



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

Report: Glendale Beeline Participation in Metro's Student Fareless System Initiative Pilot Program known as GoPass

1. Motion authorizing Glendale Beeline to accept Metro's K-14 GoPass during Metro's Fareless System Initiative Pilot ending June 30, 2023.

COUNCIL ACTION

Item Type: Action Item

Approved for August 16, 2022 **calendar**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board approved a two-year pilot Fareless System Initiative (FSI) program. The FSI program allows K-14 students to ride free on participating transit agencies. Community colleges and school districts pay a per-student charge per year to participate, and transit agencies share in the revenue based on usage. Initially, the Glendale Unified School District (GUSD) and the Glendale Community College (GCC) declined to participate in the FSI program but GCC will now participate in the FSI pilot program. With GCC's participation, Public Works staff requests authority to accept the FSI GoPass on Beeline services. The FY 2022-23 Glendale Tier 2 American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) allocation for transportation will cover the lost fare revenue associated with this program.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Mobility/Connectivity/Safety: Accepting the GoPass provides continued safe, efficient, and reliable transportation services to a greater number of riders.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the acceptance of Metro's K-14 GoPass through FY 2022-23.

BACKGROUND

On May 27, 2021, the Metro Board approved the countywide FSI pilot program. Metro believes a fareless transit system in Los Angeles County is both an investment in social mobility and an important tool to assist in the fight against income inequality. For students, access to free transit improves school attendance and academic performance, increases participation in extracurricular activities and employment, and increases the probability of students becoming long-term transit riders. Fareless transit also advances equity and improves life outcomes by removing the financial barrier allowing access to opportunities.

After much discussion, the FSI program shifted from expanding Metro's existing student pass program to partnering with school districts and community colleges which pay a per student cost share fee per year. The \$3 (K-12 school districts) or \$7 (community colleges) would be paid for all students enrolled in the school. The revenue from the school districts and community colleges minus the \$2 cost for the TAP card would be distributed back to participating transit agencies at the end of each pilot year. For example, GUSD has approximately 25,000 K-12 students and would pay \$75,000 to Metro each year for students to participate. Due to the high cost and remote learning both GUSD and GCC initially declined to participate.

Metro encouraged transit agencies to use their allocations of ARPA funding to offset the remaining lost fare revenue. Glendale expects to receive \$769,726 in ARPA funds for its Beeline service.

ANALYSIS

GCC reached out to Beeline staff in late June to discuss the possibility of participating in the GoPass program since GCC will be back to 75% in class instruction. GCC approved the funding plan for the GoPass for the coming school year. Staff is requesting approval from City Council to participate in the GoPass program. The estimated cost of the GoPass program is difficult to determine since the GCC students can use the GoPass on any participating transit agency's service and Beeline ridership is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Assuming pre-pandemic levels as the high end, the estimated cost is as follows:

GCC Registered Students	GoPass Fee Paid by GCC (\$7 per student)	Estimated Yearly Glendale Beeline Cost Share Revenue	Estimated Yearly GCC Student Fares (assumes student pass rate)	Estimated Funding Gap (lost revenue)
21,900	\$153,300	\$75,000	\$162,000	(\$87,000)

The estimated \$87,000 lost revenue will be offset with the City of Glendale's ARPA allocation.

STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH

GCC student's transportation options will increase with use of the GoPass. Students will have access to Metro's extensive bus and rail system as well as Beeline services for their transportation needs including school, internships, and employment. For the past 18 months, Beeline staff participates in the weekly Metro led FSI Ad Hoc meetings and will continue to work with GUSD, as they continue to consider participating in the GoPass program.

Public Works staff will continue to work with GUSD and encourage their participation in this program.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is a reduction in projected Beeline farebox revenue of \$87,000 that staff plans to offset with ARPA funds that will be received to cover transportation services, which has been accounted for as a part of the FY 2022-23 adopted budget outlined below:

Existing Revenue Budget		
Amount	Account String	Funding Source
\$769,726	34062-2580-PWD-0000-	Prop A Discretionary Tier 2 - Transit Utility Fund

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)

This item is considered a ministerial activity and therefore, not subject to CEQA/NEPA review.

CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE

This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Authorize Glendale Beeline to accept the Metro Student GoPass on Glendale Beeline services for Fiscal Year 2023.

Alternative 2: Elect not to authorize Glendale Beeline to accept the Metro Student GoPass on Glendale Beeline services for Fiscal Year 2023.

Alternative 3: The City Council may consider any other alternative not proposed by staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Prepared by:

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Approved by:

Roubik R. Golanian, P.E., City Manager

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS

Exhibit 1: Letter from GCC Superintendent/President Supporting Go Pass Program