

Free Youth Fares

Rider Experience and Operations Committee

07/15/22

Why we are here

For recommendation to the Board: Free fares for riders 18 years or younger on all modes

- The fare change would be implemented on September 1 - before school starts.

Overview

- Background
- Benefits
- Financial Impact
- Public Input
- Implementation
- Next steps

Background

Move Ahead WA Legislation

- State grant funding incentive to transit agencies adopting free Youth fares by October 1, 2022.
- Sound Transit is not eligible for these state grant funds, but free youth fares requires regional participation.

Board Actions on Fare Items

Roadmap for 2022-2023

Recent/Current Actions

Fare compliance:

- Policy update
- Subsidized annual pass extension
- Budget amendments for fare
- Compliance and reduced fare programs
- Free Youth fares – July

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Future Actions

- Authorize daily paid parking – Sept
- Increase Link fares and/or change fare structure (distance-based vs. flat fare) – Sept
- Establish T Line fares – Oct
- Establish Stride fares and set farebox recovery target

Benefits

Over 600,000 Youth eligible for Free Fares

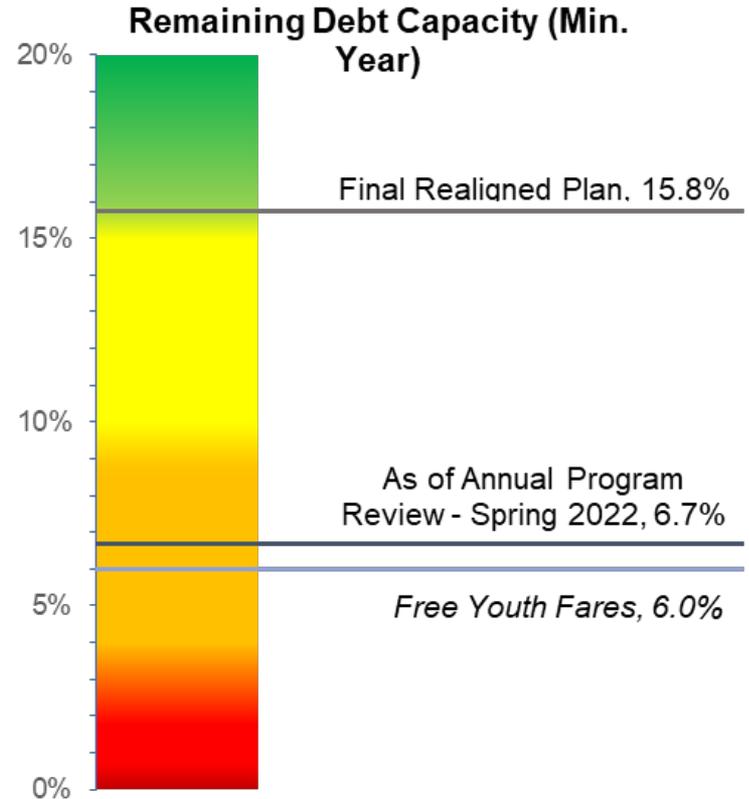
- 77,000 active ORCA Youth cards will become a Free Youth Transit Pass
- Incentivizes Youth ridership
- Aligns ST with the region



Financial Impact

ST not currently eligible for state grants to mitigate loss of youth fare revenue.

- Youth fare currently \$1.50
- In 2019, Youth fare revenue was \$3M (10% paid by UW and 39% by Seattle School Dist.) Youth Fare revenue anticipated to grow to \$9M annually by 2046.
- Free Youth fares reduces fare revenue by \$148M through the life of the financial plan (2046).



Public Input

Public input period was June 2 - 26

- 38 people responded via email
- 2 people attended in-person for the hybrid public hearing
- More than 7,500 social media impressions
- 359 visits to the project web pages
- At least 3 earned media mentions from the press release

Public comment generally supportive

Regional Approach for Implementation

- Common regional language: Free Youth Transit Pass
- Implement in partnership with schools
- Goal - Everyone taps
- \$500K grant secured to offset costs



Next steps

- Implementation of Free Youth Fares on September 1

Questions?

Thank you.



 [soundtransit.org](https://www.soundtransit.org)



Move Ahead – Transit Support Grants

Public Transit Agencies	Estimated Annual Formula Allocation
Asotin County	\$ 117,892
Ben Franklin Transit	\$ 3,457,824
C-Tran	\$ 5,235,977
Central Transit	\$ 95,703
Clallam Transit	\$ 947,883
Columbia County	\$ 132,099
Community Transit	\$ 12,154,813
Everett Transit	\$ 2,180,639
Garfield County	\$ 25,501
Grant Transit	\$ 482,118
Grays Harbor Transit	\$ 890,261
Intercity Transit	\$ 4,040,664
Island Transit	\$ 995,144
Jefferson Transit	\$ 409,138
King County Metro	\$ 31,718,750

Public Transit Agencies	Estimated Annual Formula Allocation
Kitsap Transit	\$ 3,729,774
Link Transit	\$ 1,356,786
Mason Transit	\$ 664,087
Pacific Transit	\$ 165,232
Pierce Transit	\$ 8,224,958
Pullman Transit	\$ 449,076
RiverCities	\$ 613,635
Selah Transit	\$ 25,015
Skagit Transit	\$ 1,324,065
Spokane Transit	\$ 6,461,442
TranGo	\$ 187,673
Twin Transit	\$ 297,281
Union Gap Transit	\$ 82,472
Valley Transit	\$ 499,463
Whatcom Transit	\$ 2,885,386
Yakima Transit	\$ 774,243

Move Ahead WA Spending Details

Transit Grants & Projects

Program Name	Over 16 years
Transit Support Grants - New	\$1,450 Billion
Transit Projects – Plus Up	\$269 Million
Tribal Transit Mobility Grants - New	\$80 Million
Transit Coordination Grants – Plus Up	\$5 Million
Special Needs Transit Grants - Plus Up	\$600 Million
Bus and Bus Facility – New	\$400 Million
Green Transit Grants – Plus Up	\$200 Million
TDM/CTR	\$25 Million
Total Transit	\$3.029 Billion