

Resolution to Address Transportation Costs for NYU Students

WHEREAS, Students often overlook the cost of transportation when calculating the price of attending college whether it is subway, car, or bus.

WHEREAS, At NYU, on/off-campus student students pay on average \$1,132.¹

WHEREAS, 94% of all commutes involved public or self-powered modes of transportation with 41% coming from the subway.²

WHEREAS, NYU's community members span the entire tri-state area. Since 2009, the NYU community has spread further across the city. In particular, neighborhoods like Bushwick, Bay Ridge, and Long Island City have seen significant increases.³

WHEREAS, As NYU's Downtown Brooklyn location has grown, so has the share of the community living in Brooklyn (from 14.3% up to 20.3%). The community has also spread out beyond Manhattan and Brooklyn, with all outer boroughs and NYC suburbs showing modest increases.⁴

WHEREAS, Excessive transportation costs can not only impair students' academic performance but also increase the amount of time it takes for students to graduate if they graduate at all.⁵

WHEREAS, CUNY estimates that students should count on needing at least \$9,600 for personal expenses; of that amount, most students spend as much as \$1,300 during a nine-month period on transportation costs alone.⁶

¹ [2021–2022 Cost of Attendance](#)

² [2019 Transportation Survey Results and Findings](#)

³ [2019 Transportation Survey Results and Findings](#)

⁴ [2019 Transportation Survey Results and Findings](#)

⁵ [High transportation costs at community college](#). While this article focuses primarily on the specific needs of community college students, we find this relevant to the NYU student experience because of the high population of commuter students and the spread of the NYU campus across New York City.

⁶ [Student Budgets – The City University of New York](#)

WHEREAS, An unlimited 30-day MetroCard costs \$127 per month, \$1,524 per year for those who make the purchase each month.⁷

WHEREAS, Mayor de Blasio implemented the new Fair Fares program that provides half-priced MetroCards to residents already receiving public assistance from the city.⁸

WHEREAS, City Council Speaker Corey Johnson said "The turnstile can be the door to unlimited opportunity if you can get on, and we are just giving you the keys to open that door," regarding the Fair Fares program.⁹

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority's U-Pass program with 15 college and university partners; and the City Colleges of Chicago's Ventra U-Pass program for full-time students.^{10,11}

WHEREAS, MTA Long Island Rail Road and Molloy College have partnered to provide the first-ever discounted college ticket initiative for full-time students traveling to and from campus on the LIRR.¹²

WHEREAS, Many other cities — including Sacramento, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and Kansas City — offer free fares for students.

WHEREAS, Free and reliable transportation can help improve a student's attendance and academic performance.¹³

⁷ [Everything you need to know about fares and tolls in New York](#)

⁸ [Fair Fares](#)

⁹ [NYC Rolls out Half-Priced 'Fair Fares' MetroCard Program](#)

¹⁰ [U-Pass Program](#)

¹¹ [CTA U-Pass | The College | The University of Chicago | The University of Chicago.](#)

¹² [Molloy College, LIRR launch discount student tickets](#)

¹³ [Impact of College Provided Transportation on the Absenteeism and Academic Performance of Engineering Students](#)

WHEREAS, American University partnered with WMATA to launch the pilot UPass program for the 2016-2017 school year. The UPass program costs AU students \$130 a semester, or \$1 each day.

WHEREAS, A Washington Post Report concluded such a discount could make up for decreased ridership and boost revenue without hiking fares.¹⁴

NOW IT BE RESOLVED, NYU works with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to include NYU-DC in the U-pass program.¹⁵

NOW IT BE RESOLVED, NYU’s Office of University Relations and Public Affairs partners with the MTA and other transit agencies to provide students with unlimited rides through “university-negotiated fare bundling.” Under the plan, NYU bargains for reduced fares from the local transit agency and purchases passes for the entire student body, which students then pay in their student-activity fee.¹⁶

NOW IT BE RESOLVED, NYU administrators alongside student leaders work with the MTA to implement a pilot program for commuter students for a universal pass under the premises of fare bundling.

AND FINALLY BE RESOLVED, NYU makes it a mandatory student fee, it is considered part of the cost of attendance and included in overall cost calculations for financial aid.¹⁷

¹⁴ [Metro acknowledges breakdowns might be adding to a ridership decline](#)

¹⁵ The U·Pass program is available to any accredited college or university in the Metro service area. The decision to participate is made by each university community. Currently there are [31 participants](#).

¹⁶ With the potential of students paying more, we need a student poll to see whether students would support this. and also students can consent to pay or can consent to the idea of paying.

¹⁷ U·Pass Frequently Asked Questions:

Can the fees for University Pass be paid with financial aid?

Yes. Because this is a mandatory student fee, it is considered part of the cost of attendance and included in overall cost calculations for financial aid.