



Title: A Resolution of Support for the GCRTA UPASS Program (SR-5-2025)

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WHEREAS, the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (hereinafter RTA) U-Pass Program has for many years provided Cleveland State University (CSU) students with inclusive access to buses and rapid transit across Cuyahoga County for a modest per-semester fee (about \$57.50);

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2025, CSU announced that the U-Pass program would be terminated as of Summer 2025, citing an ambiguous Ohio State Budget Regulation prohibiting charging a 'special purpose fee' uniformly to all students;

WHEREAS, the decision to end this program created concern among students, especially those for whom public transit access is a necessity (commuters, part-time working students, students without cars, students who live on campus, etc) and would otherwise be unaffordable, with full-fare monthly RTA passes approach \$95 a month;

WHEREAS, Citing persistent student and community advocacy, as of August 13, 2025, CSU President Laura Bloomberg announced via campuswide email that a revised U-Pass program would be available for Fall 2025 - Spring 2026, but only for full-time students, on an opt-in basis for \$57.50 per semester; and

WHEREAS, the limitation to full-time students excludes many students who would otherwise rely on the program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Government of Cleveland State University hereby:

1. Firmly advocates for the full restoration of the RTA U-Pass program to include all on-campus students

2. Affirms that access to accessible and affordable public transportation is essential to student success, retention, and community engagement
3. Supports student-led grassroots efforts to restore, preserve, and expand the U-Pass program at CSU, including;
 - a. Ensuring the U-Pass is available to all students, including part-time students
 - b. Maintaining affordable pricing that reflects students' limited budgets and promotes transit use, environmental stewardship, and the CSU initiative to be seen as "Cleveland's University"
4. Calls on the University administration, including but not limited to: The Office of the President, the Division of Student Belonging and Success, Parking and Transportation Services, etc to engage directly with student representatives, the RTA, and grassroots student partners to;
 - a. Develop a transparent timeline and plan for reinstatement of U-Pass for the Spring 2026 semester and beyond
 - b. Explore funding models that allow part-time and non-traditional students to participate in the program that they have enjoyed and utilized for years
 - c. Monitor and report usage, impact, and cost data of the program to inform decisions;
 - d. Publicly commit to protecting the program from future abrupt termination without student input and widespread advance notice

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be distributed to all SGA members, delivered to The Office of The President of Cleveland State University, made available online, and made available to the student body upon request.

Jack Whitman
Interim Speaker of the Senate

Alysha Syed
Student Body President