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Agenda Date: 2/18/2021
Council Meeting

2021 FEB 18 A 9:03

CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

FRESNO CITY COUNCIL



Information Packet

ITEM(S)

File ID 21-284 (1:00 P.M.)

The Zero Fare Clean Air Act

Contents of Supplement: Community Emails.

Item(s)

Supplemental Information:

Any agenda related public documents received and distributed to a majority of the City Council after the Agenda Packet is printed are included in Supplemental Packets. Supplemental Packets are produced as needed. The Supplemental Packet is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 2600 Fresno Street, during normal business hours (main location pursuant to the Brown Act, G.C. 54957.5(2)). In addition, Supplemental Packets are available for public review at the City Council meeting in the City Council Chambers, 2600 Fresno Street. Supplemental Packets are also available on-line on the City Clerk's website.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):

The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or translators should be made one week prior to the meeting. Please call City Clerk's Office at 621-7650. Please keep the doorways, aisles and wheelchair seating areas open and accessible. If you need assistance with seating because of a disability, please see Security.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Cheri Beasley <CBeasley@communitymedical.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:34 AM
To: Clerk
Cc: District4; Laura Garcia; Gayle Holman; Bryn Forhan
Subject: Letter of Support: Zero Fare Clean Air Act
Attachments: Letter in support Zero Fare Clean Air Act.pdf

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Please see attached letter from Craig Castro, President & CEO of Community Medical Centers, in support of the Zero Fare Clean Air Act.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Cheri

Cheri Beasley, PACE

Executive Assistant to
Michelle Von Tersch, Sr. VP/Communications & Legislative Affairs
Community Medical Centers
a. 789 Medical Center Drive East | Clovis, CA 93611
e. cbeasley@communitymedical.org
t. 559.324.4769 f. 559.324.3719

From: Laura Garcia <Laura.Garcia@fresno.gov>
Subject: RE: Zero Fare Clean Air Act Presentation
Date: February 10, 2021 at 11:30:17 AM PST
To: Bryn Forhan <baforhan@comcast.net>
Cc: Terry Cox <Terry.Cox@fresno.gov>

Hi Bryn,

We are still working on finalizing the Council resolution language and will send it over once it's finalized. Nevertheless, I have attached a letter of support for community partners.

For the letter of support we hope this can be submitted by Tuesday, Feb. 16 to our City Clerk's Office at: Clerk@fresno.gov and cc our office at District4@fresno.gov
If there's anything else you need from us, please let us know.

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Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Joseph Rodriguez <silveradolowlife79@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:59 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Zero fair clean air act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

This is sad..I'm permanently disabled..and a \$1.25 to ride the bus is not a a huge expense to ride the bus..furthermore there is programs in place to help students and others whom truly need to go place to place..buy allowing free rides..you will be causing overcrowding of transits whom sole purpose is to ride the bus to avoid the elements..in addition to causing more problems for us riders who by having to deal with these people whom only want to ride the bus to cause problems and or sleep..where is the funding coming from to implement this change!!??

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: James Martinez <james.martinez@fcoe.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Clerk
Cc: District4; d4communications@fresno.gov
Subject: Trustee Martinez Letter of Support for the Zero Fare Clean Air Act
Attachments: Trustee Martinez Letter of Support for the Zero Fare Clean Air Act.pdf

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Please see attached letter of support for the Council Member Tyler Maxwell's Zero Fare Clean Air Act.

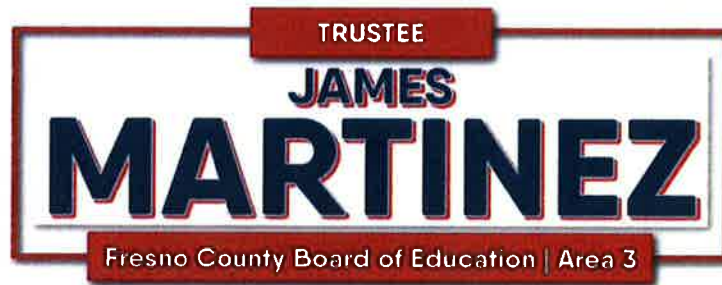
Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,

James D. Martinez

Trustee || Fresno County Board of Ed. || Area 3
USC || M.A. Communication Management || 2018
P || 559-824-5721
E || james.martinez@fboe.org
S || [Facebook](#) || [Instagram](#) || [Twitter](#)

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February 17, 2021

Fresno City Clerk's Office
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Letter of Support for the Zero Fare Clean Air Act

Dear Mayor Dyer & the Fresno City Council,

As a leader in the City of Fresno I respectfully urge you to support funding equitable transportation opportunities for all residents through the Zero Fare Clean Air Act (ZFCAA).

Growing up as a low-income child with my mother, I remember how much of a struggle it was to afford bus fares every month. We often relied on public transportation when we did not have reliable independent transportation of our own. As such, public transportation was my family's only option to get groceries for the month, run other household errands and as a student - go to and from school. I know firsthand the obstacles and financial strain bus fares can have on a family's budget, which is why eliminating bus fares will provide an accessible, and equitable public transportation system for all to use regardless of their socioeconomic status.

By eliminating the city-wide costs of bus fare, the City of Fresno would help reduce carbon emissions, increase FAX efficiency & safety, promote infill development, and build a more walkable City. The Zero Fare Clean Air Act would suspend bus fares immediately so that our city can address the dire consequences of COVID-19, heal our economy, and confront many of the social inequities Fresno has faced long before COVID-19 by achieving the following outcomes:

1. Getting more people vaccinated
2. Stimulating our local economy
3. Getting Fresnans back to work

As a Fresno County Board of Education Trustee, I believe this proposal will provide our Fresno community safe and affordable transportation to work, school, leisure activities, as well as medical appointments. I am proud to be supporters of this initiative. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at (559) 824-5721 or via email at james.martinez@fcoe.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

James D. Martinez

Trustee, Area 3
Fresno County Board of Education

cc: Mayor Jerry Dyer Fresno City Councilmembers

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Cordell Jelf <cordellcalif@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I wholly support public bus transportation in Fresno and it's continued expansion, free of fares and the expense of collecting those fares.

