

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE**

**DATE:** October 8, 2014

**ACTION**

**SUBJECT:** Subsidy to Student Transportation Costs with Foothill Transit

**BACKGROUND**

On June 4, 2013, the College entered a Memorandum of Understanding with Foothill Transit to establish a pilot program, named the Class Pass, in which Mt. San Antonio College students would be able to ride Foothill Transit buses free of charge for three semesters (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, and Fall 2014). This effort was contingent on the Associated Students hosting an election for a transportation fee in the Fall 2014. The California Community Colleges Fee Handbook specifies that, per Education Code 76361, "all students at a campus may be required to pay a transportation fee if a majority of the students at that campus vote that all students will pay." Therefore, if the ballot measure to pass a mandatory transportation fee passes, all students would be required to pay the fee.

Foothill Transit has compiled statistics on the Mt. SAC Class Pass Boardings from August 2013 through July 2014.

Total boardings: 808,947

Number of Class Passes: 6,430

Average ridership during school months: 83,918 per month

Average ridership during non-school months: 55,334 per month

Foothill Transit has estimated the cost to continue this program year-round (with summer included) to be \$503,355.00 and with summer excluded to be \$453,243.00. Based on these data, their projection is that the transportation fee per semester should be:

\$10.00 for full-time students, year-round

\$9.00 for part-time students, year-round

\$9.00 for full-time students, excluding summer

\$8.00 for part-time students, excluding summer

Results of a survey posted to the Foothill Transit website in December 2013 found that:

34% of respondents did not want to pay anything for the Class Pass

18% would pay \$1.00 to \$5.00

18% would pay \$6.00 to \$10.00

17% would pay \$11.00 to \$15.00

13% would pay \$16.00 to \$20.00

Prepared by: Audrey Yamagata-Noji

Recommended by: Bill Scroggins

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If the Class Pass was not in operation, students wishing to purchase a student Tap Card bus pass from Foothill Transit would pay \$33.00 per month or \$165.00 for five months.

In order to support Mt. SAC students and to be conscientious of ecological efforts to reduce the carbon footprint, the Board of Trustees is being asked to consider subsidizing the amount of the transportation fee by 50%. For year-round ridership, this would mean that the mandatory transportation fee would be reduced to only \$5.00 for full-time students and \$4.50 for part-time students per semester.

### **ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT**

The total estimated cost for the program is \$503,355.00. The estimated cost for the College at a 50% subsidy would be \$256,577.50. The cost to the student would be \$5.00 for full-time and \$4.50 for part-time.

A second option is to provide a lesser subsidy: Subsidy of 25%, for a total estimated cost of \$125,838.75. The cost to the student would be \$7.50 for full-time and \$6.75 for part-time.

### **Funding Source**

Unrestricted General Fund.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approves a subsidy to the student transportation fee.