



## CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

### AGENDA ITEM

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

1. Motion authorizing Glendale Beeline to continue accepting Metro's Fareless System Initiative K-14 GoPass

### COUNCIL ACTION

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**Item Type:** Consent Calendar

**Approved for** June 27, 2023 **calendar**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In 2021, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board approved a two-year Fareless System Initiative (FSI) GoPass pilot 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. Glendale Community College (GCC) joined the program for the second pilot year. On August 16, 2022, Glendale City Council authorized the Beeline to accept Metro's K-14 GoPass until the pilot program's conclusion on June 30, 2023. On April 27, 2023, the Metro Board extended the pilot program for an additional year as they explore funding sources to continue the K-14 free fare program. With GCC's continued participation, Public Works staff requests on-going authority to accept the FSI GoPass on Beeline transit services for the duration of this program.

## **COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

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

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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Authorize the continued acceptance of Metro's K-14 GoPass for the duration of this program.

## **BACKGROUND**

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On May 27, 2021, the Metro Board approved the countywide FSI pilot program for a two-year period concluding on June 30, 2023. 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 \$7 per student cost share fee per year for all students enrolled in the school. The revenue from the school districts and community colleges minus \$2 cost for the TAP card administrative fees would be distributed back to participating transit agencies at the end of each pilot year.

GCC joined the FSI GoPass program for the second program year and asked Glendale Beeline to participate. On August 16, 2022, Glendale City Council authorized the Beeline transit service to accept the FSI GoPass until the anticipated conclusion of the program on June 30, 2023. Council recognized the benefits of the program for GCC students and the opportunity to promote sustainability and combat climate change.

Metro had encouraged transit agencies to use their allocations of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding to offset the remaining lost fare revenue. For FY 2022-23, Glendale used its Beeline service ARPA allocation to offset lost fare revenue.

## **ANALYSIS**

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On April 27, 2023, the Metro Board extended the FSI GoPass program for an additional year while they continue to identify and pursue funding. GCC is continuing its participation in the program. Public Works staff is seeking Council approval to continue accepting the GoPass on the Beeline transit service for as long as the program continues. That includes if the program is extended again beyond the currently-anticipated year, in which case staff requests that the Beeline continue to participate so long as the revenue loss is accounted and approved as part of the annual budget.

For FY 2022-23, Beeline fare revenue loss was estimated to be \$87,000 and ARPA funding was allocated to offset fare revenue loss. Since the fiscal year and second

GoPass pilot year have not concluded, actual fare revenue loss is not yet determined. Due to the slow pandemic recovery and less in-person classes at GCC than pre-pandemic, actual fare revenue loss may be less than this \$87,000 estimate.

Public Works Transit staff anticipate a similar decrease in fare revenue, approximately \$87,000, for FY 2023-24. The anticipated lost revenue for FY 2023-24 can be absorbed and will be off set with Proposition A Local Return funding.

## **STAKEHOLDERS/OUTREACH**

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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.

Public Works Transit staff participates in weekly Metro FSI Ad Hoc meetings and continues to support GCC in the GoPass program.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

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There is a potential reduction in projected Beeline farebox revenue of approximately \$87,000, for FY 2023-24 and annually, should the Metro FSI GoPass program continue, and other funding is not made available. Staff plans to offset the revenue loss with Proposition A Local Return funding received to cover transportation services, which has been accounted for as a part of the FY 2023-24 budget outlined below:

Existing Revenue Budget		
Amount	Account String	Funding Source
\$6,000,000	GL: 34801-2580-PWD-0000-P0000-	Subsidy Prop A Local Return -Transit Utility Fund

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA/NEPA)**

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

## **CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE**

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This item is exempt from campaign disclosure requirements.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

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Alternative 1: Authorize Glendale Beeline to continue accepting the Metro Student GoPass on Glendale Beeline Services for as long as the program continues.

Alternative 2: Elect not to authorize Glendale Beeline to continue accepting the Metro Student GoPass on Glendale Beeline services.

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

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

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**Prepared by:**

Martha D'Andrea, Transit Manager

**Approved by:**

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

## **EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS**

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