

Dear Mayor Hales,

My name is Tierney Weymueller and I am a senior at Metropolitan Learning Center. I am writing to you about the Trimet Youth Pass. Each year this pass comes under fire. To me, this is unfathomable. The youth pass is an amazing program that gets students to school for free, which is as it should be in a public school. My school is not a neighborhood school. Students come from all over the city and it is this diversity which makes our school unique. The youth pass makes this possible. Our school utilizes the city through field trips to performances, historical landmarks and natural areas. The youth pass allows us to take this wonderful opportunity as using the city as our classroom.

This pass has taught me to independently navigate the city I love. This is especially important to my family as we don't own a car. This pass allows me to pursue my passion of dance and prepare me for my future as I use the pass to get to my internship. This pass allows me to step into the collegiate world and to expand my skill with French as I take the bus back to school from my Reed College class. This pass is essential to the youth of Portland and teaches them to be better citizens through the use of a greener mode of transportation.

Every student I have talked to in Portland is extremely grateful and reliant of their pass. I realize that funds are short and that some programs have to be cut but I implore you to reconsider the cutting of this program. We have suffered from many budget cut to our education; please do not cut our mode of transportation to school. This issue is extremely local and important to me and I appreciate and thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tierney Weymueller', written in dark ink.

Tierney Weymueller

Dear Mayor Sam Adams,

My name is Shiloh, and I am a junior in high-school. Last year, my school (Metropolitan Learning Center) had an all-school assembly. At the end of the assembly, one of the high-school students announced that students would no longer be getting free bus passes on their school ID's; afterwards, he asked that those who would not be able to get to school after winter break raise their hands. Around fifteen kids raised their hands. Nearly a class's worth of students, just at my school, are not going to be able to attend because the bus passes are too expensive. We cannot expect these kids and their families to just pull money out of nowhere, get a job, and pay for a bus pass. We cannot ask them to simply ride a bike, because a bike costs even more than a buss pass, and so does maintaining one that you use regularly. This may seem like a small percentage of students, but my high school is small, around one-hundred students. Not only that, but because Metropolitan Learning Center is located in downtown, we get students from all across Portland and the surrounding areas. A lot of the kids who raised their hands during our assembly are friends of mine, people I know to be from different areas of town. My point is, that no specific group of teenagers will be denied free transportation, and therefore denied an education. Teens from different areas, from different backgrounds, with different personalities are going to suffer from the choice the TriMet and the city have made. Not just the "undeserving," or the "lazy."

Astonished at the amount of kids at my school who rely on TriMet for transportation, I searched the TriMet website to see if they had any related statistics. I found a chart on the TriMet website, that clearly stated that a large percent of their riders are in fact, young people. It also states that twenty-six percent of TriMet's frequent riders use their services to get to school. That's second on the chart, the first being frequent riders going to work. In the end, there's no denying that there are a significant amount of teens in Portland who depend on TriMet.

During the same assembly I mentioned before, an article from Oregon Live was read aloud to the MLC high-school. The article was titled "TriMet to Portland Public School's Kids: Enjoy the Walk." I never considered not having a free bus pass an issue until I heard this article, and saw how many kids depend on TriMet. It stated "...for hundreds of students -- in a city where the on-time graduation rate is only 53 percent -- YouthPass might be the difference between going to school each day or bagging it." Fifty-three is an undeniably sad percent of kids who graduate in our city. What's worse is that I know from experience that teens in Portland have a lot of interesting ideas to offer. I've been to school in drastically different places over the past five years, and I feel as though a lot of the students I know here in the Rose City talk about politics and philosophy more than the latest Glee episode. Of course, many of these kids won't be able to attend school and expand on these ideas due to a lack of transportation.