As a long time resident, I have known how difficult it is to get to a medical appointment, to get to work, to get to the grocery store without a car and also to return to home. I currently live in District 6 and don't understand Mr Bredefeld's opinion on this matter. I had to voice mine.

Cordell B Jelf Jr
1703 E Morningstar Lane
Fresno 93720

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Efren Alvarez <ealvarezctc@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:12 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

“Zero Fare Clean Air Act“

1st this title is not about “air” but the position of “free”.
Very misleading, and based on its title is trickery.

Now in regards to free, as a Bus driver for the pass years, Now I understand that free, brings about 80% elements that are abusive to the 25% who are truly getting from point A to point B.
When the BRT (Q) routes where installed, they were not free, but again, very little paid the \$1.25 or even the .60 cents, and the free riders brought heroine drug use on board, liquor parties, prostitution, drug deals, domestic violence, gang activity and child abuse, elderly abuse, and other violent crimes.
Reports were constantly made, and the bus system constantly was on hold or running behind.
The city riders who did pay, had to “pay” with the aggravation of always being delayed, hurt or put in danger.
Free! Those who get free have numerous other methods of getting free fare cards through social services and we find them being sold for \$1.00 a ticket and the bus depos.

NO I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE A NO VOTE.

Sent from my iPhone

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Terri Martin <tlmartin61@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Zero fare topic

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

KEEP THE FARES AS IT IS.

NO FREE RIDES.

I AM A CITY EMPLOYEE AND I SAY NO TO FREE RIDES.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Adam R <bestboy7985@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:22 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00 pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom it may concern,

Let me first let me say as an employee, this is concerning for so many reasons and plausibly somewhat an irresponsible proposal. As a driver I see first hand the number of individuals whom ride the bus system without a purpose on a daily basis taking up seats that can be used for individuals that need to get to workweek, doctors appointments, and etc. We deal with many in the community who are homeless and simply try and ride the bus in order to get out of the elements of the weather this in combination with mental health problems is disastrous on so many levels for the safety of us drivers and our passengers. Our busses our usually overcrowded with the elderly and children. Secondly, I find it irresponsible not to even have an exploratory committe to see the effects this will have on our community. There no real plan to fund this. Whats even more concerning is you have stated the FAX department would possibly have to figure how to cover any short commings. What I hear is that my employment and my family's livelihood my possibly be jeopardized if FAX has to lay some of us off or cut my hours.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: ayanna montalvo <acmontalvo20@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Act.

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

As the daughter and niece of local bus drivers creating free fare rides puts drivers at an even higher risk. Proven true by the BRT trial run. Please don't risk the safety along with the health risk our drivers are already taking by being exposed to the public during the current COVID-19/ Corona Virus outbreak.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Gabby Bejar <bejar559@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Free fare act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am a City of Fresno transit operator and would like to give you my point of view. I am currently on route 1 and we are at a 10 person capacity. There are days when essential workers are left behind because of the capacity. Making it free would mean all non essential would be abusing the system and not allowing out essentials to get to work. I am asking you when you make this choice think of our essentials. It's not a problem providing our passengers service through the front door. We have guards that prevents direct contact. Please keep our essentials in mind. When route 1 had fare enforcement we had people just ride around and as drivers we are not allowed to tell them to get off. This is a problem we got rid of and it's just going to square one. We had people sleeping in the back of the bus as well. Also eating and vandalizing city property. --
Sent from Gmail Mobile

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Amanda Gonzales <amandaluvz311@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom it may concern,

I am an employee for FAX and I feel that the new Zero Fare Clean Air Act is not going to help or benefit the employees or the riders in any way. From an outsider perspective it does seem like having a free fare system would be a great benefit but have you ever had to actually ride the bus? As is it right now we can only have 10 passengers on the bus. So, with the free fare this will mean a lot of people will not be able to rely on the bus system to make it to important appointments, work, school, and etc. This will be more of an inconvenience for the elderly, essential workers, and students. As it is we pass up so many people daily due to the bus being at capacity.

Another issue we as drivers will have to deal with is the homeless population using the busses as a shelter to stay out the elements. This is concerning because a majority of the homeless population has mental illnesses. This will put not only our drivers at risk of being assaulted but also the passengers. We see situations like this all the time. Me being a female driver, this makes me concerned for my safety even more.

We've already had a glimpse of how disastrous a free fare system is when the BRT was free. There were problems all the time on this route and it was so bad that drivers wanted to stay off of this particular route all together.

This proposal states that the funding will come from the Care Act. When that funding runs out, where is it going to come from then? Nothing is free. THE FAX department will have to figure out how to cover any shortcomings. This could lead to cutting our wages as drivers and potentially even letting drivers go. So, this proposal could put drivers and their families livelihood in jeopardy.

So, as a driver and someone who experiences what the bus system is actually like on a daily basis, I feel that this proposal is not something we should implement.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gonzales

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Amanda Gonzales <amandaluvz311@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:03 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act. T

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am requesting this to read during the meeting to be on record.

To whom it may concern,

I am an employee for FAX and I feel that the new Zero Fare Clean Air Act is not going to help or benefit the employees or the riders in any way. From an outsider perspective it does seem like having a free fare system would be a great benefit but have you ever had to actually ride the bus? As is it right now we can only have 10 passengers on the bus. So, with the free fare this will mean a lot of people will not be able to rely on the bus system to make it to important appointments, work, school, and etc. This will be more of an inconvenience for the elderly, essential workers, and students. As it is we pass up so many people daily due to the bus being at capacity.

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So, as a driver and someone who experiences what the bus system is actually like on a daily basis, I feel that this proposal is not something we should implement.

Sincerely,

Amanda Gonzales

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Walter Orr <bigjune2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Jobs

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

How will this free fare affect our jobs?

If, we allow free fare we're going to slow down the system for every rider that needs to get to work or doctor appointments or even school because other people are going to take advantage of the system just for their own personal enjoyment.

