



A Pace passenger boards a Niles Free Bus in Niles, Illinois.

P-4 Transit Fare Equity Programs

Initiative: Explore a range of different solutions (including establishing price caps) to provide equal access to service for persons of all incomes and reduce financial barriers.

implement
now

implement
later

FURTHER
INVESTIGATE

Supports Goals:

Equity, Responsiveness, Adaptability, Collaboration, Fiscal Solvency, and Integrity

Pace currently has the ability to setup multiple fare payment policies and classifications, and has for years facilitated many different fare payment policies that allow special groups of individuals lower priced fares. Examples include the Seniors Ride Free program and reduced cost transit fares for high school students.

Moreover, connected electronic fare media offers Pace many options for promoting transit equity. Weekly or monthly passes can be effective tools for frequent riders, but the upfront cost is often too much for low-income households to afford. Moreover, passengers with low incomes often pay more per ride than those who can afford an unlimited pass.

Thus, Pace is committed to exploring the feasibility of implementing price caps for the variety of unlimited pass options that currently exist (i.e. daily, weekly, and monthly passes). Price caps represent the maximum the customer will pay within a certain time period. No matter how many individual trips they make in any time period, the customer will not be charged more than the price cap amount.

One example of a regional equity program is what C-Tran, TriMet and Portland Streetcar use with the Hop Fastpass. Passengers can ride knowing they will not have to pay more than a day pass worth of transit value in a day, can pay as they go and only pay for the trips they actually take.¹¹

Overall, Pace will continue to investigate various ways of using fare media and other practices to allow more people to access the transit system while ensuring neutral revenue streams.

¹¹ TriMet, 2020. myhopcard.com/home/save-as-you-ride