

Envisioning a Fareless LA Metro



Why fareless transit?

The majority of LA Metro's funding is provided from Propositions A and C, and Measures R and M local sales taxes. Through these sales taxes LA residents already pay for our public transit. Instead of adding to transit riders' already burdensome cost of living and instead of maintaining an expensive fare collection and enforcement system, **Metro should be universally and permanently fare-free for everyone.**

What does it accomplish?

Fareless transit is racial and economic justice. It provides crucial economic relief to Metro's passengers, the vast majority of whom are very low-income, immigrant, people of color, and essential workers. The savings to families can be spent on rent, health care, education, better food options, and other investments in community members' health and livelihoods, ultimately benefiting the entire regional economy. It will also grow transit ridership and aid Los Angeles in our fight for better air quality, climate solutions and less traffic congestion.

How can Los Angeles have fare-free transit?

LA Metro has a yearly budget of \$8 billion dollars, the majority of its funds coming from county sales taxes. Of this, only 5% of funds comes from bus and train fare, for which Metro then spends nearly 90 cents of every dollar collected in fare on policing its buses and trains, and fare collection staffing and operational costs.

By going fareless, Metro can cut out the

expensive costs associated with fare enforcement, the TAP system, and the infrastructure and contracts required to collect fares. Fareless transit envisions the redirection of fare collection and enforcement funds into **creating a transportation system that will be more accessible and just to its current riders** (low-income, people of color, immigrant and youth riders) as well as attractive to future riders.

Join the movement for fare-free transit:

Currently, Metro is working on a K-12 fare-free pilot program. We must demand that any pilot program both includes the low-income transit riders that carry the most cost burden of fare collection —and has a clear path to a permanent, universal and fare-free system. To learn more and get involved, **visit our website at allianceforcommunitytransit.org** and join our email list.

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