

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members of the Board of Directors

FROM: Peter L. Stark, General Manager
Shonda Shipman, Finance Director
Tami Coleman, Revenue Manager

DATE: April 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Modification of Agreements with Western Washington University and Whatcom Community College to Suspend Student Pass Fees

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve modifications to the Student Bus Pass Agreements with Western Washington University (Western) and Whatcom Community College (Whatcom) to waive pass fees during the current state of emergency.

BACKGROUND

WTA has agreements with Western and Whatcom that allow all students to use their college ID as a bus pass in return for a set fee per student per quarter. As part of the response to the COVID emergency, WTA suspended fare collection in mid-March. Coincidentally, this was at the end of Winter Quarter for both institutions.

WTA expects to forgo fare collection for the duration of the emergency. In addition, both institutions will be teaching Spring Quarter remotely, meaning that many students are no longer in the local area. Therefore, staff has prepared modifications to both pass agreements to suspend the student pass programs for the duration of the emergency.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated fiscal impact of suspending both student pass programs is \$28,600 per week. Should WTA resume fare collection before the end of Spring Quarter, we will require Western students to purchase the regular student pass at the posted price. Whatcom has committed to pay a prorated fee for the remainder of the quarter, if any.