In the end, the TriMet YouthPass truly is what "lifts teenagers off the streets and into the classroom," as well put by Steve Duin for the Oregonian. If the YouthPass doesn't stay, then the fifty-three percent of students that graduate high-school on time in Portland is going to drop by a significant number. Our schools won't just be losing students, but students will be losing friends, and teens will be losing opportunities. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Shiloh Ayala

April 2006

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14	9	10	11	12	13	14
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June 2006

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22	4	5	6	7	8	9
23	11	12	13	14	15	16
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Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
April 2006									
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(9:30 AM - 10:30 AM) Lewis reserves computer room Monday, 4-17, 9:30 to 10:15 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM) Susan's class 10:40 - 11:30 (12:30 PM - 3:00 PM) Susan's class 12:30 - 3:00		(8:30 AM - 11:30 AM) Susan's Class 8:30-11:30 (12:30 PM - 1:15 PM) 7x8 Computer Programming Elective - Mark Niemann-Ross instructor (1:20 PM - 2:05 PM) 7x8 Keyboarding Elective - Aaron Green instructor		(9:00 AM - 11:45 AM) Lab Closed for MAC upgrades - Unavailable except for print retrieval (1:20 PM - 2:05 PM) 4x6 Keyboarding Elective - Tom Dummer instructor		(10:30 AM - 11:30 AM) (12:30 PM - 1:15 PM) (1:20 PM - 2:05 PM) 4x6 GIMP/Art Show Elective - Larry Diener instructor (2:10 PM - 3:00 PM) 1x3 GIMP/Art Show Elective Larry Diener (2:15 PM - 3:00 PM)		(8:30 AM - 9:30 AM) Lewis reserves computer room Friday, 4-21, 8:30 to 9:15 (8:30 AM - 3:00 PM) No Tech Person in Computer Lab (12:00 PM - 3:00 PM) No Students after Noon on Fridays No Tech Person in Computer Lab	
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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Zoe Senner and I am a student at MLC. I am a junior, and I bus home from school every day. I do this with my student ID. My mother is still working when I get out of school, and very often the bus is my only means of transportation. MLC does not provide school buses. My daily routine, and story, is similar for a large amount of the high school populace. Public buses are crowded with MLC students after school. I am not the only student who needs a bus pas to get home, or to school. I am only one of many. Many students come to MLC because they would not, did not, or could not succeed at their neighborhood school. They thus travel from their neighborhoods to attend MLC because it is the best education for them. However, if they could not take the bus, they may drop out of school. Or their education would greatly suffer because they do not have the funds to pay for the bus to school. As you can see, having that free bus pass directly effects MLC students.

I am grateful for Trimet, and the fact that public transportation is so widespread in Portland. I wish to contrast from the many young people I know who complain about Trimet; about how buses are late, or trivial issues such as that. I believe these are easily excusable fault sin my mind. Public transportation is so useful, and I appreciate it greatly. So while I am grateful for Trimet services, I also know many people who can not afford a monthly bus pass, or tp pay for a ticket every bus ride. WE students need these bus passes, and not just for rides to our friends houses. We need these bus passes to get to our volunteer services that are required in school. We need bus passes to get to school, to get to work, to get to babysitting jobs. I can not count how many students from other schools I have heard talking to each other about how they are on their way to a sport practice.

This is why I am asking desperately that these bus passes are not taken away from me, or high school student in Portland. Thank you for reading this and thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Zoe Senner

Dear Mayor Hales,

Both of my parents work long hours every single day. Being 15, I can't drive a car, and also, being 15, I don't want to walk/bike the 15 miles it will take to get to my home on the other side of the river, if our Transit passes are revoked.

This may sound dramatic, the case being that tickets are only a few dollars, but the \$1.65 it costs every day will eventually accumulate to an annual cost of \$255.75, which are means I don't have.

If you take away my train pass, Mr. Hales, my parents will move me to my neighborhood school, which I know will not be great for me or my education. I fought so hard to get to where I'm at, at HCC, so please don't make my fight worthless!

Dear Mayor Hales,

My name is Rhune Kaya Kelley. I am a sophomore attending MLC. I am writing about the possible withdrawal of the limited bus passes. As you may know, MLC is not a neighborhood school. I live in St. Johns and my father works in Vancouver until 5 daily. The bus is my only transportation home.