Sent from my iPhone

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Bridget Watkins <bridgetwatkins@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:07 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Comment to Council Zero-Fare Resolution please read during meeting

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Good Evening,

I am writing in opposition of the Zero-Fare Bus system. I am opposed because I have experienced the bus when riders thought the "Q" bus was free. It creates an unsafe atmosphere not only for the drivers but the passengers as well.

We are currently at a 10-passenger limit and regularly leave behind passengers due to this limit. Zero Fare will encourage those that would normally not ride the bus, to once again ride even though they do not have a destination. It will take a seat from a passenger who does have a destination i.e., work, grocery store, etc. I would suggest riding the bus for a couple of weeks for ALL your travel needs and experience what everyday passengers are currently experiencing with a 10-passenger limit.

It will create unsafe buses by bringing back homeless looking for a hangout while riding the bus from one end of the city to the other only to have a place to sleep, drink, or do drugs. Placing the safety of the drivers in a predicament as there are not enough police officers on assignment with FAX to handle the problems that occur on the bus. Problems arise on the bus daily even with the current fare in place. Making it Zero-Fare would bring more problems to the bus system. Please consider your decision carefully when casting your vote on the Zero-Fare Bus System.

Thank you,
Bridget Watkins
FAX Bus Driver

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Adan Rodriguez <adamr798579@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:20 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00 pm ID 21-284 zero fare clean air act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am requesting this be read during the meeting and on record.

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to give my feedback on the free bus fair system. I first want to say that I'm on a fixed income and I don't mind paying the fair. I believe it keeps a system of checks and balances. As a disabled individual I know first hand there are many programs available to help us receive help for bus fair. All this is going to do is cause more problems on the bus for us riders. As it is there are often mentally unstable and homeless people on the bus with no objective to go anywhere. They just ride to get out of the sun and the cold. Many of them cause problems for us. I've seen school age children as well as seniors be accosted by these individuals. Instead of sitting in your downtown office, I challenge you to ride the bus for a week or two to get back and forth from work to see how it is. You are clueless! I used to ride the bus down Blackstone when it was free and it was a nightmare. To the point that I refused to ride it. Please rethink this proposal. \$1.25 is not a lot for a ride.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: ATU 1027 <atu1027fax@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:21 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: ID 21-284
Attachments: Letter Against Zero Fare Act.docx

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Please see attachment.

Thank you,
Monica Chacon, ATU 1027

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

Division No. 1027 • Fresno, California

1221 Van Ness Ave., Suite 304
Fresno, CA 93721



Phone (559) 442-4140
Fax (559) 442-0544

February 16, 2021

Fresno City Councilmembers,

As interim president of A.T.U. 1027 I would like to address some of the concerns and issues my members have regarding the Zero Fare Clean Air Act.

- As you are all aware FAX implemented the BRT system in 2017. It was a system that had off board ticketing and used an honor system to enforce fare. During that time we had an abundance of assaults, disturbances, and services delays as a direct result of 'free fare'. A fare paying passenger has more accountability to abide by transit rules than one who would not experience any type of loss for being ejected off of the bus.
- During the recent pandemic we have reduced our passenger load to no more than ten passengers at a time to help with social distancing. Most people that have continued to venture out during the pandemic are fellow essential workers and there are already times that we must pass them up because we are at maximum capacity. Elderly persons, school kids, and disabled passengers would also be subject to being passed up due to passenger capacity.
- Many passengers that utilize our service do so because they have no other resources to get themselves to their jobs, doctor appointments, school, and households errands. We have an obligation to provide a safe service to our passengers. A fare less system would discourage our regular passengers from riding because the amount of troublesome passengers that would begin to ride. Fresno has a very high rate of crime, drug use, and homelessness. These issues are prevalent on the streets of Fresno and with the doors of FAX buses wide open they will no doubt spill onto there. When such issues arise who will be there to help? We already struggle to maintain police officers to fulfill the service contract, there are some days where there aren't any officers available to our department.
- There are many groups and agencies that provide free bus fare and passes to our most needy passengers. When I say that I am empathetic to their issues, I mean that from the heart. Not only because I love my job and love to help people but because I have been in many of the same circumstances that our passengers are in. I was a passenger off and on throughout my life, and my own children and father continue to use the bus service. If our buses reverted back to the state they were at the time of 'free fare' on BRT I would not feel safe letting them ride.
- Collecting fares generates revenue that allows us to be eligible for grants that allow for service area and frequency expansions which in turn permits us to service more citizens. Loss of revenue will lead to eventual service cuts and affect jobs. Bus driver jobs and jobs associated with the collection of fares. The jobs that we have with the City of Fresno have been a blessing to many of us. We come from many walks of life. We have come up out of poverty, single parent households, addictions, domestic violence issues, and many more situations. These jobs not only allow the employee to rise above the circumstances but their entire family as well, this is a positive impact on our community in whole.

Please take these items into consideration when you cast your vote today. We all want to help the members of our community prosper and grow but this is not the way to do it. The negatives definitely outweigh the positives in this situation, and I feel confident in saying this is the common sentiment amongst ATU members and the entire department. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Monica Chacon, Interim President/BA

A.T.U. 1027

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Walter Orr <bigjune2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:59 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Free fare

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I believe this would be against the best interest of our community..This will slow down our system for those who really need our help in transportation.This would call for a lot of undesirables using the bus as a means to just ride around and take seats away from those who really need our service.

Also, how would this affect our jobs as drivers and how does it affect our budget?

Sent from my iPhone

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Vincent Casella <vincentrcasella@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:01 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: ID 21-284
Attachments: ID 21-284.docx

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Transit Travesty:

There is a resolution being presented to the council to urge the leaders of Fresno to vote to make our transit system free in Fresno. Let me first take a moment to point out that many bigger cities in this state have not done this. Not even Santa Cruz or San Francisco? Has anyone stopped to think about the impact that this will create once this starts? Currently, there are public and private agencies that pay FAX for Passes and ride tokens for people that need assistance. Do you think they will continue to pay for these services when you are giving away free rides? You will start to erode away a transit service that is currently a stand-alone entity. Next, the removed fareboxes to replace them the department will have to secure the funding source of about 15-20 million dollars should we ever go back to fare collection. This is just the tip of the iceberg so to speak.

