

AURARIA RTD STUDENT PASS PROGRAM FAQ

What does the Auraria Student Bus and Light Rail Pass Program cover?

The program allows for an Auraria Campus student with a valid ID to ride almost all RTD busses and Light Rail without paying the fare on the bus or train. By simply showing the driver or conductor your validated student ID, you may go anywhere the system serves. The pass program does not include specialty services such as Rockies Ride or Access a Ride. The pass program does allow for a \$4 discount off the Skyride price.

Why must there be a new referendum vote?

A previous student referendum, held in 2010, allowed for a one-year renewal of the RTD Pass Program agreement. Therefore, to continue the program the student body must vote each year to decide if they want the program to continue. The proposed 2011-2012 pass price will be \$70 per student per semester for the 2011-2012 academic year. RTD reports that the large increase in Auraria's student ridership, as well as the RTD Board increasing all fares beginning January 1, 2011 is causing the total cost of the agreement to go up approximately 22%.

Why is the contract (and pass) price going up?

The Auraria student pass program agreement is calculated based upon the total number of rides taken by students in the prior year, multiplied by the current cash fare (minus a 45% discount). Auraria students took almost 4.3 million rides last year. This is the same formula that is used to calculate the College Pass for other schools, including CU-Boulder.

How does ridership by students affect the pass price?

The AHEC/RTD agreement is priced based on actual ridership numbers determined by RTD, charged at a discount off of the regular cash fares. The most recent ridership data is used to calculate the 2011-2012 pass agreement. Total Ridership is up 12% from the 2009-2010 numbers.

Is this still a good deal for students?

The RTD pass through the Auraria student pass program can still be considered a great value for students at \$70 per semester. A similar pass that provides as much access for the general public would cost \$176 per month, or approximately \$704 per semester. The lowest monthly pass available (local only) would cost \$79 per month, or \$316 per semester.