In addition, I am part of an after school program I would be unable to continue with. This is a marching band for kids ages 12-18 that was started two years ago by the March fourth Marching Band. I am currently their only trumpet player, and it would be difficult for them to continue without me.

Thank you for your time and attention, and I hope you take this under consideration

Respectfully
Rhune Kaya Kelley

Dear Mayor Hales

My name is Audrey Fletcher. I'm a sophomore at M.I.C. which is in N.W. Portland, I live in S.E. so trimet is very important because my school is over 5 miles away.

My mom isn't working and I have two other siblings, one of which is in highschool like myself. If we had to purchase two bus passes every month it wouldn't be in our price range, because we already don't get enough money from my mom's retirement money to pay the bills, it's very close, so having to pay for two bus passes will be hard.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Audrey Fletcher

To whom ever it may concern,

My name is Miniam Valentine, and I attend the Metropolitan Learning center located in NW portland. Coming from a low income family, programs such as Free and Reduced Lunch and the free High School bus pass have benefitted my scholastic experience greatly. I understand why budget cuts may be necessary, yet the money that supports the free High School bus pass is not waisted.

If a student pays 1.65 twice a day, 5 days a week for 9 months, they will pay approximately 511 dollars each school year, and thats not even including the cost of transportation to extra curricular activities.

For families that survive on minimal wage, making about 12,000 a year that 500 makes a serious impact when supporting a family. Many lines will change along side the cut of the High-School bus pass.

Thank you for taking the consideration and time to read my

personal letter, and know that my
story does not stand alone

sincerely

X Miniam Valentine

Miniam Valentine

March 21, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am currently a sophomore at Metropolitan Learning Center. Although I do not take the bus daily, the majority of my friends do. I frequently use my Youth Pass during school field trips and I always have it with me. Before entering high school, I was always excited about the notion of having a free bus pass – I could not wait to get one! I greatly appreciate the safety that my Youth Pass provides. If I get stuck somewhere, I always have the ability to use public transportation. Free Youth Passes are an essential part of daily transportation for many people that I know. My Youth Pass has set the foundation for me to become a public transportation user, therefore having one less car on the road in the future. I hope that you will consider how the lives of high school students will be negatively impacted without Youth Passes. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrey Lind". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Audrey" and the last name "Lind" clearly distinguishable.

Audrey Lind

Metropolitan Learning Center

Dear Mayor,

Hello, I am a junior at Metropolitan Learning Center. As a young ~~emerging~~ emerging adult in the world I value the TriMet Youth Pass very much. I use the youth pass every single day and I wouldn't be able to attend MLC without it.

I live very far southwest, right on the border of Portland, Beaverton and Tigard. Too far to bike or walk, and we don't have enough money to buy me passed every month and drive me to school and back everyday. Living where I do and with the outside-of-school activities I do, the Youth Pass is integral to my life. I literally wouldn't be able to do half as many of the things I do or have many close friends without it. Summer without the Youth Pass is hard enough, but I couldn't imagine the rest of the year without it.

That's my situation with the Youth Pass in general, but there's also very many big-picture important things.

I believe the Youth Pass raises a generation of bus-takers. Taking the bus has taught me so many important life skills that I wouldn't have gotten without it. I know Portland so much better, and I know how to take the bus and how to interact with people. It also gives people incentive and means to take the bus, which is a way more green option than ~~taking~~ driving. Without the Youth Pass, I don't think Portland would be as green or look the way it does now. The Youth Pass also gives kids incentive ~~to~~ and means to get to school. Without I don't think the attendance or graduation rate of PPS would look or stay the same. Myself and many other kids rely on the Youth Pass to get to school and related activities.

Thanks so much for reading this and letting us have the Youth Pass in the past.