Currently, passengers are being passed up because of the restrictions of passenger loads on the buses what do you think it will be like if you make it free? This new influx of riders being left will bring an increase of short tempers and passenger situations which will result in a Supervisor possibly even police being called. Now you have compounded new issues because there are not enough officers to cover the contracted work, we have for them right now.

With the elimination of the fare, you are also eliminating all accountability by the rider. What is your recourse for when the rider does not abide by the rules of the bus? There is nothing. They are not out anything.

If you want to give free rides give it to Students, Fresno City College Students, Fresno State Students, or Partner with a park and ride to unclog our freeways, Lord knows how congested our freeways become. There are ways to make this system better you just have to work towards a better Fresno together.

Looking through all the submitted letters I see that a drafted letter was provided for many to use as a **template** so you didn't even have to think about what to say in support of this resolution.

Thank You,

Vincent R. Casella

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Looking through all the submitted letters I see that a drafted letter was provided for many to use as a **template** so you didn't even have to think about what to say in support of this resolution.

Thank You,

Vincent R. Casella

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Zalo M <zalo559@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:23 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Zero fare clean air act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

NO on zero fare clean air act

Sent from my iPhone

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Don and Sue Smith <dosusmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:44 PM
To: Clerk
Cc: District4
Subject: Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

My name is Susan Smith and I live in District 7. Before hearing of Councilman Maxwell's introduction of the proposed free bus fare I had heard of this being accomplished in other cities - notably in Kansas City, MO which is a somewhat similar sized city to Fresno. It was exciting to hear that it is being introduced here. I think this is exactly the sort of idea that needs to happen in Fresno. Free fare directly helps low income people and is the positive thing I would like to see come to this city. Clovis, Ca has also accomplished this. And it would be nice to have our two cities on board with this and actually work together to provide access to both cities to help people. I work at Clovis Community Hospital and I see the Roundup at the hospital all the time. Wouldn't it be nice if we could get people to commute and help clean our air in this valley. I hope the Council enacts Councilman Maxwell's proposal. Very innovative thinking.

Susan Smith
3705 N Anna Street, Fresno, CA 93726
559-240-3717

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Jo Chacon <jochaconsr01@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:53 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: ID 21-2184

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom this may concern: I am an 80 year old frequent bus rider for appts/etc. Allowing free bus rides congests the busses with the homeless who are looking for shelter. This does not allow our essential workers to ride and get to work timely, not to mention the chaos I've witnessed, endangering all lives including our City bus drivers.

Thank you for your time

Sent from my iPhone

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Valentin J Granados
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:11 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: "ID 21-284"

I have worked for FAX for over 15 years. The current resolution that wants to give free rides to everyone fails to take bus drivers and supervisors safety into consideration. For over two years the BRT bus route was a pay then board route or Honor System route. This route turned into a haven for the homeless and drug addicts. Honest hard working families were constantly harassed or worse, victimized because Farr enforcement was not allowed. It took six months of fare enforcement and readjustment to bring the route back to life. To bring the families back. To ensure that bus drivers could come to work and feel safe rather than pray they make it to the end of the day. Allowing this resolution to pass is not the answer. FAX is committed to helping families and keeping the entire system safe. Please allow us to continue doing our jobs in the manner we are so that we can provide the citizens of Fresno the best quality service anywhere.

Sincerely
Valentin Granados
Resident of District #2.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Ta'Shaumi Johnson <johnsonta312@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:17 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Re: Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

On Wed, Feb 17, 2021, 7:59 PM Ta'Shaumi Johnson <johnsonta312@gmail.com> wrote:

To whom this letter may concern:

In regards to the Zero Fare Clean Air Act, I personally believe it is not a good idea to allow a fareless bus system in the City of Fresno. I understand that the current pandemic has affected many families financially, but allowing buses to run without fares will make matters worse.

As a Fresno Area Express(FAX) Bus driver, I see a huge amount of homeless people riding the buses that I'm driving with no place to go. They fall asleep during the rides. At the end of the line, I have to ask them where they are going and some of their responses are "I'm just riding to keep warm". Well unfortunately, I have to ask them to debark the bus and tell them that they have to wait for the next bus and ofcourse pay their fare due to limited seatings where someone has to take that seat to go where they have a destination in mind to go and not just riding the bus for shelter, to get a good sleep in, or to keep warm. Many passengers who have someone to go are not being allowed to board if they're are 10 passengers riding the bus at a time. This is not fair for our current, loyal fare-paying riders.

Another problem with a fareless system is trouble makers and individuals who already board the bus. There are times where I have to continue to ask passengers who may be talking loudly using profanity to please refrain from using that type of language on the bus, due to the respect of other passengers. Sometimes, I cannot wait to reach the end of the line where those individuals can get off the bus. The intoxicated individuals will use what would be their bus fare to buy a tall can of beer and chug it while waiting at the bus stop for the bus to arrive and board the bus in a not so good manner. This could cause those type of passengers to trip and fall while boarding or onboard the bus, which could delay service due to bus drivers having to wait on a supervisor to arrive and assist the passenger if needed.

A fareless bus system will cause harm to the City of Fresno financially. I understand that bus fare is a small amount of revenue, but a small amount of revenue is better then no revenue. Without revenue, bus service could be cut leaving lots of those depending on the bus to be stranded as well as bus drivers losing their jobs, including myself.

In conclusion, I ask that you please rethink a fareless bus system for the City of Fresno. Again, it is not a good idea. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Ta'Shaumi Johnson

Bus Driver

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Monica Chacon <chaconATU@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:27 PM
To: Clerk
Cc: Ta'Shaumi Johnson
Subject: Fwd: Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

On behalf of Ta'shaumi Johnson

From: Ta'Shaumi Johnson <johnsonta312@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 8:11 PM
To: Chaconatu@outlook.com
Subject: Re: Zero Fare Clean Air Act

On Wed, Feb 17, 2021, 7:59 PM Ta'Shaumi Johnson <johnsonta312@gmail.com> wrote:

To whom this letter may concern:

In regards to the Zero Fare Clean Air Act, I personally believe it is not a good idea to allow a fareless bus system in the City of Fresno. I understand that the current pandemic has affected many families financially, but allowing buses to run without fares will make matters worse.

