

REGIONAL YOUTH PASS



Metro's Transportation Measure & Regional Youth Pass: What Is YouthPass & Why Do We Need It?

YouthPass is a program that currently gives Portland Public School (PPS) students free access to TriMet transit service in lieu of a traditional school bus system. The program was originally offered only to low-income students, but was expanded in 2011 thanks to organizing from young Black women at Sisters in Action for Power to include all PPS students, and has since then had the support and advocacy of the Youth Environmental Justice Alliance (YEJA), Multnomah Youth Commission (MYC), and OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon.

Research shows that youth access to transit builds the next generation of transit riders, and a regional YouthPass would reduce congestion and carbon pollution across the greater Portland region.

To be most effective, YouthPass should be available to all youth 18 and under, 365 days a year, regardless of income or school status.

Benefits of a 365 YouthPass for everyone 18 and under:

200K

Creates a universal region wide benefit available to 200,000 youth as they become the next wave of public transportation riders, helping them get to school, jobs, family appointments, and other commitments in a climate friendly way, 365 days a year.

85% of Metro Area High Schools have one or more transit lines running directly outside the school campus or have transit lines within 1/2 mile of the campus.

85%

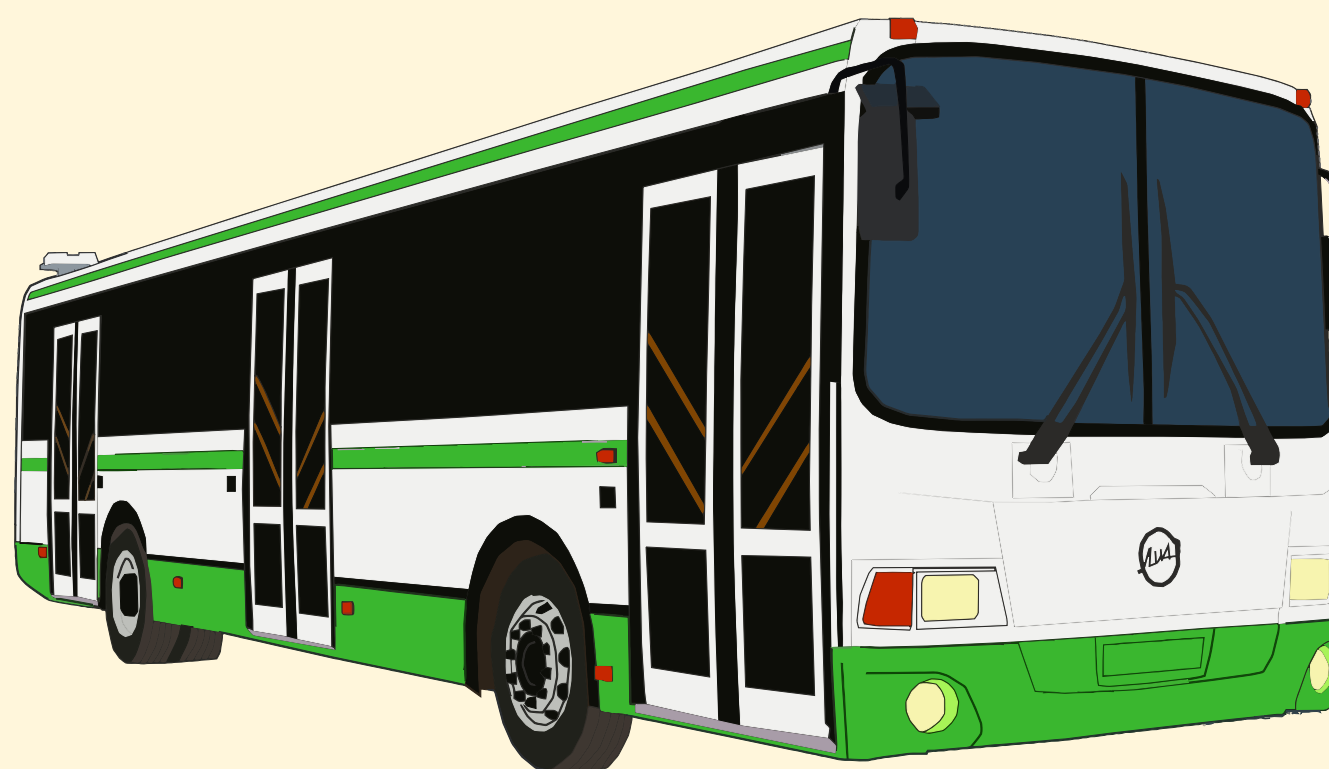
100%

Making regional YouthPass available to *all* students* reduces barriers for the students who need it most.
**helps reach equity and climate goals by getting more youth on transit*

Improving transportation options improves academic performance. Students who are transit dependent can miss as many as 11 extra days a year of class (Stein and Grigg, 2019).

