, CA 95619. Members of the public also have the opportunity to attend the hearing and submit written or verbal comments.

“El Dorado Transit management and employees appreciate the passengers and their families that ride and support public transit in El Dorado County,” said Mindy Jackson, Executive Director of El Dorado Transit. “Our Board members and staff also value the passengers and advocates that invest their time and effort to attend hearings or send comments during this difficult budget process.”

For more information about El Dorado Transit services call (530) 642-5383 or visit [www.eldoradotransit.com](http://www.eldoradotransit.com). ###