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Another problem with a fareless system is trouble makers and individuals who already board the bus. There are times where I have to continue to ask passengers who may be talking loudly using profanity to please refrain from using that type of language on the bus, due to the respect of other passengers. Sometimes, I cannot wait to reach the end of the line where those individuals can get off the bus. The intoxicated individuals will use what would be their bus fare to buy a tall can of beer and chug it while waiting at the bus stop for the bus to arrive and board the bus in a not so good manner. This could cause those type of passengers to trip and fall while boarding or onboard the bus, which could delay service due to bus drivers having to wait on a supervisor to arrive and assist the passenger if needed.

A fareless bus system will cause harm to the City of Fresno financially. I understand that bus fare is a small amount of revenue, but a small amount of revenue is better than no revenue. Without revenue, bus service could be cut leaving lots of those depending on the bus to be stranded as well as bus drivers losing their jobs, including myself.

In conclusion, I ask that you please rethink a fareless bus system for the City of Fresno. Again, it is not a good idea. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Ta'Shaumi Johnson

Bus Driver

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Richard Guerrero <richard.guerrero559@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:40 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Free fares

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I would like to let you know that I fully back Atu's position on this matter.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Laura Martinez <lauramartinez4104@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:50 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Free bus

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To the counsel members with respect, this is not to sound smart with you but to hear the reality of a driver in the front line of driving. I do not say to much but I do need to speak up. I believe that all of you counsel members should ride the bus for a good week and not just during the day but at night and then you would know why have the city buses free is a very bad idea. We are the professional drivers out on the streets everyday with a forty foot bus in traffic, differect weather conditions. Some of the public does not understand that cutting in front of a big vehicle does not stop on a dime. We as drivers need our focus on the big picture of the street as well as other vehicles. If the buses are free we will be looking in our inside mirror more then usual watching trouble passengers which takes away from the big picture. Here is a list of problems I see going to happen again just with the Q bus being free and then going back to charging fees. I heard a lot of passengers tell me they were happy that the city started charging again because it got the unnecessary riders off. Now we have back some control at least. List: 1. Limit of ten passengers and working people not able to get to work on time due to ten on the bus and we have to pass them up. How many buses do they have to wait to get on. 2. Public using bad language to the drivers more and wanting to hit/fight them and not all buses have the bigger security door on for protection. Some have a plastic small size safety that not secure because I enough had some one pull that open. But with other passengers not wanting to hear that. 3. Going to be a shelter for the homeless to stay warm/cool again. They get on at one end of the route and ride to the other end. Then jump on the next bus behind, doing the same thing all day and sleep. 4. More gang, means more fights, more drug deals. 5. Public littering, dirty our buses and more bio on the buses. 6. Not wearing their face covering leaving the drivers and public open to COVID-19. Some passengers have the same paper mask on for months because they are very dirty even the cloth one are dirty. 7. More drivers going out on sick, stress or Workers Comp. 8. Doing drugs in the bus, leaving their needles. More drunk passengers on. More panhandling on the bus that other passengers feel harassed. 9. More passenger accidents. 10. More lawsuits against the City of Fresno. If more people wanted to use the bus for clean air for work or use it for other essential they would have already. People want to use their own vehicle so they don't have to wait or transfer in adverse weather conditions. If this passes it will take along time or never to get the control back. Think of all the money lost on the Q bus enough if you get a grant it's not worth the big picture down the line of a mess. Please counsel members take this serious before voting, stand for the drivers we have families to go home too. My family prays for me to come home everyday safe the violence in Fresno is unreal. (I love driving for the city and I am always available. I treat every employee, management, passenger with respect and kindness) This is our city and we need to take it back and be proud of it. Martinez Family

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Jason Arce <74jarce@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:23 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act.

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom this may concern,

Please read aloud at meeting

I've been a Bus Driver for the City of Fresno for 5 years now, and am concerned about this Zero Fare proposal. I think it's a bad idea. Because of COVID-19, Fresno FAX has had to implement a 10 passenger max occupancy for Driver Safety, Social Distancing and to help stop the spread of the virus. Having a Zero Fare policy would only encourage individuals who don't normally take the bus to stay on board all day and because of the current 10 passenger Max occupancy, we would have to deny service to regular passengers and force them to wait for the next Bus....this assuming the "next" Bus has room.

When the BRT system was implemented with its "honor system" of paying before boarding, as a driver, I can honestly say we had more passenger vs passenger fights on board and an increase on assaults towards FAX Drivers. These were some of the reasons I believe FAX had to install a driver safety door for our security on FAX Buses. I feel having a Zero Fare policy would only bring those issues back and cause new ones.

Why not have some sort of a reward program for businesses to hand out free bus ride passes and encourage their employees to ride FAX rather than drive their personal vehicles to work? Certain High Schools and Medical Facilities already hand out free bus ride passes to their students/clients. Fresno State students with their school ID can board for free. Why not give a monthly pass to those who receive government assistance like WIC or EBT? I believe having a Zero Fare policy will eventually lead to job cuts for FAX Drivers. THAT is my biggest concern as I'm sure it is as well to my fellow co-workers.

I think the City can come up with better alternative ways to encourage the public to ride the Bus to help "Clean the Air". Maybe free rides on weekends only? The City of Salinas in Monterey County has "Free Ride" on weekends only. This is something perhaps Fresno can try out?

Thank you for taking the time to read and take my concerns and ideas into consideration.

Jason Arce.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Michelle C <cshell412@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:49 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: ID 21-284

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear City of Fresno Counsel Members:

Making FAX free will gravely impact our City in a negative way.

We provide service for the working class, underserved, elderly, youth some as young as nine/ten years old riding the bus daily alone. Could you imagine the level of risk and danger you would be subjecting our current passengers to who are of such a young age or our elderly?

