

Student Transit Pass: Advocacy Summit Notes
Friday May 17, 2016: L.A. Trade Tech College
Note Taker: Giovanni Rodriguez, Student Center Specialist

1. Larry Frank, President, L.A. Trade Technical College
 - a. Welcomed all community colleges in attendance, including Cal State LA and UCLA
2. Denny Zane, Executive Director, Move LA
 - a. May 26, 2016: Metro Board Meeting: 9 a.m. at LA Metro Headquarters
 - i. Metro Board Room, One Gateway Plaza, (3rd Floor) Los Angeles 90012
 - ii. Request for students to advocate on behalf of student transit passes
 - iii. Contact: Gloria at Move LA for more info (213-304-0444)
 - b. Move LA is an advocacy group, current measures
 - i. Expo Line, Crenshaw Line
 1. Opened opportunities for South LA residents
 - ii. Student transit passes
 1. Current method is flawed
 - a. Takes 6 weeks to obtain passes
 - b. Only for full-time students
 - iii. Looking for additional funding sources
 1. Sales tax revenue
 2. AB 222
 - c. Fortunate to work with new leaders at Metro
 - i. Metro interested in student program
 - ii. Student voices are powerful
3. Student Panel: Moderated by Heddy Nam, Director, South L.A. Transit Empowerment Zone.
Asked what has your experience been like as a public transit commuter and why would student transit passes be important.
 - a. Monique Gonzalez, Trade Tech College
 - i. Transportation was decided factor for college
 1. Affordability and access, at the time trade tech had a more accessible program
 2. Different programs have different full-time qualifications
 - b. Luz Juan, East LA College
 - i. Noticed a divestment in Metro lines in South LA & Other areas of low income and communities of color
 1. Has to ride a bike half of the way, at times too tired to focus on school when arriving after a bike commute
 2. \$1.75 each way is not realistic for students living at the poverty level
 - a. At times, could not get to class because of no money
 - b. Pan-handled just to get to class
 - c. Had to “jump” trains and busses and risk getting cited just to get to class
 - i. Students of color face being criminalized just to get to class
 - c. Chase Fredrick, Commissioner of Student Affairs & Discipline, LA Southwest College
 - i. Imperial and Western are out of Metro’s Reach
 1. Not very accessible
 - a. Bus lines don’t serves areas that need it
 - b. Bus lines don’t operate well for night courses
 2. Student population needs public transportation
 - a. High amount of students over 35

- i. Low-income and going back to school
 - d. Lorena Aguilar, ASO Vice President, Los Angeles Mission College
 - i. Decided to go back to school after the age of 25 with two kids, car broke down and couldn't afford service
 - 1. It was either higher education or survive and work
 - 2. One bus line to campus
 - 3. Was fortunate to be accepted into CalWorks after waitlisted
 - e. Jesse Randel, Santa Monica College
 - i. Students can use any line at anytime
 - ii. Sticker with tap chip is added to the Student ID
 - iii. No place to park in Santa Monica, Bus Pass is a great alternative
- 4. Metro's proposed new student transit pass program: Stephanie Wiggins, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, LA Metro
 - a. Current broken system for student transit program
 - i. Full-time credit was not beneficial to community college students
 - ii. Bus line not aligning with course schedules
 - iii. Six weeks to receive pass was too long
 - iv. Additional funding from students/city/Metro was needed
 - b. New Plan
 - i. Step 1: Move away from full-time requirement to part-time (8 credits) by August, 2016
 - ii. Step 2: Passes will no longer be mailed 6 weeks later
 - 1. Distributed during registration on campus
 - 2. Sticker with tap chip
 - iii. Step 3: Metro will continue its plan of charging the school \$43 a month for each student that rides
 - 1. Metro will charge the school 75cents per boarding-max out at \$43 dollars for each student that used the tap card
 - 2. Identity future riders
 - 3. Feedback & monitoring
 - 4. The account will be reconciled at the end of each term.
 - iv. Step 4: Transit Watch App
 - 1. Increase safety and security
 - c. Intention is to increase riders, increase affordability, and decrease obstacles for students.
 - d. Devin Deming, Project Director for Student Transit Pass
 - i. Contact info: demingd@metro.net, phone: 213-922-7957
- 5. AB 2222, Nicholas Liedtke, Legislative Director, Office of Assembly Member Chris Holden (D-Pasadena)
 - a. Schools should apply to the transportation funding that is available
 - b. Use with student fees or activity fees to keep costs down
- 6. Moving Forward: Denny Zane
 - a. Sign online petition
 - i. www.movela.org/student_transit_pass_petition
 - b. Advocate for state funding via AB 2222
 - i. www.movela.org/ab2222
 - ii. got unanimous vote in the Assembly Transportation Committee on April 11, 2016
 - iii. Write to Governor Brown and Assembly Appropriations Committee Chair Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego).
 - 1. Letters by May 20
 - 2. Call Gloria, Move LA, 213-304-0444 for more questions.