

Agenda Date: 2/18/2021
Council Meeting

RECEIVED

2021 FEB 17 4 09 PM

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY OF FRESNO

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: Veronica Baker <msroni87@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

City council- My name is Veronica Baker. I have been a fax bus driver for almost 3 years now. I came on board just after the BRT system went into effect. The honor system. People keeps saying it was the free bus cause no one paid. As a driver that had that route for almost a year I have seen how it works. No one wanted to pay let alone follow the basic rules of riding the bus. We can talk about how Fresno is the fifth largest city in California and we only charge \$1.25 compare to the other larger cities. We have to have passengers take accountability to pay or we will have people just riding all day for shelter. Not to say how this could get violent for bus drivers and other passengers riding the bus. I have had close encounters but have been luck to not have gotten hit, spit on, or attacked, but have had coworker who have not been so fortunate. The free fare act would not be beneficial for anyone. We have a 10 passenger limit right now, how would this impact our essential workers, elderly, and students who are trying to get to work to take care of someone you may know , or trying to get to the grocery store to fill there home or trying to get to school. But because some homeless person(s) decided to stay on the bus I couldn't pick up that essential worker, elderly person, or student. Please reconsider how you this will impact everyone. I know it may sound like a good idea and a great thing to do, but is ? I think not.

Sincerely,
Veronica Baker

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Junior Villarreal <jrnboozie@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1pm id 21_284 zero fare clean air

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I ride the bus often and i dont think that the bus fare should be free for so many reasons.if it were free id rather walk due to the things that I would see in the buses.wouldnt be sanitary and there would have to be limits of bags on bus for me to ride the bus.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Monique Bautista <moniquebautista@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To Whom It May Concern:

I believe that there has already been a trial run of no fare bus rides...it did not go well. Making buses free for everybody creates an opportunity for people with nothing better to do to ride the bus all day long and harass drivers and passengers. VERBALLY AND PHYSICALLY. My wife is a bus driver. She doesn't complain, she doesn't argue...SHE DOES HER JOB. However, she is attacked and threatened on an almost daily basis by passengers who coincidentally ride for free. She is not the only driver and the danger is not limited to drivers. Passengers deal with this as well. Passing this act will make it unsafe for ALL passengers..children and elderly in particular. Not to mention unsanitary. Please reconsider this act

Thank you

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: bianca freitas <b.freitas1990@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:31 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID21-824 Zero fare clean air

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom ever this reaches. I am a resident and Tax payer in the city of Fresno and think a zero fare (free) transport is a terrible idea. I think the city of Fresno has it all wrong. If you want to help more people, FREE is NOT the way to go. Free means enabling. Allowing free bus fares means you will enable those who take advantage and cause a disservice to those who use the transportation as it is meant to be used. Homelessness in Fresno is an obvious problem, do you really think one more free or "zero fare" will help?! Have you thought of the assaults and robberies that can and WILL take place with free fare? What about the homeless who openly refuse to leave. I ask that as a city employee you take a ride on the bus yourself, im sure you've driven down highway 99, Look at the problems created with the idea of "zero fare" and free. This will happen to your city transportation too! Crime WILL spike and employees aswell paying customers will suffer. I see no actual benefit coming from this other than crime spike and employees who drive to not feel any kind of safety while working. What's the plan if all of these things happen? which they will! I'm sure there will be no repercussions or plan of action for those committing crime once this proposal has left your desk.
- a concerned citizen.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Jose Campos <jcc9erz@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:00 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00PM ID 21 - 284 zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

This email is in regards to the proposed act. If i have a vote it would me NO. Although the idea sounds good on the surface some startling details on the rose of violence against our FAX DRIVERS is alarming and down right scary. Innthe interest of theirs as well as public safety a fare of some sort needs to be instituted. Thank you for your time

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Mike Villareal <picasso55222@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:56 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

My cousin Amber Perry is a fax bus driver. And I am concerned for her safety if bus fare is made free. Please don't make it free for in doing so it will make the fax bud experience a horrible experience.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Mike Villareal <picasso55222@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:52 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Do not make the fax buses free to ride. It would cause more problems due to homeless using the bus as shelter and taking up seats of essential workers headed to work and other areas places. Keep the bus system safe and the way it is. Thank you.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Letty Cruz <cruzletty927@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:22 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00 ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I do not believe this is the right idea to act on.