Fiscally,
City of Fresno would lose millions in grants & have to pay back the current grants in full, millions!

May I suggest to you to take a look back at all the police reports from the last two years in regards to the current running line the "Q" for references in examples of public danger. Passing this bill, multiply that by ten fold at least With increased and elevated occurrences.

Maybe you should be looking at improving service, updating stops, making our City's already fragile transportation infrastructure better to serve the constituents in your area better, as opposed to making it a hub for undesirable theft & violence and ultimately eliminating the transit system all together because if this measure passes that's what will happen. The City of Fresno is growing and as such our City's transit system needs to grow with it to serve our growing population better in a more productive way.

In closing,
Think about that hard working parent that has to send their child off on the bus, relying on their child to remain safe, Or the elderly adult who has to use our system to pick up medication and groceries, safety first.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Michelle Collins

Sent from my iPhone

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Sean McMurry <seanam66@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:13 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Zero fare

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

In regards to the proposed free fare for fax busses, I can't imagine much research went into this idea . One would only need to look at the original free bus errrr I mean the Q when it was on the honor system ,and look at the increase in police reports, busses being held up due to unruly drunk passengers or passengers that soiled themselves!!! I drive that route watched them hop on trading who knows what out of back packs in back of bus !! We want this on all busses ? I'm not sure if the city knows who rides our busses can't imagine they ride or there family, but good people do ride the bus ,people going to work or elderly that can't drive anymore that need to get around or disabled people or people who just can't afford a car they rely on the system and the idea here is to pack them along with people that have nowhere to go ? This sounds straight out of loma Linda to quote the late great Rush Limbaugh, giving free rides won't help or fix anything but add or create more problems.

How bout instead start enforcing litter laws not with just a fine but 5 days community service picking up trash people would definitely stop after doing 5 days of that all day I see people throw trash out car windows or just on ground like its nothing!! And cite for handing money to these drug addicts on street corners need to stop the money flow get these people of the streets.

Hopefully common sense will prevail in this discussion and better ideas put forth that will actually clean up this city .

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Emi Chan <keatonemi@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 2:11 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom it may concern,

I have been an occasional passenger on our FAX bus system for the passed twelve years or so. During my time riding with FAX I have both enjoyed my time on the bus as well as felt safe during my trip. I am Fresno born and raised, I have called no other city my home. I have always been able to rely on the FAX system and have always been able to pay my fare.

I understand the motivation behind this proposed Zero Fare Act. The city is attempting to reduce the amount of financial struggles for the people who need the bus the most, the ones who transport their children to daycare or school and the ones who have a job to maintain or doctor's appointments to keep. While I am fond of the idea of helping out the people who require FAX services the most by implementing a Zero Fare policy, I believe that this policy may do more harm than good.

By allowing a Zero Fare policy, especially during a pandemic, I think it would harm the essential workers because more people would be boarding the bus and the ten person limit would be reached much quicker. Reaching the ten person limit would mean essential workers could potentially have to wait for the next bus, costing them much needed time in order to keep their busy schedule.

Not only are busses more likely to be filled quicker causing longer wait times, but there is also a risk of permitting homeless people as well as people who are under the influence to board the bus. I understand that they are in need of transportation too, but there is potential for the Zero Fare act to be exploited for a cool place to sit in the summer heat or a warm place to curl up during the winter. I truly believe that more needs to be done in regards to homelessness and rehabilitation but this is not the place to start, not when we run the risk of displacing essential workers trying to get their children to school and get themselves to work on time.

In addition to longer wait times and people taking advantage of the Zero Fare act, I believe it may also be more hazardous not only for our drivers but other passengers as well. Over the years I have witnessed passengers and would be passengers being more aggressive toward our drivers. I have seen a yelling match on a bus and I have heard, from my friends who work at FAX, that there have been incidents involving drivers being cursed at, threatened, and even assaulted. A Zero Fare policy would of course increase the likelihood of these types of incidents simply due to the higher volume of riders and while I understand there is a police task force assigned to FAX, I don't believe it would be enough to offset the amount of potential incidents. Our drivers are essential workers too and we do not need to heighten their chances of being abused verbally, mentally, or physically. The Zero Fare act currently doesn't have the opinions of the FAX drivers taken into consideration.

The Zero Fare Act was designed to financially assist those who need it most, and while I agree with the sentiment of helping those in need, I do not agree with the implementation of this particular act. I believe that this policy could do more harm than good simply because of increased wait times, higher passenger volume, and potential risk to FAX drivers and other passengers. There are better ways to save essential workers \$48.00, which is what a 31 day FAX bus pass costs and I implore you to explore all options before putting this policy into action.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Fresno Resident

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: rosemary bautista <rosemarybautista@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:59 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: ID 21-284

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am a bus driver with FAX and have been for many years. Upon hearing the news that there is a resolution being presented to city council that could result in free fares for everyone made me really upset. I had a lot of feelings of fear for my safety that resurfaced with this news. I was assaulted on the bus without any provocation on my part. I am one of the lucky ones who was able to obtain a restraining order against the assailant. But many of my coworkers have not been as fortunate and have continued to have to work in fear of encountering their attackers every day. I know of more than one of my fellow coworkers who have left this job because of an assault that they were the victim of and could no longer continue to do their job because of the PTSD associated with the incident. This is the type of situations that already regularly occur on the bus system and would only increase if we went to a free fare system. please protect me and my coworkers and the passengers! Passengers will follow FAX rules more often if there is a consequence to their actions, even if it is just a loss of bus fare.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Rosemary Bautista

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Elizabeth Smith <smigirl1204@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 5:45 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: ID 21-284

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Good Day,

I have been employed with FAX since January of 2013 as a bus driver. I enjoy talking with and getting to know my passengers. During this pandemic I haven't seen some of my passengers, because unfortunately they have lost their jobs and don't travel as much on the bus.

But the few that I do see, are on their way to work. They are thankful as am I to be working.

