

I have read the Issues Paper regarding the Review of ACTION Buses pricing for 2006-07 and wish to comment as follows:

- Bus fares should be kept as low as possible, perhaps even at a nominal level, to encourage greatly increased patronage.
- Bus fares and increased patronage should be seen in the wider context of reducing use of private automobiles.
- Economic considerations regarding the cost of operating the ACTION network should include the costs of increased use of private automobiles in the absence of an inexpensive and accessible bus system.
- Increasing the cost of using private automobiles, especially through increased parking charges, should be considered before increasing bus fares.
- High subsidies of public transportation should be seen in the context lower costs for road development and maintenance.
- Studies should be conducted on the price elasticity of bus fares and fares set accordingly.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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