You are not thinking about the safety of your CITY BUS DRIVERS. They go above and beyond for everyone they carry on their bus. Then you want to have it free. No we rely on having children ride the bus if needed to go to school. There are so many homeless people, drug addicts, child molesters who are not allowed to be near children for any matter.

People now days don't have respect for anyone. You have many people who depend on public transportation and are willing to pay. Some of these people are not willing to give up a seat for the elderly, women with children, I've seen it happen before my eyes. The bus driver literally stopped the bus looked around and made certain male passengers get up and give the ladies a seat. That is the proper way of doing things. What is \$1.25. It's nothing. It gets these passengers to the next destination safely and in a timely manner. My suggestion to you all council members: Why don't you ride the city bus if this doesn't pass and see with your own eyes what goes down in the bus.

Respect our drivers safety and our passengers. They are human as well. I hope and pray this does not pass and to see any passengers hurt in any way. Please protect YOUR CITY BUS DRIVERS.

Sent from my

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Marissa Chacon <missuhlove@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:10 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act.

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I writing in today to notify who it may concern that the no cost fare is not a good choice. As someone who rides the bus and as personally knowing a driver I think it puts more and more people at risk. 1.25 is a very affordable rate.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Cathy Molina <catmolina63@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:18 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: I'd 21-284

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom this may concern:

I am concerned that making the busses free will not allow essential workers to get to work timely, due to over load from the homeless.

I have an elderly father who rides the bus and I am also concerned for his safety and the safety of the buss drivers. I occasionally ride the bus and i am aware of the homeless population that has grown and this would be an outlet for them to keep sheltered .

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sent from my iPhone

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Susanne Sanchez <ssanchez143@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:20 AM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1pm ID 21-284 Zero fare clean air act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom it may concern:

First of all nothing is "Free". The tax payers would have to pay for it somewhere down the line. If bus fare was to become free it would increase the homeless riding it all day to stay out of the elements. It would essentially become thier mobile home for the day. As of now the passenger limit is 10. This would take seats from those who depend on the bus to get to work or doctor appointments. I'm concerned about the safty of the bus drivers. Free rides would increase assaults on them and even passengers. I know alot of families depend on FAX for thier daily errands and I know they want to feel safe riding public transportation. Please reconsider Free fare. It's not a good idea.

Concerned bus rider
S. Sanchez

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Lance Stroman <lrstroman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:49 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: 1:00pm ID 21-284 Zero Fare Clean Air Act

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I would like this comment read out loud. Thank you.

Good afternoon. With all due respect, free bus fare for all is not a good idea. I know from experience it is a bad idea.

I am a bus driver for FAX now for 23 years. I took the BRT Route #1 in February 2019 as my regular assigned route, when the route was brand new. I have been on this route since then, for 2 years straight. When the route was new, passengers were expected to pay their fare at the kiosk outside, and then board the bus. Bus drivers were not to question the passengers as to whether they paid their fare or not. As many of you know, the passengers were not honest. Most of the passengers would board the bus for free. Homeless, drug addicts with nowhere to go, and anybody that wanted to, would board the bus and sit for free. They would still be on the bus when I got to the end of the route. Countless times when I would get to the end of the route, I would ask the individual which bus stop they wanted. They would say they're just going back the other way. Then I would tell them, "Well, you know you need to pay another fare to go back the other way?" Most of the time they would just get off the bus and catch the bus right behind me in 10 minutes, for free. They would pretty much do this all day long, for free. They would just sit on the bus, take up space, and make a mess where they sat. They would throw their trash on the ground. Oftentimes, I would find hypodermic needles, and I would have to call in and have them come and get the hypodermic needles off the bus. Many times I would hear the regular passengers complain to me. They would say that they are afraid to ride the bus because of all of the homeless and very strange individuals that would ride for free. I didn't know what to tell them. It was a pretty sad situation. Eventually, last year, they put fareboxes in all of the BRT buses. All of us BRT bus drivers saw an immediate difference. The clientele changed considerably. Only people who had a destination, whether it was work or school or shopping, would ride the bus. **If the undesirable clientele have to pay a fare, then they just won't ride the bus. They will find something else to do.** The interior of the bus was not as dirty, and I have never found any hypodermic needles since then. As we all know, the virus has limited the seating to 10 passengers. If all FAX buses are free, undesirables will take up seats, and sit and ride around all day. The regular clientele, who are trying to go shopping and work etc., will have a hard time catching the bus if undesirables are taking up space, due to the 10 passenger limit. I seriously think you should not make the FAX buses free. I think it is a bad idea.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Lance Stroman

