



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 5, 2023

Re: Amending Chapter 22-29 of the City Code to Suspend Transportation Fares for Fiscal Year 2024 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) 2024 for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System. This is the fourth year that transit fares have been suspended. An analysis of the transit system is currently underway and staff will return to Council with those results at a later date.

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 been expended.

While the economic impact of remaining fare free gets tighter with each passing year, GoCOMO appears currently to have the ability to manage expenses for FY 2024 with current transportation sales tax (TST) funding and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operating grant and is therefore requesting to amend Chapter 22-29 to suspend transportation fares for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System for FY 2024.

In July 2023, staff awarded a bid to Olsson, a nationally recognized transportation consultant located in Kansas City to conduct an analysis of GoCOMO Public Transit System. It is anticipated that the results, including but not limited to future routes and fares, will be presented to Council for discussion prior to the FY-2025 budget year.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: Unknown



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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
09/19/2022	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 2024.