Sincerely, Nola Versfelt

3-19-13

Dear Mayor Hale,

Having a bus pass is a huge gift to me. It helps me to get to and from school, without having to pay every time. Do you realize that it costs \$2.50 each way to ride the bus without pass? This is a lot of money spent and a lot of money for a student who has no money for this.

Another reason why bus passes are so valuable is that students learn to get around the city without being driven around in cars. When we ride the bus it saves more gas which is less polluting to the earth.

Please don't take away our bus passes.

Sincerely,


Annie Morgan

Freshman at MLC

Dear Mayor Hales,

From an outside perspective, the student bus passes may not seem so important. But from my eyes, as a junior in high school, it is a very large part of my life. I use the pass to get to school and to get home, since the work schedule of my parents does not coordinate in a way that makes it easy for my younger brother and I to get rides from them to and from school.

Additionally, nearly everyone who goes to my school (Metropolitan Learning Center) needs the bus pass to get to school, as they have the same problem as my parents with conflicting schedules. MLC is not a neighborhood school, and students live all over Portland, so it is not an easy thing to simply walk.

Without the bus pass, I could not get to school — it's as simple as that. My family cannot afford to buy the two necessary bus passes for myself and my brother, so having the state provide a way for us to get to school and get an education is very important to me and everyone else at my school. We all need the student bus pass, and therefore would be utterly grateful if it stays available for us to use for our education. Thank you for taking the time to hear my voice.

Sincerely,

a concerned MLC student

To Whom it may concern:

I'm Tyler Opfield-Young, a student of MLC and a daily user of youthpass. Without youthpass, I have no clue how I would be able to even get to school most days, let alone participate in community service and other programs integral not only to my success at MLC but integral to my success in life in general.

Coming from a relatively non-privileged family, having to pay for a monthly tri-met pass for me every month is an expense we cannot afford to make as a family. Without Youth-pass, I would not be able to complete the community service necessary to graduate MLC, let alone get to school every day.

Youth Pass is integral to having ^{a school system} ~~a school system~~ free of any barriers of privilege. Loads of people are even worse-off than I, and without Youthpass I could easily see scores of people dropping out of a school system with an already-too-high dropout rate.

Removal of Youthpass is the definition of class warfare & oppression.

Thank You for reading.
Sincerely,

Tyler Opfield-Young

3/18/13

Dear Mayor Ales,

I am a student at Metropolitan Learning Center, an alternative school that welcomes students from all corners of not just Portland, but several other cities as well. At my school, we use this city as our teacher. Constantly, we take field trips that enhance our learning experience. Without these field trips, the students ~~very~~ would be bereft of crucial learning material. In order to have this city open to us, we use our Tri-met bus passes as our gateway to learning.

A gateway that will soon be shut to us.

This school needs the surrounding areas to teach us. We need the experience we have here in order to keep this wonderful learning environment intact. There is no other school like this in Portland. To have it lose its integrity would be devastating.

For years, school has been a battle for me. Being a TAG student bound to a starving, impoverished school system has left me hopeless. But, this school opened my mind. It opened my heart. I've always wanted to be a student at this school, MLC.

To have this school be subject to the problems that have haunted me all my childhood would be horrific. Due to lack of the city's money, students (myself included) have suffered. We are the future and we are being robbed.

I ask you in earnest... please help with the efforts to keep alive student youth bus passes. The fate of this city's future readers rests in your hands.

Sincerely,

Raven Elder (an MLC Sophomore)

3/18/13

Dear Mayor Hales,

Dear I am a student at Metropolitan Learning Center (MLC). In my opinion the idea of taking away the free student bus passes is not a good idea. The passes allow students, specifically at my school to get to school everyday. Those who can't get rides everyday have to take the bus/max, which is \$1.65. There are many students who don't have the money to afford that. This goes for all students in PPS who don't live close to their school, and are forced to bus every day. The student passes have done wonders to the PPS student community, things such as allowing kids to get to school, making it easier to take educational field trips, and most importantly encouraging kids to want to get to school because they don't have to pay. There are still 3 months on average that youth can't use the free pass. Which still allows them to make money, but on the sake and benefit of high school students getting a proper education starts at giving them a good, cheap way of getting to school. Thank you for your time. I hope you allow the passes to stay.