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Mike Meyers <mikewmeyers@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:25 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: vote no on free fairs on fax buses

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

You will be displacing services for people who are productive in there lives, such as the everyday worker who supports there family. You the city council will, encouraging homeless people to ride the bus. Remember we can only board 10 max because of covid restrictions. Do you remember Route 4 that serviced the downtown area. A lot of homeless people took advantage of that service. Thank you.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Danielle Parra <dparra526@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:49 PM
To: Clerk
Cc: District4
Subject: Zero Fare Clean Air Act
Attachments: ZFCA Letter of Support.docx

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

To whom it may concern,

Attached is my letter of support for Councilmember Maxwell's Zero Fare Clean Air Act.

Thank you,

Danielle Parra
Board of Trustees
State Center Community College District



Fresno City Clerk's Office
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
February 16, 2021

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

Dear Mayor Dyer & the Fresno City Council,

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

State Center Community College District (SCCCD) serves roughly 1.7 million people across Fresno and Madera counties, and well as parts of Kings and Tulare counties. SCCCD is committed to empowering its colleges through educational excellence. It is our mission to transform our region by providing exemplary educational opportunities and inclusive learning environments.

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

SCCCD believes this proposal will provide our Fresno community safe and affordable transportation to work, school, leisure activities, as well as medical appointments. We are proud to be supporters of this initiative. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at (559)360-9229 or via email at dparra26@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Danielle Parra
Board of Trustees
State Center Community College District

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Jazz Chauhan <JazzChauhan@mail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:24 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: Reference to... 21-284

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

My Vote is that they do NOT make the City FAX Bus rides for free.

There were several assaults when free rides were offered on route 1 and several homeless people used route 1 as Motel 6.

You do that to all the busses and you will see all the homeless people living on the busses.

So please don't make it free.

--

Sent from my Android phone with [mail.com](mailto:) Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Keith Bergthold <Keith@fresnetmin.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:18 PM
To: Clerk; District4
Cc: Christian Gonzalez
Subject: Fw: Share Your Support on Zero Fare Clean Air Act on 2/18
Attachments: Come share your support for Zero Fare Clean Air at the City Council Meeting.png; ZFCA - Metro Letter of Support_2.16.2021.pdf

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Dear City Clerk and District 4,

Please accept our letter of support attached.

Regards, Keith

Keith Bergthold

Executive Director

Fresno Metro Ministry

4270 N. Blackstone Ave, Suite 212 • Fresno, CA 93726

Ph: 559.485.1416 ext. 101 • Fax: 559.485.9109 • Cell: 559.250.1902

www.fresnetmin.org

“In the open spaces of democracy, we are listening – ears alert – we are watching – eyes open – registering the patterns and possibilities for engagement. Some acts are private; some are public. Our oscillations between local, national, and global gestures map the full range of our movement. Our strength lies in our imagination, paying attention to what sustains life, rather than what destroys it.” Terry Tempest Williams

From: District 4 Communications <D4Communications@fresno.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 4:27 PM

To: District 4 Communications <D4Communications@fresno.gov>

Subject: Share Your Support on Zero Fare Clean Air Act on 2/18

Hello Community Partners,

We are just a few days away from the City Council Meeting that will determine if our city suspends bus fare city-wide. I wanted to give you a few reminders on ways your organizations can support:

1. The Zero Fare Clean Air item was moved to **1 p.m.** on Thursday, Feb. 18

2. If you have not done so already, please register for the Zoom meeting to provide your input & support here: <https://bit.ly/zfcasupport>

You can also join by phone:

Call-In: 669 900 9128

Webinar ID: 990 9421 5178

3. Please remember to post on your organization's social media by **Thursday**. Don't forget to tag Councilmember Maxwell. Please see your toolkit for his handles. For those who have already shared, thank you!

