

AB 5833

Emergency Medical Transport Revenues

March 16, 2021

Agenda

■ Medical Transport Fees Background

□ Current Transport Fees

Considerations for City Council





Timeline - Medical Transport Fees



Adopt Reso No. 1437

\$770 per transport base fee.



Administrative policy changes

- Waive residents & MI employees unpaid balances
- Non-residents billed differently



Adopt Reso No. 1449

Maintain \$770 per transport base fee, include \$15 per mile reimbursement and financial assistance program.

JAN 2012

Seek Council direction.



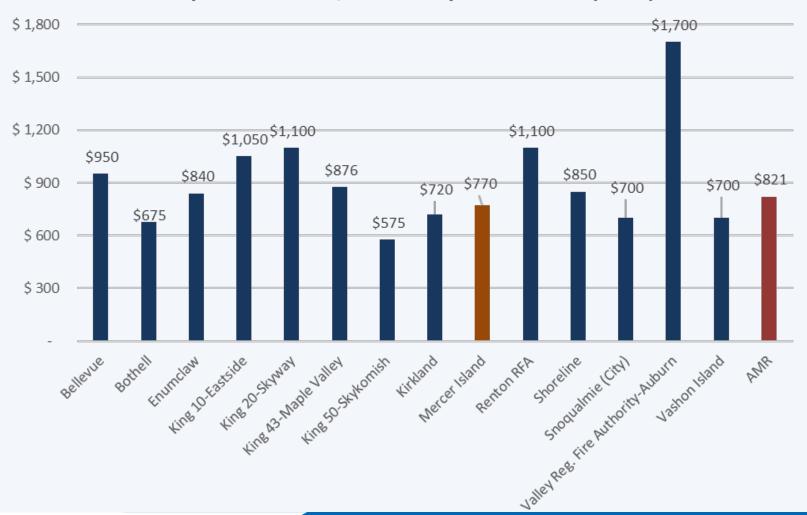
MAR 2021





Regional Comparison

Proposed Medical/ BLS Transport Base Fee (2021)







Transport Rates on MI

2021 MEDICAL TRANSPORT FEES	Mercer Island Fire	American Medical Response
Base Fee	\$770	\$821
Per mile reimbursement	\$15	\$20
Annual escalator	NONE	H/C CPI-W or 3.5%
Percent of MI Annual Transports*	65%	35%

^{*}Average emergency medical transports between 2018-2020.



Current MIFD Policy

Insured Patient

Medical Transport

Uninsured Patient

Insurance provider billed corresponding fees.

- Do not pursue unpaid balances for <u>residents</u> and <u>employees of</u> <u>MI businesses</u>.
- Three attempts to receive unpaid balances from <u>non-residents</u>.
- No further collections process.

Residents and non-residents billed corresponding fees.

- Directed to City's financial assistance program.
- Three attempts to receive fees.
- No further collection process.



Current AMR Policy

Medical
Transport

Insured & Uninsured
Patients

Insurance providers and uninsured patients are billed the corresponding fees.

All patients held responsible for unpaid balances.

<u>Unpaid balances</u> pursued through a collections process.

Employ a <u>debt forgiveness program</u> tied to federal income poverty level.



Financial Assistance

- Eligibility depends on patient's
 - 1. Status of insurance coverage (i.e., uninsured)
 - 2. Financial resources to pay for care
 - 3. Whether a third party is legally responsible to cover medical costs.

A sliding payment schedule and forgiveness program are available for patients with incomes at or below the current federal poverty level.

Questions



Questions from Council

- 1. What is the relationship between these this and GEMT?
- 2. How are AMR fee schedules determined?
- 3. Is it legal, practical, or advisable to simply link City fees to AMR fees?
- 4. How do City fees compare to costs for providing these services?
- 5. What other fees, if any, does the MIFS levy for emergency services?
- 6. What do other cities do regarding waiver of copays?



Questions for Council

- 1. What considerations would you suggest concerning setting transport fees and an annual inflator?
- 2. What considerations would you suggest concerning charges to residents versus non-residents and unpaid balances?
- 3. Should staff consider implementing a collections process?
- 4. Suggestions to improve the existing financial assistance program?

