

Our Views

A 25-cent bargain

The 25 cent bus fare proposed by Borough Mayor Jack Roderick is welcome news.

The new fare — which slashes present rates in half — will go into effect July 1 when the Anchorage Borough's "People Mover" mass transit system tries out its wheels.

According to Roderick a quarter will take a car about a mile and a half. That same quarter will take a people mover passenger almost anywhere in the borough, though, which makes the bus system a bargain worth pursuing.

And the bargain doesn't end there.

The reduced fares, along with half hour service at each bus stop, should help solve what has become one of Anchorage's most troublesome problems — the gobbling up of land to accommodate the private automobile.

"Our goal is to make the people mover a new alternative to the automobile," says Roderick. "We're out to relieve the almost universal dependency on the auto, and make it possible for the average Anchorage family to get along quite nicely without having to buy, fuel and maintain two cars."

Roderick is convinced the 25 cent fare will go a long way toward doing just that.

In addition, the lower fare will finally make it possible for low-income families to have dependable transportation — a service the Anchorage area has sorely lacked in years past.

Roderick admits the 25 cent fare will require the new mass transit system to be subsidized, but believes it's worth it. We agree.