

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** July 10, 2023

**For the Metropolitan Council:** July 26, 2023

## Business Item: 2023-149

University of Minnesota Universal Transit Pass for Staff and Faculty

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

Execute a two-year agreement with the University of Minnesota for the Universal Metropass with the University of Minnesota for staff and faculty for the period of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, with an option to extend up to one additional year from August 1, 2025 to July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

### Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie introduced Revenue Operations Manager Lisa Anderson who presented this item. Vento asked if there are other higher education or K12 institutions who have expressed interest in something similar. Anderson responded that we do have agreements with Augsburg University, Anoka Tech and some others providing similar pass programs. Anderson added that in addition to Minneapolis K12, we have an additional 38 other high schools in the region that use the student pass program. Cameron asked if we are extending the pass program for staff and faculty in the K12 institutions and if the unions at U of M were involved in the discussions. Anderson responded that they currently don't have any expressed interest from K12 institutions for a staff/faculty pass and that there were negotiations between U of M and their unions since this is being provided as a benefit. Carter, Tyronne asked if we would do a similar pass for U of M students to which Anderson replied that we currently have student pass program for the U of M students. Vice Chair Chamblis added that this is added automatically during registration for the students.

Motion by Cameron, seconded by Cater, Toni. Motion carried.

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<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Income/Grants Policy FM 15-1 – Income contracts exceeding \$500k
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Lesley Kandaras, Interim General Manager, 612-349-7513 Edwin Petrie, Director Finance (612) 349-7624 Lisa Anderson, Manager, Revenue Operations (612) 349-7626
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit

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### Background

University of Minnesota staff and faculty have utilized a Metropass program for many years and has provided the University of Minnesota and Metro Transit an option to drive transit growth at this key institution in the Twin Cities. University of Minnesota employees and faculty took 176k rides using Metropass in 2022 and generated about \$594k in revenues. With the Universal Pass program, the University will provide a transit pass to all eligible staff and faculty. This program will generate \$1.7M in revenues the first year and \$2M in revenues the second year of this contract.

### Rationale

Approval of the agreement with the University of Minnesota will allow Metro Transit to provide affordable quality transit service to employees and faculty of the University of Minnesota. This agreement and the cooperation with the University of Minnesota position Metro Transit to once again be an important transportation provider for all University of Minnesota staff and faculty.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

This agreement with the University of Minnesota provides a transit option for all employees and faculty. The Universal Pass Program provides for an excellent transit option for employees at the University of Minnesota who otherwise might not be able to afford to drive or park at the University campus.

### Funding

The funding for these fare products will be financed directly by the University of Minnesota and

paid directly to Metro Transit. The pass revenues generated by the University of Minnesota contract have been included in 2023 and future Metro Transit operating budgets.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

This is a revenue contract for the Metropolitan Council.

