

YOUTH MOBILITY FUND - QUICK FACT SHEET

SUMMER PILOT - WITH KRESA'S MYCITY YOU PROGRAM

WHO: Participants in the MyCity/YOU Summer Youth Employment partnership between KRESA and the City's Parks and Recreation department
WHAT: Unlimited free Metro bus rides for the duration of the MyCity/YOU program
WHERE: Metro's bus network
WHEN: June 17 – August 23, 2019

PERMANENT PROGRAM - WITH KALAMAZOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHO: All KPS High School students with their valid school ID's
WHAT: Unlimited free Metro bus rides
WHERE: Metro's bus network
WHEN: The program is intended to be permanent; each individual school ID will be issued yearly and will be valid for one year from the time of issue.

What is the aim of the program and who is involved?

The City of Kalamazoo (City) through support of the Foundation for Excellence is partnering with Metro (the public transportation system in Kalamazoo County), Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) and Kalamazoo Public Library (KPL) to pilot a new initiative known as the Youth Mobility Fund. The goal of the initiative is eliminating fares on the public transportation system for KPS students in grades 9 – 12. The new student ID cards will also be recognized as valid Kalamazoo Public Library cards, continuing the "OneCard" program that was started through a separate agreement between KPL and KPS in 2018.

The initiative's partners expect that tangible improvements in access to educational, employment, social and cultural opportunities for youth will arise out of the initiative. Removing barriers and creating new mobility for youth supports the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 Strategic goals of Youth Development, Economic Vitality, Shared Prosperity, Connected City, Inviting Public Places, and Environmental Responsibility. The intention of the program is not to supplement or replace KPS school buses but to create new opportunities after school, on weekends, and when school is in recess, as well as to aid students in attending school in unusual circumstances.

How does it work?

Using Metro's current, proven technology, an eligible young person (currently KPS 9-12 grade) boards a bus with their valid student ID, taps the ID on the farebox, presents the front of the ID bearing their photograph to the driver, and then takes a seat. It's that simple. Externally the cards will not differ significantly from existing KPS high school ID cards and no added steps will be required of high school administrators, students, or teachers to create, deploy, or maintain the cards. Schools will be printing IDs as before, just now on a different card stock. Chip cards are an everyday technology. The cards will be preprogrammed with only one piece of information: that the fare is paid for by the Youth Mobility Fund. No individualized, personal, or other data will exist on the card. Questions about riding the bus can be directed to Metro at 337-8222 or on-line at kmetro.com.

What about accessibility or taking your bike?

Yes, the Youth Mobility Fund provides for Metro Connect service to certified riders. All Metro fixed route buses carry two (2) bikes on their rack, but if the racks are full, then the bus cannot take more, so riders with bikes need to be prepared to wait for the next bus.

What about behavior and rules of conduct?

Metro wants all riders to feel safe and comfortable while using public transportation. If you are a rider you are required to follow 16 rules of conduct available at www.kmetro.com/riding/rules-conduct. Please note that all Metro buses are equipped with video recording devices. Riders may be recorded while traveling on Metro buses.

What is the need in the City for this program?

There is universal agreement among educators and youth development professionals in Kalamazoo that transportation is a major barrier to educational, career, family and cultural development of high school students. Furthermore, transportation has been identified as a significant thread running through the Imagine Kalamazoo Master Plan. Removing barriers and creating new mobility for youth supports the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 Strategic goals of Youth Development, Economic Vitality, Shared Prosperity, Connected City, Inviting Public Places, and Environmental Responsibility.

What resources are available to further assist young riders?

Program partners will be working hard to raise awareness for existing assets that can make fare-free transit even more impactful, such as Metro's myStop Mobile phone app and the Out of School Time youth program finder created and offered by KYDNetwork on their website. In addition to the City's and Metro's social media presence, the KPS *Excelsior* and KPL *Prism* newsletters are carrying extensive information, as will a dedicated web page on Metro's website www.kmetro.com. The City's 311 call service will have information to be of assistance. Staff will present and be available at KPS student orientations over the summer as well as at parent-teacher events as available.

Why now?

The Foundation for Excellence is for the first time making it possible to address a chronic barrier that has been identified by effectively all stakeholders in the community for many years: transportation costs.