

Metro's Fare Programs

GOPASS PILOT PROGRAM EXTENSION

APRIL 2024

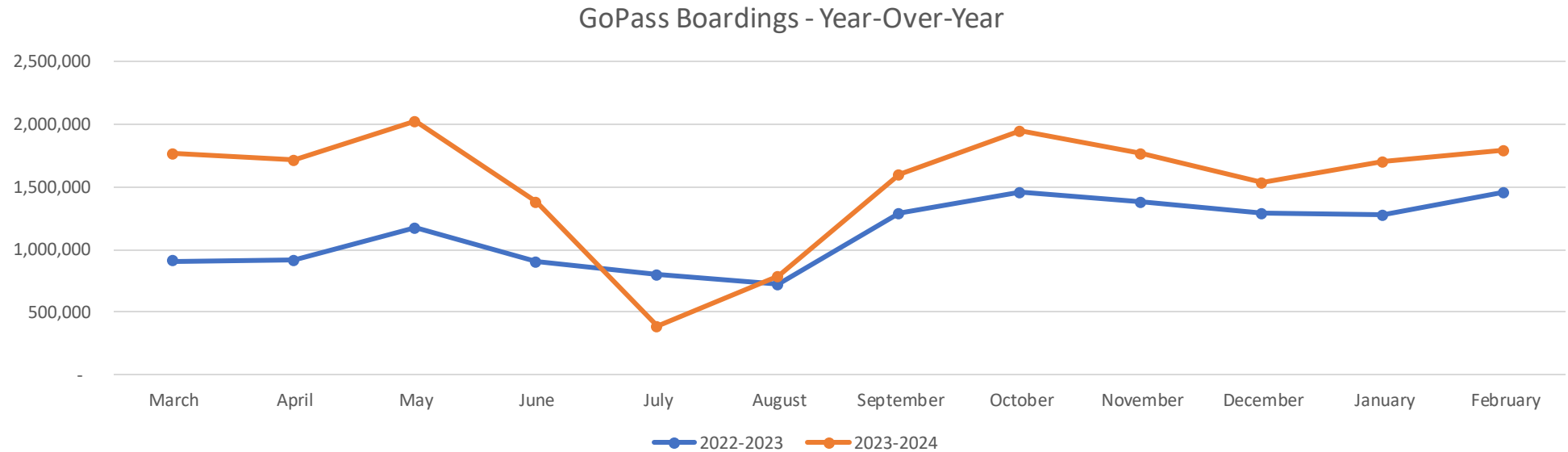


Background

- In September 2021, the Board approved a phased approach for a Fareless Pilot implementation — Phase 1 fareless for K-14 students and Phase 2 fareless for low-income residents, once additional funding has been identified.
- The original two-year GoPass Pilot Program for K-14 students was approved through June 30, 2023.
- On April 23, 2023, the Board approved a one-year extension of the GoPass Pilot Program through June 30, 2024.
- This report requests a one-year extension of the GoPass Pilot Program through June 30, 2025.



GoPass Participation Year-Over-Year



The 31% rise in boardings overall is indicative of successful outreach and operational improvements, such as a streamlined registration process and improved access to the TAP virtual app.

113 K-12 public school districts, charter school networks, and independent charter and private schools are participating in the GoPass Program, along with one (1) adult/vocational district (LAUSD Adult Education) and nine (9) community college districts representing seventeen (17) colleges for a **total of 123 districts**.

Currently, 27% of 81 public school districts in LA County are participating in the program, along with 69% of charter networks, 39% of independent charter schools and 69% of community college districts.

Funding

Continuing to work with local, regional, state-wide, and national stakeholders to secure State and Federal support for reduced-fare and fare-free transit services.

State:

- AB 610 – Working with the state on funding for student transit passes
- AB 181 – Home to School Transportation (HTS) reimbursement up to 60%
- Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Grants in South LA (\$35M) and Pomona (\$22M)

Federal:

- \$4 million Reconnecting Communities Grant
- Working on renewal for \$1 million grant through the Congressional Directed Funding to help expand the GoPass at all community colleges in LA County (~143,000 students)



GoPass Cost and Proposed Pricing

	Boardings	Cost	
FY19	27,000,000	\$24,950,000	
Year 1 (Actual)	5,354,103	\$7,813,068	
Year 2 (Actual)	17,836,154	\$16,112,934	
Year 3 (Estimated)*	25,091,606	\$16,654,833	
3-Year Total To Date	48,281,863	\$40,580,835	-19%
Initial 2-Year Projection	54,000,000	\$49,900,000	

*Year 3 District cost-sharing rate increased from \$3 to \$7 per student

- Current estimated cost of 3-year pilot is 19% below initial estimated cost of 2-year pilot, because the cost is based on lost fare revenues and boardings have not yet reached 27M annually.
- The net projected cost for GoPass Program for FY25 is \$23.5 million after factoring in district cost-sharing.

Next Steps

- Staff will continue the expansion and analysis of GoPass while continuing to seek additional funding opportunities for all free and reduced fare programs.
- Analysis will allow staff to support the districts that are experiencing lower participation to help them maximize the benefits for their students.
- Encouraging GoPass use into weekends and off-peak hours presents a strategic opportunity to not only increase overall GoPass boardings, but to support the broader goals of reducing car dependency among younger generations and fostering a culture of public transit usage.



Fareless System Initiative