

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

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Contact Information

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(10) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(1) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 04/19/2021

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 04/20/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 21-0002-s30

Agenda Date: 04/19/2021

Item Number: I

Summary: The RNC supports the resolution to support the Freedom to Move Act and/or sponsor legislation that would provide funds to agencies to provide fare-free transit. Creating a fare-free transit system will improve economic and public health conditions in our county. Reliable public transit supports our general economy, helps reduce car reliance and traffic, and clears our air by curbing local pollution. Transit fares are often a burden on those that can least afford it, and COVID-19 has led to service cuts at a time when people can least afford alternative transportation. Eliminating fares will boost ridership—as proven by past fare reductions on Metro itself and fareless transit elsewhere—by making transit more convenient, simpler, and of course more affordable. By reducing wait times at stops as riders queue up to pay, buses will speed up as well. Additionally, creating a fare-free transit system will potentially help reduce the number of unhoused individuals in our county. Fare-free transit will make it easier for unhoused individuals to travel to and from work opportunities, services, cabin communities and homeless shelters. In supporting the Freedom to Move Act and/or sponsoring legislation that would provide funds to agencies to provide fare-free transit, our county will help Metro accomplish this transformative goal to help better the economic and public health conditions for the underserved. In a survey conducted in 2019, Metro determined that the median household income was \$17,975 for bus riders and \$27,732 for rail riders. COVID-19 has led to an economic recession, and these lower-income riders have suffered the most from the consequences of this recession. Metro only receives approximately \$250-300 million, or 13%, in fares for its funding of operating costs, and this percentage has been in decline for the past 20 years. This small percentage can be replaced with funds established by the Freedom to Move Act.