



COMMUTER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023

Fares to Increase in September

It is never a desirable situation when we must increase our fares. In the past, it had been normal business practice for Trans-Bridge Lines to have an annual general fare increase on our One-Way and Round-Trip ticket prices. When we did this, it also set a new base fare for commuter rates as well.

Our last fare adjustment was in April 1, 2022, over 16 months ago. Shortly after that increase, prices escalated on goods and services. Inflation hit a peak of 9.2% in June 2022. We absorbed these increases, choosing not to pass them along to our passengers.

Due to the effects of fluctuating fuel costs and the continued high cost of goods and services, combined with the current escalated inflation rate, we must now raise our fares. Inflation

rates have risen in June and July after a year of declines with a current rate of 7.9%. We have no alternative but to adjust our pricing accordingly.

The higher cost of fuel is included in the new fares, and although fares are increasing, we want to make our passengers aware that they are not being raised to the full levels that are indicated as necessary. This is to minimize the cost to our passengers as much as we can.

We will revert back to the practice of monitoring fuel pricing. Commuter Book rates will continue to be modified on a month-to-month basis. If fuel decreases, we will look at a fare reduction.

New pricing will be effective beginning Monday, September 11.

Final Move Coming Soon

Reservations

In the upcoming months, we will convert our remaining schedules - Wall Street and Allentown - to reservations, which means our company will be fully reservation-based. It is our intention to be fully transitioned by the end of November, however, no definite date has been determined at this time. That will be announced soon.

TDS, our ticketing vendor, is finalizing changes to our system which will allow us to make these final moves. An update to our system will be complete by next month.

As part of this change, there will be new policies on ticketing. Our staff will ensure our website is updated with all the new information and that passengers are well-informed. We will also provide reference sheets to our drivers, agents, and customer service team to refer to in assisting our passengers.

We are anticipating an increase in phone calls and email messages as you get accustomed to this newest change. We will be prepared to answer your questions and assist you any way we can.



**** REMINDER ****

When parking at the Lehigh Valley Airport Trans-Bridge Lines parking lot, it is re-

quired that all passengers have and display a parking permit. The permit should be clearly visible from the rear-view mirror or dashboard area of your vehicle.

A lack of a permit or improper displaying of the per-

mit, may result in your vehicle being ticketed/towed.

Parking permits are free for commuters. Round-Trip passengers are free for the first three days, \$5 per day thereafter, up to 30 days.

Parking permits

may be obtained at our Main Office located at 2012 Industrial Drive, Bethlehem, about one mile from the Airport. They are also available at the Airport's Passenger Services Desk when their staff is able to assist our customers.

NYC Congestion Pricing Board Must Decide Exemptions to the Toll



By Michelle Kaske, Bloomberg News (Excerpts)

Nearly everyone in the New York City region wants a break on a new congestion pricing toll set to take effect in Manhattan next year, but the cost of those exemptions adds up.

A six-member Traffic Mobility Review Board held its second public meeting as it works to create a tolling schedule for the new program.

The board is tasked with figuring out what groups should receive carve outs. It also needs to assess how to dole out those discounts while still bringing in the \$1 billion a year that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is banking on.

The program is the first of its kind in the US and will charge drivers driving south of 60th Street in Manhattan in an effort to reduce traffic and improve air quality. E-ZPass drivers may pay as much as \$23 during peak hours and \$17 during off-peak periods.

There's is debate over how to charge taxis, for-hire vehicles such as Uber and Lyft, and private bus companies. The board must weigh the cost of the new toll on various groups and how much they can alleviate that burden while still generating enough funds to help modernize the largest transit system in the US.



All One-Way and Round-Trip tickets are non-refundable.

Passengers may reschedule their boarding passes to another run day and time by **signing into their accounts** and following the prompts for rescheduling tickets.

If you wish to reschedule a boarding pass after the original scheduled travel date, or would like to cancel travel and receive an account credit, you will be required to call our Customer Service Department at 610-868-6001 for help.

Refunds on unused Commuter Passes must be requested prior to its expiration date. To request a refund on Commuter Book passes, please call 610-868-6001.

Note: Our policies will change when we fully transition to a reservation-based system. One-Way and Round-Trip tickets will be valid only for the day booked. If the ticket is not rescheduled before the booked date, it will become null and void, as it represents the loss of a sold and confirmed seat.

Commuters will have a grace period after their scheduled traveled date with which to rebook a scheduled and unused Commuter Pass boarding ticket. After the grace period, that ticket will become null and void and unable to be rescheduled.

More details will be shared as they are determined.



Trans-Bridge Lines will operate with regular schedules on Saturday, September 2, and Sunday, September 3, 2023.

On Monday, September 4, we will run with holiday schedules. In addition, our main office will be closed. Please plan ahead for obtaining parking permits.

[HOLIDAY SCHEDULES >](#)

Ticket Office Information

The **Clinton Park and Ride ticket office** is operating with new hours as follows:
Monday - Friday 4:35 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.,
Saturday 7:50 a.m. - 10:50 a.m., closed Sunday.

The **Easton ticket office** is operating with new hours as follows: Monday-Friday 5:05 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., Saturday 7:20 a.m. - 12:10 p.m., Closed Sunday.

