

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: July 28, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: August 13, 2025

Business Item: 2025-184

Student Pass Amendment between Metropolitan Council and Saint Paul Public Schools. Contract No. 23R009-11

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

Enter into and execute the amended Student Pass Contract no 23R009-11 with Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) to provide Student Passes to eligible students.

Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Metro Transit Sales Operations Specialist Blia Xiong presented this item. Carter, Tyrone asked about the income requirements, if any and Johnson asked if there were income requirements on the agreements with the five schools that Metro Transit replaces yellow bus service. Xiong did not have this information on hand but following the meeting confirmed that there is no income requirements for the student pass program, including the five schools that Metro Transit replaces yellow bus service.

It was moved by Obisakin, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried, consent to Council.

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: July 28, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: August 13, 2025

Business Item: 2025-184

Student Pass Amendment between Metropolitan Council and Saint Paul Public Schools. Contract No. 23R009-11

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Income/Grants Policy FM 15-1
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Alyssa Haugen, Assistant General Manager, 612-349-7502 Robert Casseday, Senior Manager Revenue Collections 612-349-7006 Blia Xiong, Sales Operations Specialist, 612-349-7713
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

Enter into and execute the amended Student Pass Contract No 23R009-11 with Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) to provide Student Passes to eligible students.

Background

The Metropolitan Council (via. Metro Transit) partners with the Saint Paul Public Schools to provide Student Passes to its Students. The Student Pass program provides unlimited ride passes to students as a vehicle for transportation to and from school. The pass is available to eligible students. The pass is valid for unlimited rides on all regional bus, light rail, and Northstar Commuter Rail (some stops require additional value for higher fare price).

In the 2024 – 2025 program year, Saint Paul Public Schools averaged 1,200 quarterly pass holders.

The new agreement between the Saint Paul Public Schools and Metropolitan Council is expected to see the continued average number of monthly riders, therefore we anticipate the revenues for the new agreement to be approximately \$1.9M for the five-year term.

Rationale

Council Policy FM 15-1 requires Council approval on income agreements exceeding \$500,000.

The Student Pass agreement with the Saint Paul Public Schools is anticipated to provide an estimated revenue of \$1.9M over the 5-year term.

Thrive Lens Analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive

MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, the Student Pass agreement with schools like Saint Paul Public Schools and others throughout the region provides transit options for their students and contributes to the Thrive outcomes of Equity and Prosperity. This program provides unlimited transit rides as an option and may be a transit benefit for those students who might not otherwise be able to commute to and from school.

Funding

These are revenue contracts; no funding is required. Revenue contract revenue will be included in the annual Metro Transit Operating Budget.

Small Business Inclusion

These are revenue pass agreements for Bus, Light Rail and Commuter Rail Operations.

