



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 3, 2024

Re: Amending Chapter 22-29 of the City Code to Suspend Transportation Fares for Fiscal Year 2025 for Users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System.

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration an ordinance amending Chapter 22-29 of the City Code to suspend transportation fares for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System.

Discussion

Since the March 2020 Emergency Declaration, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, GoCOMO has been operating fare free. During the FY 2021 budget preparation meetings, the City Manager was made aware of GoCOMO's ability to manage expenses with current transportation sales tax (TST) funding and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operating grant and he recommended a pilot project to continue fare free for FY 2021. At the September 21, 2020 City Council meeting, Council approved the ordinance, amending Chapter 22-29 by suspending transportation fares for FY21 for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System.

At the September 20, 2021 City Council meeting, Council approved GoCOMO to remain fare free for FY22 with the American Rescue Plan and Care Acts funding. Those funds have now been expended. GoCOMO has been approved by City Council to remain fare free each year since.

The last full fiscal year to charge fares was FY2019. The Fixed Route revenue was \$247,322. Fares for the Fixed Route were \$1.50 for full fare, \$0.75 for half fare, and students under 18 rode for free. The Paratransit revenue was \$156,493. The fares for Paratransit were \$3.00 per ride. Ridership for Fixed Route during FY2023 was 524,625. Ridership for Paratransit in FY2023 was 56,009.

GoCOMO recommends beginning FY 2025 this same way while the Transit Study, currently in its final stages, is completed. GoCOMO will manage expenses for FY 2025 with current transportation sales tax (TST) funding, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operating grant, and the State operating grant. Therefore, GoCOMO is requesting to amend Chapter 22-29 to suspend transportation fares for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System for FY 2025.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: As noted above

Long-Term Impact: Unknown



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Resilient Economy, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
09/18/2023	B211-23 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to suspend transportation fares for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System for the period October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.
09/19/2022	B243-22 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to suspend transportation fares for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System for the period October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.
09/20/2021	B243-21 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to eliminate transportation fares in FY 2022 for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System.
09/21/2020	B211-20 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to eliminate transportation fares in FY 2021 for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System.

Suggested Council Action

Approve the ordinance amending Chapter 22-29 of the City Code to suspend transportation fares for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System for FY 2025.