Because of this pandemic and our limit load being only 10 passengers, there are times that those passengers get passed up to get to their jobs or to apply for new jobs. I drive route 1 also known as BRT. When I see the disappointment on their face of being late to work I apologize and tell them the next bus is 10 minutes behind, BUT there isn't rapid service on every route. Imagine the employee that rides a 20 or 30 minute route or even an hourly route like route 45. We will be doing a disservice to those hard workers, that rely on public transportation.

Instead, the homeless man or woman or drug addict trying to stay warm in the winter or cool in the summer on the "FREE" city bus that boarded the bus at the beginning of the route, will stay on until the end of the line to catch another "FREE" connecting bus just to ride around, will have precedence.

And my hard working, fare paying, regular riders trying to get to work, or a doctors appointment, or a "destination" won't be able to.

I haven't even touched on the matter of safety. My safety is important as well as the safety of my passengers, some of the people that ride the bus are dangerous, they are violent, and disrespectful. I gladly take the brunt of it, but an average passenger getting on the city bus, paying their fare trying to get somewhere shouldn't have to.

My passengers have discussed the current debate of free rides for all with me, and they are not for it. They have concerns, not only for themselves but for me and my fellow bus drivers. Some of my passengers tell me they pray for me and all drivers because they see what goes on, on the buses.

I've encouraged them to voice their concerns to city council, to the Mayor or anyone that will listen but then they say "I don't know how, I can't walk into City Hall anymore because it's closed due to the pandemic".

So I write this email on behalf of my passengers that are concerned for their safety, as I am also concerned for their safety and comfort.

FAX has brought more CNG buses onboard the existing fleet of buses to help with cleaner air. Things take time and money. FAX will continue to do their part of helping the environment, but FREE FARES is not the solution.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M Smith

resident of District 3

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Juan Mendoza <royalmendoza@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 6:04 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Regarding zero fare clean air act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

This will have a negative effect on the city and bus system. I believe this will affect the people who really need the bus. Unfortunately I do not believe this can work. The bus will be leaving people who work, go to school, and are making important appointments. I have personally seen homeless use the bus as a shelter to go across town, get off the bus and jump on the next bus and shelter in that bus. They do this all day and it would be impossible for drivers to control this behavior and that is not the worst case scenario some of these homeless have mental health issues which can mean some are irrational or aggressive. I implore you do not go through with this as a concerned citizen.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: John Belle <johnbelle2014@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: (Free Rides) I'm Strongly against even the slightest thought of passing the free ride act. You and I can't got to the local gas station and ask the clerk for a free tank of gas! So why would anyone consider the ideal of passing an act of such, What's ...

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Sent from my iPhone

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Kinzea Thompson <ironbasher1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 9:00 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: "Subject line 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act."

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

This is a bad, bad idea. When Fax did the honor system for the roll out of our BRT program, driver and indeed, passenger assaults went up greatly. You really want to make a difference in the quality of the metro transportation system , you must bite the bullet and divorce Fax from the cities clutches and create a transit district. This idea you are proposing will only worsen the dismal number Fax achieves in numbers of buses versus population. We do not even make Metro magazines annual top 100 transit fleet rankings nor their biannual top 200 rankings, this being despite the fact we are what, the 34th largest metro area in the country? FAX seems to be getting very top heavy with admin and planning types while basic maintenance and repairs and upgrades get deferred for long periods of time in the shop. A very different organizational structure than when Terry Cooper or even Bruce Rudd ran the organization. Thank you in advance for any consideration of my concerns. KinzeaL Thompson

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Samantha Hill <hillsamantha88@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:00 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: [SUSPECTED SPAM] No Free buses!

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

ID 21-284

We do not need free buses. Everyone should pay and leave it as that.

We dont need over crowded buses with people that will vandalize it.

What about employees are they going to receive a wage cut? That's not fair. They risk their lives driving a bus.

I rode the bus for many years but I never thought in year 2021 that it would be free.

Please keep it under 2 dollars per ride. Nothings free. So why start now?

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: CHACON's WRENCHIN <mrjkc3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:48 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: [SUSPECTED SPAM] ID 21-284 zero fare clean air act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am a member of the people of Fresno city and I am sending this letter in regards to public transportation fair it is my position that things that are paid for are more likely to be cared for giving free transportation will only decrease the quality of service and The experience will suffer more dramatically the safety of our citizens will also be affected public transportation is already provided to low income families that need it and is easily available this is my input on the matter thank you

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Anthony Galindo <tonyjg3011@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:08 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: [SUSPECTED SPAM]

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Free fares will help the less fortunate in our city

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Celeste Martinez <littlecmartinez@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Comments for city council meeting February 18th

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I would like to make a comment regarding agenda ID 21-284:

My name is Celeste Martinez and I am in support of the zero fare clean air act. As a former student at Fresno City College, I had the experience of what it was like to utilize a bus pass that was given to me since I was a student. During that time, it helped tremendously and gave me the ability to travel to more places. Also, it gave me the confidence in knowing I had an alternative reliable means of transportation other than cycling. By giving residents free fare, you give many the option of being able to be independent, self-sufficient, and the ability to travel more often.

Thank you.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: celina Guerrero <celina.guerrero24@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:46 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1pm ID 21-284 zero fair clean air act.

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom this may concern,

As a person who rides the buss and having elderly grandparents I don't think it would be safe to have zero fair. It takes up space for children who need to get to school, essential worker and elderly people getting to there dr appointments. I don't agree with the decision to have free buss fair it is already affordable.

Thank you.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Matthew Paz <matthewpaz03@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 11:20 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: Id-21-284

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello my name is Matthew Paz I am currently a Fax bus driver who recently got hired in December. I've only been on the road by myself for a few weeks. And I can tell you just by these few weeks of working if we reduce the fare to being free on top of the 10 limit passenger we will have a homeless mobile unit instead of a bus to get people to thier destinations. Furthermore our fare is 1.25 regularly and .60 cents for senior & special riders thats cheaper than a tank of gas, insurance on car, car payment, etc. So I think the people in the central valley receive a great "bang for there buck" riding the bus with the fare. Thank you for allowing me to voice just a few of my opinions, there our so many more but so little time.

