



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Council Memo

Department Source: Public Works

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: July 20, 2026

Re: Amending Chapter 22-29 of the City Code to Suspend Transportation Fares for Fiscal Year 2027 for Users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System.

Impacted Ward: Citywide

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) 2027 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 been expended.

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 FY2025 was 332,408. Ridership for Paratransit in FY2025 was 60,043.

If it is the desire of City Council to continue the suspension of fares, GoCOMO appears to have the ability to manage expenses for FY 2027 with current transportation sales tax (TST) funding and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) operating grant. It should also be noted that a return to fares would require the installation of modern fare boxes which will take approximately one year to purchase and install. Therefore, staff is requesting to amend Chapter 22-29 to suspend transportation fares for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System for FY 2027.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None

Long-Term Impact: Unknown

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Resilient Economy, Secondary Impact: Inclusive and Equitable Community,
Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Mobility,
Connectivity, and Accessibility, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
09/02/2025	B206-25 Amending Chapter 22-29 of the City Code to Suspend Transportation Fares for Fiscal Year 2026 for Users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System.
09/03/2024	B211-24 Amending Chapter 22 of the City Code to suspend transportation fares for users of the GoCOMO Public Transit System for the period October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025.
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 2027.