

Universal Pass Program (U-Pass)

Metro Board of Directors Meeting

December 1, 2016



Motion 49.1 (Ridley-Thomas) requested an assessment of the feasibility of piloting a Universal Community College Student Transit Pass (U-Pass) Program.

Goal: In May 2016, the Board approved a 2-year U-Pass Pilot Program for Colleges, Universities, and Trade Schools to increase college transit ridership and create a new generation of transit riders.

Objective: To transition to a more feasible pricing structure and reach a broader range of college students by reducing units required to participate, and collect the data and establish best practices necessary to establish a permanent program.

Initial Semester Participation:

- 2570 new riders in U-PASS program, since launch on 8/29
- 1285 of new participants did not previously ride Metro (50%)
- 13% increase over previous ITAP participation in first semester
- 29% of participants are part time students with 8-11 units
- Six (6) initial colleges included: CSUN, LATTC, Rio Hondo College, Pasadena City College, CalTech, Santa Monica College (test group of 100 students)

Title VI Analysis:

- Required in first 6 months of pilot program
- In Metro service area is 77% minority with 15.9% low income
- U-Pass participation is 93% minority with 75% low income
- No disparate impact or disproportionate burden found

Significant Changes Being Requested:

1. **Eligibility** – Units required to participate to be reduced from 8 to 6 units per semester.
1. **Transitional U-Pass** – Reduced college fare rate of \$43/mo. to be offered to U-Pass participants for one year after graduation.
2. **Regional U-Pass** – Countywide Regional U-Pass would allow participating students to board participating municipal agencies' buses and establish a per boarding reimbursement rate to agencies similar to the EZ Regional Pass

Schools joining the program in Spring 2017:

- California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA)
- LA Mission College
- Pierce College
- Santa Monica College (Full implementation)
- USC (Graduate students – transition from I-TAP)

Additional schools in discussion phase for Spring 2017:

- Cerritos College
- East Los Angeles College (ELAC)
- El Camino College (ECC)
- LA City College (LACC)
- UCLA (Transition from I-TAP)

Thank you!

For additional information visit:

www.metro.net/riding/colleges

For questions/participation contact:

Devon Deming
Director, Metro Commute Services
demingd@metro.net
(213) 922-7957