Matthew E Paz

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Josh Cruzat <jcruzat@mail.fresnostate.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:19 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Public Comment ID 21-284

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Good afternoon everyone,

My name is Josh Cruzat and I am a resident of Fresno and I live at 1720 E Fir Ave, Fresno, CA 93720. I wanted to speak to the council to implore those who might be on the fence of supporting Councilmember Maxwell's proposal to change their minds and throw their support for an initiative that's bound to change the lives of untold amounts of Fresno Residents.

Public transportation in this city is the lifeline for many of its residents and many riders usually fall under socioeconomic backgrounds that makes the daily fare a sore spot in their wallets. Abolishing the need for fares would put more money into the pockets of Fresnoans who need it the most whilst barely doing a dent in the overhead costs that Public Transportation costs the city. I understand that these are tough times and every dollar counts but that is most greatly felt with the elderly and young people working through a pandemic who need the transportation statement.

If you are in doubt of how much \$2.50 a day, the cost of one round trip, impacts a riders life please speak to some of them and you'll quickly find out how much a good you'd do by taking that burden off their shoulders by supporting this Act.

Best regards,

--

Josh Cruzat

CSU Student

Phone Number: (559) 691-1441

Secondary Email: nalcs.mika@gmail.com

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Robert Odam <rwodam@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:52 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Free ride fax

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am here writing you today to let you know that it would be a huge mistake if you made the busses free. First the homeless would always be on the bus taking seats from people who need the bus legitimately to get to work and not just use it for heating and cooling. My biggest concern though would be safety. If you make the bus free accountability goes out the window. People would do whatever they liked because they know if they get thrown off all they had to do is jump on another bus. If you give someone something for free it has no value to them therefore it can be abused. Look what happen when the brt was free. We had so many problems with fights and drivers getting assaulted. Good people will stop using our service and more bad will. How would you feel putting your mother grandmother or child on a bus you know isn't safe. Also if the system goes free our current system will be overwhelmed adding even more fuel to the fire when people are being left behind.

I have one question to ask the council. Are you going to stop driving your personal vehicle to take the bus? I'm guessing the answer to that question is no. Just like any other person with a vehicle would say.. Nobody that owns a car is going to stop driving it to get on an over crowded smelly bus adding anywhere between 15 to 45 minutes of commute to their trip. For any of you who said yes I guarantee it will only be until you see what a free fare bus system is really like. Please do not make our bus system free it will only end in disaster.

Thank you,
A very concerned current bus driver with Fax with over 8 years experience.

Wes Odam

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:55 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I request that my comments be anonymously put on record at the meeting...

I have been a bus driver with fax for over 5 years. I was a driver of the brt system when the "honor system" was put in place. During that time, the BRT was known as the free bus. Every night for my entire shift, I had problems on my bus. There was an increase in assaults, thefts, drug use and unruly behavior as well as homeless riders using my bus as a shelter and refusing to get off even at the time when my bus was out of service. I would regularly find used hypodermic needles on my bus as well. Riders were being harassed and solicited constantly. Making their bus ride an unpleasant experience.

To remove the \$1.25 bus fare and make the bus free would cause a huge increase in passenger and driver assaults and other incidents that our supervisors and fax pd would be overwhelmed by.

In addition, due to the pandemic, there is a limit of 10 passengers per bus. Making the bus free would cause so many people, tired from work and just wanting to go home or, trying to get to work on time to be left behind because of homeless people using the bus system as a shelter. Other cities may have had success implementing a free bus system, but doing it in Fresno would be a disaster.

I hope you make the right decision and leave the bus system the way it is in regards to keeping the fare in place.

Thank you for your time

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Claudia Gonzalez <cgonzalez@rootandrebounce.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Marco Martinez-Velasquez
Subject: Re: Public Comment

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Thank you. Below is my public comment:

Dear Mayor Dyer & the Fresno City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Zero Fare Clean Air Act. My name is Claudia J. Gonzalez and I am the Policy and Economic Security Advocate at Root & Rebound, an organization that works to restore resources to families and communities harmed by mass incarceration by providing services such as free, quarterly legal clinics and a reentry legal hotline. Our Fresno Women's Reentry Employment Initiative (FWREI) in particular supports formerly incarcerated and justice system-impacted women looking to improve their employment opportunities to better themselves and their families. Often our clients are single mothers who themselves, and their children, rely on public transportation daily.

We support Zero Fare Clean Air Act because our clients have been heavily and disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Women of color have the highest job loss rates within the last year, worsening their financial hardships. They utilize Fresno's bus system to attend meaningful appointments, such as to court, work, school, and to access service providers. Granting the community free bus services would help alleviate their transportation costs. We highly encourage you to vote to support the Zero Fare Clean Air Act. Thank you for your time.

On Thu, Feb 18, 2021 at 3:31 PM Marco Martinez-Velasquez <Marco.Martinez-Velasquez@fresno.gov> wrote:

Yes, Please send us your comment ASAP.

From: Claudia Gonzalez <cgonzalez@rootandrebounce.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 2:03 PM

To: Clerk <Clerk@fresno.gov>

Subject: Public Comment

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Hello, City Clerk,

I was wondering if I would still be able to deliver public comment regarding Agenda Item ID- 21-284 The Zero Fare Clean Air Act? And if so, what is the process?

If it is not possible, would I be able to submit written comment to the council?

Thank you for your time and consideration. Looking forward to hearing from you.

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In Community,

Claudia J. Gonzalez

*Policy Advocate & Economic
Security Coach*

*Fresno Reentry Women &
Employment Initiative*

She/Ella/Xingona

Root & Rebound

cgonzalez@rootandrebound.org

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*Root & Rebound's mission is to restore power and resources to the families and communities most harmed by mass incarceration through **legal advocacy, public education, policy reform and litigation**— a model rooted in the needs and expertise of people who are directly impacted.*

rootandrebound.org

"Educate a boy and you educate a man.

Educate a girl, and you will educate a generation."

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