Kathee's General Store in Frenchtown, New Jersey, is no longer selling Trans-Bridge Lines tickets.





Articles found will be held in the Lost and Found Office in Bethlehem for no more than 30 days.

If an item is lost or forgotten, please call 610-868-6001, Ext. 96 and leave a detailed message describing your lost item and contact information.

Due to the volume of phone calls received, you will be contacted only if your item is found.

When deboarding the bus, please be sure to retrieve all belongings from the overhead compartments and luggage bay.

Trans-Bridge Lines is not responsible for articles left in coaches or terminals.



Q: Where are the pickups and drop-offs at the Newark Airport?

A: Trans-Bridge Lines will make stops at all Terminals- A, B, and C. All dropoffs and pick-ups are on the Lower Level HOV Roadway. Terminal A will follow

the time on the schedule followed by Terminal B two minutes after Terminal A, and Terminal C four minutes after Terminal A.

At Terminal A, our passengers will be directed to our location via electronic signs. At Terminals B & C, passengers should look for our metal Trans-Bridge Lines signs, marking our location.



Keep yourself safe from scammers

Learn about the following scams to keep all your accounts safe and secure.

Employment scams

Scammers pose as a potential employer for an exclusively online or remote job. They will ask you to purchase computers and office equipment with the promise of reimbursement or claim to have overpaid you for your work. Reimbursements and overpayments will be reversed, leaving you responsible for the funds.

Payment scams

Scammers often provide customers with illegitimate bank information, offering to pay off your credit card balance—and possibly asking for gift cards or cash in return. But the payment is frequently reversed, leaving you responsible for the entire credit card balance.

Scammers are placing ads

on social media market places for selling goods and services. Often, these deals require the customers to pay in advance. Once you pay the scammers, you won't be able to get in touch with them again.

Tips to protect yourself and your family

- Don't click on anything in an unsolicited email or text message asking you to update or verify account information. Look up the company's phone number from a legitimate source—don't use the one a potential scammer is providing—and call the company to ask if the request is authentic.
- When in doubt, call the number listed on the back of your credit card. You can also call the number listed on your credit card statements. Consider turning on activity notifications and report any suspicious activity as soon as possible.
- Research the seller and products independently and compare prices with other websites to ensure legitimacy. When a deal or offer seems too good to be true, it usually is. If possible, refrain from transferring money to someone you don't know.



The Miller-Keystone Blood Center's supply is dangerously low and they are requesting help. Please take a moment to read their press release outlining the situation.

If you are able, please consider scheduling an appointment to donate blood by calling 800-B-A-DONOR or by visiting their website [HERE](#).

The current situation is critical and your immediate response is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE >](#)



**RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL'S
CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR**

2 Dates Remaining!

November 30 (Thu)- 1 Seat Left!

December 11 (Mon)

\$154 Adult



2 New Dates Added!

One-Day Casino Tours!

**RESORTS CASINO HOTEL / CAESARS
HOTEL & CASINO**

September 10 (Sun)

September 17 (Sun)

\$60 per person

Casino Bonus of \$30 slot play

Featured Multi-Day Tours



BEST OF BOSTON

featuring **ENCORE BOSTON HARBOR**

October 2 (Mon) – 4 (Wed)

3 Day Tour

(2) \$20 Meal Vouchers at Casino

\$40 Slot Free Credit at Casino

\$875 Single | \$650 Double

\$575 Triple | \$540 Quad

Includes: Olde Mystic Village, Encore Boston Harbor & Casino – a Wynn Resort, Guided Tour of Boston, Cambridge, & Lexington & Concord, Faneuil Hall/Quincy Market, Boston Harbor Cruise, & Fenway Park Tour.



RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

November 3 (Fri) – 5 (Sun)

3 Day Tour / 4 Meals

\$705 Single | Double \$551

\$499 Triple | \$475 Quad

Includes: Tour and lunch included at Gari Melcher's Home & Studio, Guided Tour of Richmond with stop at St. John's Church, Shockoe Slip, American Civil War Museum & White House Confederacy, House Tour at Agecroft Hall and Garden, & Carytown.

Remaining 2023 Tours

Ellis Island & Statue of Liberty	Sep 18	\$99 Adult
Washington, DC- Fall Day at the Capitol	Oct 7	\$87 Adult
Lake Tobias Wildlife Park & Safari	Oct 8	\$89 Adult
Lake George & Saratoga Springs, NY	Oct 9-11	\$599 Double
Haunted Happenings in New England	Oct 13-15	\$709 Double
Scenic Cape Cod, Massachusetts	Oct 17-19	\$624 Double
Ark Encounter & Creation Museum, Kentucky	Oct 23-27	\$995 Double
Jimmy Buffet's "Escape to Margaritaville" at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre	Nov 4	\$137 Adult
"Festival of Lights", Wheeling, West Virginia	Nov 17-19	\$706 Double
Pennsylvania Christmas & Gift Show	Nov 30	\$77 Adult
Longwood Gardens Christmas	Dec 3	\$104 Adult
American Music Theater, "The First Noel"	Dec 9	\$146 Adult
A Victorian Christmas, Cape May, New Jersey	Dec 11-12	\$505 Double

To make reservations, click [HERE](#) or call 610-868-6001