



# Student Body Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Arizona

5<sup>TH</sup> SESSION 2022-2023

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**A resolution for senators to unanimously advocate for fare-free transportation and engage in initiatives surrounding this effort**

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AUTHORED BY: LADY DOROTHY ELLI, SENATOR AT LARGE '21-23

*WHEREAS,* The Associated Students of The University of Arizona (ASUA) serves as the official student government within the institution that represents the interests of the student body. The mission of elected and appointed executive officers and Senators is to serve the student body and ensure that student needs and demands are met.

*WHEREAS,* Transit fares from Sun Link and Sun Tran are currently free until January 2023 as part of the [COVID-19 relief effort](#) to ensure travel options are provided to Tucson residents who have been financially affected by the pandemic. In 2019, a [majority of Sun Link users \(61.05%\)](#) self-identified as full-time college/university students. Since then, this number has increased due to the significant need of University of Arizona students to have access to fare-free and accessible transportation.

*WHEREAS,* Fare-free transit has greatly benefited students for many reasons, including: 1) getting groceries and doing errands, 2) exploring various places in Tucson, especially for international and out-of-state students, which increases tourism within the city, 3) getting medical attention including appointments and vaccinations, and 4) commuting to work, all of which have been tagged as “necessities” by [Council Member Richard Fimbres](#).

*WHEREAS,* Accessibility is an important issue that needs to be addressed by ASUA as the official student government within the University. This translates to resources that ensure transportation is free for all students, especially those disproportionately affected by this decision financially. As stated in the April 2021 Sun Tran report, streetcar (Sun Link) ridership was [133% of the average April rates with almost fifty thousand people using the Sun Link and Sun Tran transportation services](#) daily. This further acknowledges the need for students to utilize this free resource to carry out daily activities.

*WHEREAS,* The Senators of ASUA value the safety of the student body. Fare-free transit will minimize the dangers of commuting and walking alone at night. Over the past few years, there have been a number of pedestrian hit-and-run incidents, which have deeply impacted the Arizona community. We would like to ensure that students are supported, safe, and that such tragedies do not occur again.

*WHEREAS,* Sustainability has been a major initiative of the ASUA Senate. Having fare-free transit from the Sun Link and Sun Tran services will encourage students to utilize this transportation service for everyday activities while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cars.

*HOWEVER,* As Senators of the University of Arizona, we believe that more attention should be focused on this issue from the University and the City of Tucson. We would like to ensure that we are taking an active role in supporting this effort by establishing that student voices are heard regarding this issue and fare-free transit matters are being addressed both at the University and city levels.

*THEREFORE,* It is imperative for Senators to take part in programming related to the support of fare-free transit and collectively engage in efforts that will allow students to amplify their voices about the current issue further. The following are some roles that Senators plan to engage in:

- 1) Recruit ASUA volunteers who can assist elected and appointed Executive Officers and Senators in the effort towards fare-free transit
- 2) Educate the student body about the fare-free transit effort by emailing college deans and doing outreach work (i.e., tabling, meeting with groups on campus, and presenting in classes)
- 3) Support the *#WhyIRide* social media campaign that has been posted on ASUA's social media platforms
- 4) Being present during important meetings related to the fare-free transit effort such as Senate meetings, meetings with Sun Link/Sun Tran staff, strategic planning meetings with executive officers for ASUA, and council meetings for the City of Tucson
- 5) Help in any capacity such as posting materials on social media, actively engaging in Senate discussions about the matter, and showing up to related events

ADOPTED IN SENATE ON **SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

VOTE:

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PATRICK ROBLES  
ASUA PRESIDENT

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NICO NIERI-LANG  
ASUA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

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DATE