



Summary of WSTC's 2023/25 Fare Proposal & Public Input Received

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WSTC Online Public Input Forum

WSTC Online Public Input Forum

Open from May 15, 2023 - June 9, 2023

- **3,882** completed survey responses

Sought public input on the following fare adjustment considerations:

- Vehicle / Passenger Fare Differential
 - Vehicle fares should be increased more than passenger fares
 - Passenger fares should be increased more than vehicle fares
 - Passenger and vehicle fares should both be increased at the same rate
- Also sought public input on possible changes to the Peak Season Surcharge

Online Public Input Forum: Key Respondent Metrics

Frequency of Use

- **13%** daily riders
- **36%** weekly riders
- **31%** monthly riders
- **20%** ride the ferry a few times a year or less

Primary Trip Purpose

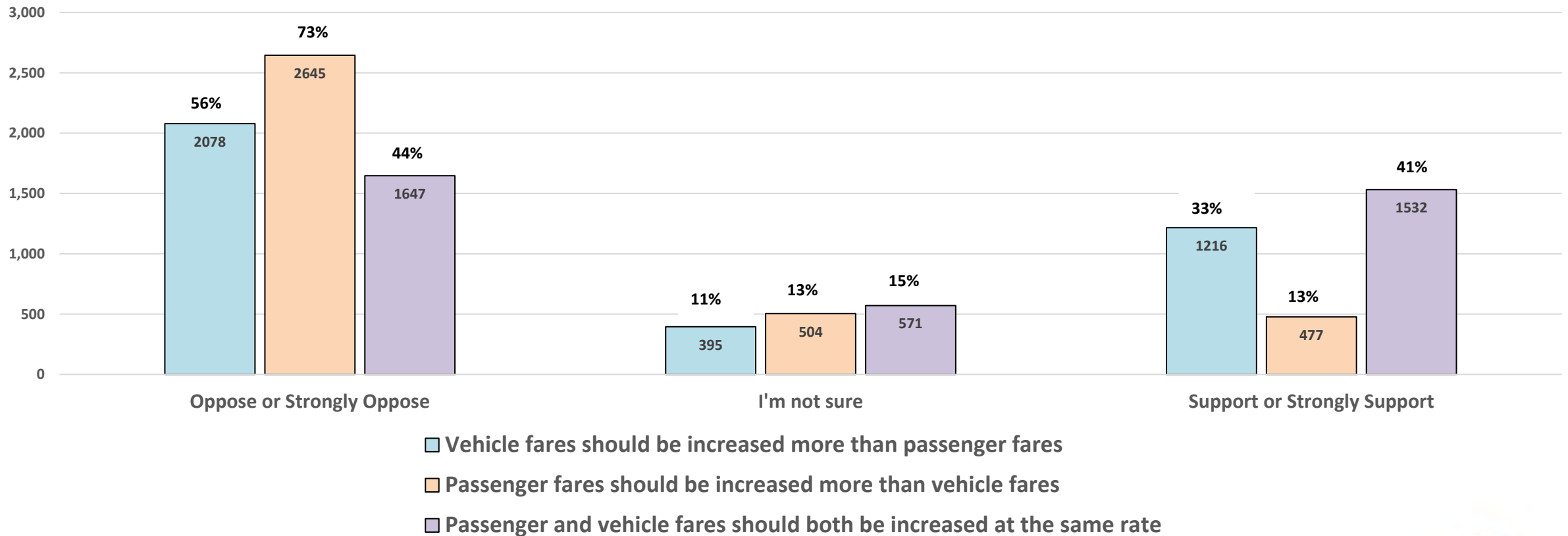
- **50%** personal trips
- **21%** commute to work or school
- **10%** recreation
- **19%** other

Places of Residence

- **16%** Kitsap County
- **14%** San Juan Islands
- **11%** Whidbey Island
- **9%** Vashon Island/King County
- **50%** other

Voting Results

Key Takeaway: There was the greatest support for an equal increase for passenger and vehicle fares (non-differential), and the greatest opposition to a larger increase for passenger fares compared to vehicle fares



WSTC's Selected Fare Proposal

WSTC 2023/25 Fare Proposal

- On June 21, the WSTC advanced their 2023-25 fare proposal for public comment, as follows:
 - ❑ 4.25% fare increase for passengers and vehicles on October 1, 2023, and October 1, 2024
 - ❑ Increase the multiride discount by 1% – effective October 1, 2023, and expiring September 30, 2025
 - ❑ Amend the current regulation for a ferry fuel surcharge, clarifying that a fuel surcharge can only be implemented after review and approval by the Commission

