

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: June 24, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: July 10, 2024

Business Item: 2024-164

Student Pass Agreement between Metropolitan Council and Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis Public Schools. Contract Number 24R003-03

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Income/Grants Policy FM 15-1
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Dustin Crescini, Supervisor, Revenue Operations 612-349-7718 Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Edwin D. Petrie, Director Finance, 612-349-7624 Dennis Dworshak, Senior Manager Revenue Collections 612-349-7035
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Enter into and execute a new 5-year Student Pass Agreement with the Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis Public Schools beginning August 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029 to provide Student Passes to eligible Students.

Background

The Metropolitan Council (via. Metro Transit) partners with the Minneapolis 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 students who qualify for Educational Benefits (free and reduced lunch) and live within the walk-zone of the school. 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 2023 - 2024 program year, Minneapolis Public Schools averaged 8,390 quarterly pass holders and provided 593,704 rides in this academic school year.

The new agreement between the Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis 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 \$9.5M 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 Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis Public Schools is anticipated to provide an estimated \$9.5M over the 5-year term.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Student Pass agreement with schools like Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis 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 providing 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.