Sincerely, Nick Scheer.

Dear Mayor Hales,

I am addressing the issue of student bus passes for Portland Public Schools in hopes that you ~~have~~ hopefully considered keeping them. If these bus passes are to be discontinued, that will effect a huge amount of students. For example I live in North Portland and attend Metropolitan Learning center in NE Portland. I am not able to get rides from my parents because they both work full time. I know for a fact that I am not alone when I say that getting rid of these passes will effect many variables for many students. I am unsure as of Trimet's reasoning for pulling the passes but I am sure that something could be done about it or a deal could be reached by the city of Portland, Portland Public Schools, and Trimet, especially if the mayor backs up the cause. So as a student of Portland, please do what you can within your capabilities to enforce these bus passes so students throughout Portland can continue in school with secure transportation.

Sincerely,



Jonathan James

Sophomore at M.L.C.

Dear Mayor Hales,

Each month I take public transit to and from school 16 times with my younger brother. Without free bus passes my family would spend \$2.80 on bus fare. The school both I and my brother attend, MLC, is not a neighborhood school. I have an hour long commute using the yellow line and the 7 bus line. I depend on the free bus system almost everywhere I go without it my family would be spending \$33.60 ~~per month~~ on ~~the~~ and my brother's ability to get to school each day. I don't think it's fair to ask students to pay almost \$50 dollars on a yearly basis to attend school. What about summer school programs? Without free bus passes, high school graduation would become a financial impossibility to many of my friends and peers.

Max Records.

To Whom It May Concern:

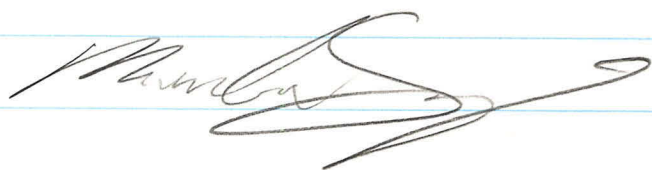
3/21/2013

Hello, my name is Miranda Day, and I am a sophomore at Metropolitan Learning Center. I personally take the bus to and from school everyday. I believe that every student should have rights to have a free mode of transportation.

Going to MLC, we do not have a set mode of transportation such as buses. MLC is not a neighborhood school, and people from all of Portland Public school boundries go here. I personally live an hour bus ride away, and without my free pass I wouldn't afford to get to my school. We also take many field trip were we use public transportation, and the passes assure we can all go.

This is a very important issue, and we really need to keep this asset to the community.

respectfully,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Miranda Day'.

Miranda Day

To Mayor Charlie Hales -

My name is Megan Kender and I am a sophomore at MLC. I use my Trimet YouthPass at least twice a day; ~~to~~ to and from school.

I live about a half an hour away from my school and use my buspass vitally, it's how I make it to class. Without YouthPass, my family wouldn't be able to afford my trip to school. I have a twin sister who also makes the commute and in a year my brother will also have to travel pretty far to attend highschool. This pass means to me a financially stable way to attend school, a way to feel a part of the community and a method to promote green and alternative transportation.

Why is it education is always lowest priority, first in the chopping block? Not everyone is privileged enough to pay to go to school, a "free" institution. The YouthPass is very vital for a majority of students in our city.

Sincerely,

Megan Kender

Parsons, Susan

From: megankender@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 8:30 AM
To: Parsons, Susan
Subject: City Hall

Hello, just confirming my testimonial spot about the Trimet YouthPasses at the City Hall Meeting next Wednesday. Thanks Susan!
-Megan

Request of Megan Kender to address Council regarding Tri-Met Youth Passes
(Communication)

MAR 27 2013

PLACED ON FILE

Filed _____

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  _____

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		