4. Please remember to send out your letter of support included in the tool kit **by today**. Please sign and send to clerk@fresno.gov and copy district4@fresno.gov if you haven't done so already.

****If you will be speaking at Thursday's meeting, please reply to this email individually and confirm your participation.****

Again, we thank you for your collaboration on this project and we hope to be celebrating a victory on Thursday.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Best,





SUPPORT THE ZERO FARE CLEAN AIR ACT AT THIS THURSDAY'S COUNCIL MEETING!



THURSDAY, FEB. 18 AT 1PM
REGISTER: [BIT.LY/ZFCASUPPORT](https://bit.ly/zfcasupport)
CALL-IN: 669 900 9128
WEBINAR ID: 990 9421 5178

#ZEROFARECLEANAIR



Fresno City Clerk's Office
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721
February 16, 2021

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

Dear Mayor Dyer & the Fresno City Council,

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

Fresno Metro Ministry is addressing social, economic, health and safety issues experienced by children and families that remain in our neglected and disinvested neighborhoods by increasing access to and consumption of healthy food, improving the quality of the built and physical environment, and increasing the overall health and economic opportunities for underserved communities.

Better Blackstone is an emerging association of diverse people and organizations committed to seeing new investment and revitalization of the Blackstone corridor. We want Blackstone to be a successful place for expanding and starting businesses, safe and clean neighborhoods, mixed-use developments, rapid transit systems, and convenient services, recreation, and entertainment that meet every day needs. Better Blackstone members are leaders from businesses, institutions, and neighborhoods that have gathered since 2015 to build a shared vision and strong partnerships in order to actively build a Better Blackstone together!

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

Fresno Metro Ministry/Better Blackstone believes this proposal will provide our Fresno community safe and affordable transportation to work, school, leisure activities, as well as medical appointments. We are proud to be supporters of this initiative. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at (559) 485-1416 or via email at keith@fresnometmin.org.

Sincerely, *KR Bergthold*

Keith Bergthold, Executive Director

cc: Mayor Jerry Dyer Fresno City Councilmembers

Marco Martinez-Velasquez

From: Cindy Hernandez <cjhernandez@first5fresno.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 5:11 PM
To: Clerk
Cc: District4
Subject: [A/V UNSCANNABLE]RE: The Zero Fare Clean Air Act
Attachments: First 5 Fresno Support Letter - Clean Air Proposal - signed.pdf

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

Greetings,

Please see the attached letter in support of the proposal going before the City Council from First 5 Fresno County.

Thank you,

Cindy Jurado Hernandez, M.A.
Project Manager – Government & Community Relations



2405 Tulare Street, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 93721
559-558-4907 first5fresno.org

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Lighthouse for Children facility is open at a reduced capacity for essential administrative work only, and public access is limited at this time. Meetings and services are being conducted via telephone and web-based platforms. We are returning incoming emails and phone calls as soon as possible and appreciate your patience.



February 16, 2021

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

RE: The Zero Fare Clean Air Act

Dear Fresno City Council:

At First 5 Fresno County, we are excited to see the Zero Fare Clean Air Act (ZFCAA) come before you for consideration. We know, public transportation significantly impacts our communities and families with young children in the City of Fresno and beyond. Having our city respond in this way to support struggling families that rely on public transportation for their everyday needs is motivating!

We know, and surely you agree, children develop in the context of their community, and when their communities are flourishing, they too are thriving. We also know thriving is hard at best without adequate or reliable transportation for our youngest residents' parents and caregivers. Having an efficient, safe, and affordable transportation method assures that our families are equipped with the resources they need to prosper and get their children to school, the doctor, or the park.

Again, we are thrilled that the city council is considering this proposal to support public transportation in a new way and cannot wait for the positive outcome this will bring to our entire community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fabiola", written over a light blue circular stamp.

Fabiola González
Executive Director

c: Jerry Dyer, Fresno City Mayor
Fresno City Councilmembers

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Fabiola González

COMMISSIONERS
Brian Pacheco, *Chair*
Kari Gilbert
Shantay R. Davies-Balch

Hugo Morales
Marcia Sablan
Dawan Utecht

✉ 2405 Tulare Street, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 93721

☎ (559) 558-4900