

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE COWLITZ TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO APPROVE A ZERO
FARE POLICY FOR PASSENGERS AGED 18 AND UNDER WITH PROPER
IDENTIFICATION

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Cowlitz Transit Authority Board to set fares to be charged, and

WHEREAS, the Cowlitz Transit Authority Board has had a successful youth pass pilot program, and

WHEREAS, the Move Ahead Washington (ESSB 5974) legislation signed into law in March 2022 created a new transit support grant opportunity for transit agencies, and

WHEREAS, the legislation requires that an agency have a zero fare policy for passengers aged 18 and under on all modes of service by October 1, 2022, to be eligible for this program, and

WHEREAS, the Cowlitz Transit Authority Board expects passengers under this policy to be of a minimum age to ride unaccompanied safely, and

WHEREAS, the Cowlitz Transit Authority Board held a formal public hearing on this policy on September 14, 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Cowlitz Transit Authority that:

1. The Youth Pass program is extended from January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
2. The fare policy is modified so that the fare for passengers with a Youth pass or other proper age-specific identification on all service types is \$0.00.
3. Any new services offered by RiverCities Transit, whether on a pilot basis or permanently, must include a Youth fare category at \$0.00.
4. "Youth" for the purpose of the fare category is defined as anyone aged 18 and under with proper identification.
5. Youth under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
6. The changes specified here become effective October 1, 2022.
7. All RiverCities Transit operators will continue to be required to report any incidents occurring on transit vehicles and/or at bus stops.
8. All candidates for RiverCities Transit positions will continue to undergo a Washington State Patrol fingerprint background check performed by Longview Police Department

and Sterling background checks to include SSN Trace, Enhanced Nationwide Criminal Database, and Locator Select, or equivalent, before a final job offer is made.

9. All RiverCities Transit employees will continue to receive Busing On The Lookout training and CPR training. All employees will additionally receive training on recognizing and reporting of suspected abuse and/or neglect of children and/or vulnerable adults.

PASSED by the Cowlitz Transit Authority in regular session and approved this **14th** day of **September 2022**.

DENNIS WEBER, CHAIR
Cowlitz Transit Authority

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Halili, Deputy City Clerk