Public Input on WSTC Fare Proposal

Opportunities for Public Input

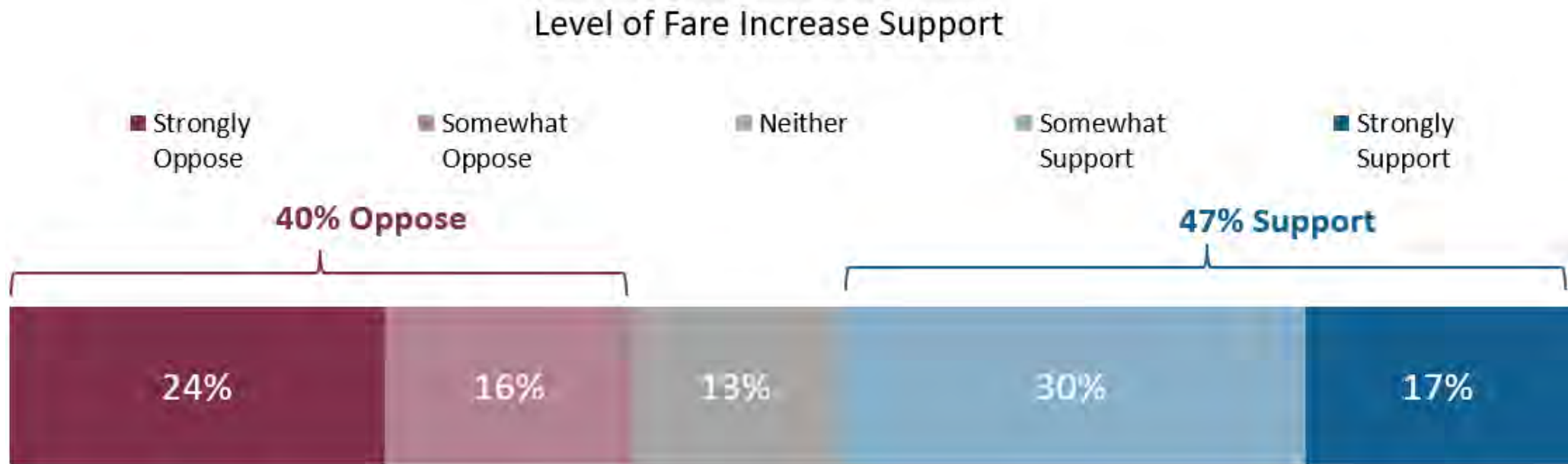
- The WSTC provided the following opportunities for the public to weigh in its fare proposal:
 - Online web comment form
 - Emailing public inbox TransC@wstc.wa.gov
 - Ferry Riders' Opinion Group (FROG) Survey on Proposal
 - Testify at the August 10th Final Hearing

Overview of Public Input on WSTC Fare Proposal

- 89 Comments were received via email by the WSTC
- Comments generally fall into the following categories:
 - Frustrations with current service levels
 - Disapproval of any fare increase / affordability concerns
 - Requests for greater discounts for seniors
 - The state needs to invest more into ferries
 - Requests for discounts for frequent riders / those purchasing multiride fares
 - Support for WSTC fare proposal

Ferry Riders' Opinion Group (FROG)

- Members of the FROG panel received a short survey asking for their input on the WSTC's fare proposal.
- The survey was open from **July 12, 2023 - July 19, 2023**
- **5,140** completed survey responses
- **2,926** comments



Next Steps & Today's Action

Next Steps

- The final CR-103 rulemaking paperwork will be filed by August 31
- WSF actions leading up to the October 1, 2023, implementation date:
 - Notification of ORCA transit partners
 - Reprogramming of fares
 - Distribution of new fares to public and WSF staff

Today's Action

2023-25 WSTC Fare Proposal:

- 4.25% fare increase for passengers and vehicles on October 1, 2023, and October 1, 2024
- Increase the multiride discount by 1% – effective October 1, 2023, and expires September 30, 2025
- Amend the current regulation for a ferry fuel surcharge, clarifying that a fuel surcharge can only be implemented after review and approval by the Commission.

Questions / Contact

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