**11
days**

EXPANDING YOUTHPASS - ACCESS FOR ALL YOUTH: METRO'S REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION MEASURE IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND AND STREAMLINE YOUTHPASS REGIONWIDE. EXTENDING THE POWER OF YOUTHPASS TO ALL YOUTH IN THE METRO REGION WOULD ALLEVIATE BARRIERS AND INCREASE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TRANSIT FOR ALL ACROSS THE REGION., PLUS HELP THE REGION REACH TRANSIT RIDERSHIP AND CLIMATE GOALS.



YOUTH TALKING POINTS FOR YOUTHPASS

- **FEEL FREE TO SHARE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE AND/OR THOUGHTS ON WHY YOUTHPASS WOULD BENEFIT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY**
- **THE YOUTHPASS WE NEED TO SEE IS FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 18, IS YEAR ROUND, AND NOT INCOME BASED.**
- **A YEAR ROUND YOUTHPASS WOULD ALLOW YOUNG PEOPLE TO TRAVEL TO PLACES BEYOND SCHOOL, LIKE MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, EXTRACURRICULARS, AND GENERALLY GET AROUND MORE FREELY**
- **YOUTHPASS SHOULD BE FREE TO ALL TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE IN RIDING TRANSIT TO ALLEVIATE CONGESTION AND MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE**
- **HAVING YOUTHPASS/PUBLIC TRANSIT AVAILABLE HAS PROVEN TO DECREASE CHRONIC SCHOOL ABSENCE ISSUES FOR STUDENTS, AND HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE MORE BENEFICIAL THAN RELYING SOLELY ON YELLOW SCHOOL BUSES**
- **PLEASE PRIORITIZE YOUTHPASS IN THE 2020 TRANSPORTATION BOND MEASURE**

ALLY/ADULT TALKING POINTS FOR YOUTHPASS

- **MAIN ALLY POINT IS SHARING HOW YOU THINK YOUTHPASS WOULD BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY AT LARGE. THIS CAN BE AS MICRO AS IT HELPING YOUR OWN KIDS, OR NEIGHBORS, TO LARGE SCALE THINKING LIKE CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**
- **TRANSIT ACCESS INCREASES SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY GIVING FAMILIES AND STUDENTS MORE RELIABLE OPTIONS FOR GETTING TO SCHOOL. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT ACCESS TO ALTERNATIVES TO THE CLASSIC YELLOW SCHOOL BUS INCREASES ATTENDANCE, A PRIORITY GIVEN OREGON'S LOW GRADUATION RATES.**
- **YOUTHPASS OPENS OPPORTUNITIES INDEPENDENCE AND FLEXIBILITY IN TRANSPORTATION FOR 200,000 YOUTH IN THE REGION. THIS ENABLES YOUTH TO ACCESS EXTRACURRICULARS (WHICH ARE OFTEN A REQUIREMENT OF THEIR SCHOOLING), OBTAIN JOBS, ENGAGE IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES, SEEK MEDICAL CARE, AND INCREASE COMMUNITY CONNECTION.**
- **BUILDS TRANSIT USERS OF TOMORROW, TODAY. YOUTHPASS EMPOWERS YOUTH TRANSIT USERS TO EXPERIENCE WHAT PUBLIC TRANSIT CAN AND SHOULD BE, OVERCOMING AMERICA'S STIGMA OF RIDING THE BUS. 5 THESE SAME YOUTH ARE AND WILL BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF TAXPAYERS AND PAYING TRANSIT RIDERS.**
- **PLEASE PRIORITIZE YOUTHPASS IN THE 2020 TRANSPORTATION BOND MEASURE**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT INFO@GETTINGTHERETOGETHER.ORG