

Resolution Urging the City of Albuquerque to Celebrate the Zero Fares Program

August 8, 2024

WHEREAS the City of Albuquerque Transit Advisory Board (TAB) has passed resolutions in support of transit equity and zero-fare transit since 2018; and

WHEREAS frictionless, pass-free Zero Fares eliminates the need for fare checks and enforcement, easing the stress level and workload of our bus drivers in a time when the City of Albuquerque has experienced a bus driver shortage impeding service; and

WHEREAS a core tenant of transit equity is that transit dependent riders have access to transportation they need and continuously inform decisions about public transit; and

WHEREAS over 77% of weekday and 80% of weekend bus riders ranked keeping the bus free as Most Valuable or Valuable when asked about preferred improvements to bus service¹; and

WHEREAS 76% of weekday riders and 79% of weekend riders report living in households making less than \$25,000 annually; and 61% of weekday passengers and 57% of weekend riders report that they do not possess a valid driver's license²; and

WHEREAS ridership has increased significantly since the inception of Zero Fares in 2022 and continues to rise steadily³; and

WHEREAS increased ridership has safety benefits by providing "more eyes on the street" for new and current riders alike; and

WHEREAS the Transit Department's monthly data dashboard shows a significant drop in security incidents on buses after Permanent Zero Fares became law; and⁴

WHEREAS the Transit Department's monthly data dashboard shows that most security incidents take place on bus platforms and at stops, not buses,⁵

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the TAB urges the City of Albuquerque to continue and celebrate the Zero Fares program in light of its success.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City of Albuquerque Transit Advisory Board (TAB) certifies this resolution and will share the resolution with the mayor and city councilors.

¹ ABQ Ride Onboarding Survey 2022: <https://abqrideforward.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ABQ-Ride-On-Board-Survey-Final-Report-20220707.pdf>

² ABQ Ride Onboarding Survey 2022: <https://abqrideforward.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ABQ-Ride-On-Board-Survey-Final-Report-20220707.pdf>

³ ABQ Ride Data Dashboards <https://abqride-cabq.hub.arcgis.com/>

⁴ ABQ Ride Data Dashboards <https://abqride-cabq.hub.arcgis.com/>

⁵ ABQ Ride Data Dashboards <https://abqride-cabq.hub.arcgis.com/>