

Summary of the Mayor's Low-Income Pass Initiative

Budget: The first phase of the initiative will involve a program where \$100,000 of Metro's contingency fund will be used to purchase 3600 low-income passes for the remainder of 2009, assuming a fare increase beginning April 1st.

Reduced Fares: The cost of the low-income pass will be half the cost of the adult 31-Day pass. The low-income pass will cost \$27.50 if the Transit and Parking Commission (TPC) approves the proposed fare increase.

Qualifications: Individuals who qualify for food stamps will also qualify for the low-income pass.

Specifics: The Mayor is proposing a two-phase approach to the need for low-income individuals to access affordable transportation services for jobs, medical appointments and other essential destinations.

This program will involve eligible individuals purchasing the low-income passes at a limited number of locations including at least Metro Transit, City Hall and the Dane County Job Center. This will be a limited program in that each month when the passes run out, eligible individuals will have to wait until the first of the following month to purchase a pass.

The second phase of the initiative will be developed by a special committee appointed by the Mayor that will include representatives from:

- Mayor's Office
- Community Development
- United Way
- Porchlight
- Salvation Army
- YWCA
- Dane County Human Services
- Metro Transit
- Transit and Parking Commission
- Other city staff

The charge to this committee will be to develop a sustainable low-income pass program for the Mayor's consideration in the 2010 budget that would not set a limit each month on the number of passes available.