

ORDINANCE NO. 023-53

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A  
UNIVERSITY PASS (U-PASS)  
PROGRAM AGREEMENT FOR 2023-  
2028 WITH PARTICIPATING  
COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND,  
OTHER CERTIFICATE-GRANTING  
SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, The Chicago Transit Authority (“Authority”) provides public transportation in the Chicago metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, After a pilot program, the Chicago Transit Board approved Ordinance No. 000-20, dated February 7, 2000, adopting a permanent University Pass (“U-Pass”) Program to provide unlimited rides on buses and trains operated by the Authority to eligible full-time students at participating accredited colleges and universities located in the Authority's service area in exchange for each participating School paying a daily fee to the Authority for every full-time student enrolled at the School, regardless of whether the students use Authority services; and

WHEREAS, On March 14, 2018, the Chicago Transit Board approved Ordinance No. 018-20, which authorized the Authority to enter into the current five-year agreement with participating colleges, universities, and other certificate-granting schools (“Schools”); and

WHEREAS, The Authority wishes to enter into another five-year agreement to extend the U-Pass Program through the Summer 2028 school term; and

WHEREAS, The U-Pass Program underwent changes from 2020-2022 due to the effects the COVID-19 Pandemic had on in-person class attendance; and

WHEREAS, The new U-Pass agreement identifies the required eligibility credit hours as four (4) per quarter or six (6) per term greater than a quarter to include part-time students based on the success of previous part-time pilot programs; and

WHEREAS, In August 2020, the Authority offered flexibility to certain U-Pass contract requirements such as waiving mandatory full-time student participation and offering an opt-in model for students to retain schools in the program; and

WHEREAS, In May 2022, the Authority approved a tiered pricing model to offer a price incentive for schools that enroll the entire full-time student population by lowering the price to \$1.00 per student per day for such schools while keeping the price at \$1.25 per student per day for schools enrolling less than 100% of their eligible full-time students; and

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WHEREAS, The new U-Pass agreement will offer a discounted rate of \$1.00 per day for schools enrolling 100% of their eligible student population and \$1.25 per day for schools enrolling less than 100% of their eligible student population plus the Seven Dollar (\$7.00) not-to-exceed cost of the Ventra card for each student, permits the Authority to pass on to the Schools any increased cost of Ventra cards after the first year of the agreement, and permits Schools enrolling at least 90% of eligible students to petition the Authority for a hardship waiver to receive the \$1.00 per day per student rate; and

WHEREAS, The new U-Pass agreement includes a provision to authorize short-term experiments which could increase ridership, enhance the Program, and inform broader new ridership initiatives, provided that the experiment does not decrease the U-Pass cost; and

WHEREAS, The U-Pass Program has proven very successful, and the Authority and participating Schools wish to continue the program; now, therefore:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CHICAGO TRANSIT BOARD  
OF THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY:

SECTION 1. The Chicago Transit Board hereby authorizes a new 2023–2028 U-Pass Agreement to begin with the Fall 2023 term and extend through the Summer 2028 term.

SECTION 2. The Chairman of the Board, or his designee, is authorized to execute, with each participating School, a five-year U-Pass Agreement which contains all terms of participation by the Schools in the U-Pass Program and the Authority's obligations under the program, permits each School to terminate the agreement at the end of a term upon sixty (60) days' notice prior to the next term and permits the Authority to terminate each agreement upon sixty (60) days' notice, and contains such other terms as are substantially in conformance with the CTA U-Pass Contract attached as Exhibit A hereto.

SECTION 3. The cost of the U-Pass to each participating School commencing with the Fall 2023 term shall be One Dollar (\$1.00) per student per calendar day for schools enrolling 100% of eligible students and One Dollar and Twenty-Five Cents (\$1.25) per student per calendar day for schools enrolling less than 100% of full-time students, plus a not-to-exceed cost of Seven Dollars (\$7.00) per Ventra card. The agreement gives the Authority the option to pass on to the Schools any increased cost of Ventra cards after the first year of the agreement and permits Schools enrolling

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at least ninety percent (90%) of eligible students to petition the Authority for a hardship waiver to receive the \$1.00 per day per student rate.

SECTION 4. The President of the Authority, or his designee, is authorized to implement short-term experimental programs to increase ridership and further enhance the U-Pass Program for terms of no longer than 180 days and will apprise the Transit Board of such programs as needed, provided that such experimental programs shall not reduce the cost as established in Section 3.

SECTION 5. The Chairman, or his designee, is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to implement the objectives of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

APPROVED:

PASSED:

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Chairman

May 10, 2023

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Secretary

May 10, 2023