

Establishing A Policy To Eliminate Mandatory Fares For Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) Service

Referred to: The Public Works, Capital Projects, and Transportation Committee (Chairwoman Petit and Legislators Fabiano, Litts, Nolan and Stewart), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gavaris and Legislators Cahill, Fabiano, Ronk, and Walter)

Legislators Phil Erner and Laura Petit, and Legislators Heppner, Nolan and Uchitelle offer the following:

WHEREAS, many Ulster County residents depend upon Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) services to travel to work, school, family, shopping and other appointments among other purposes; and

WHEREAS, costs of living continue to climb throughout Ulster County without a corresponding increase in incomes; and

WHEREAS, UCAT riders are disproportionately poorer / lower income; and

WHEREAS, mitigating and adapting to the global climate catastrophe requires a reduction in the total energy and materials consumed for transportation; and

WHEREAS, the collection and negotiation of fares can cause travel delays as well as tensions between UCAT riders and drivers; and

WHEREAS, an increase in mass-transit usage will correspond with a decrease in total motor vehicles on our roads, and an increase in the proportion of driving conducted by professionally trained drivers, which altogether correspond with a decreased risk of traffic violence; and

WHEREAS, Ulster County's Green New Deal calls for all county residents to have access to zero carbon transportation by 2040; and

WHEREAS, Kansas City, Missouri, and the State of Connecticut, both having larger populations than Ulster County, have either temporarily or permanently suspended transit fares; and

WHEREAS, the state and federal governments supply approximately 75% of the funds to fund Ulster County Area Transit; and

WHEREAS, the mean annual operating expense of UCAT between 2015 and 2020 was \$6,390,699; and

WHEREAS, the total revenue generated by UCAT fares between 2015 and 2020 was \$2,051,611; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, that fares to ride all UCAT services, including paratransit, shall be hereby eliminated; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the fare boxes on fixed-route buses shall remain in place, with an optional contribution encouraged from riders; **and, be it further**

RESOLVED, that every year after enactment the Director of UCAT, or their designee, shall deliver a report to the Clerk of the Legislature on or before September 1st summarizing the statistics and data regarding such passenger usage for the proceeding one-year period to be considered by the committees of jurisdiction; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2022 Ulster County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

| | <u>INCREASE</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| AA-5630-5902-4600-4660 (App. #) (Effective 10/1/2022) | Misc. Contractual Expenses | \$ 87,500.00 |
| AA-5630-5901-4300-4325 (App. #) | Advertising Services | \$ 25,000.00 |
| | <u>DECREASE</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
| AA-5630-5901-3120-2705 (Rev.#) | Bus Operations | \$ 87,500.00 |
| AA-0917-3205 | Fund Balance, Unappropriated | \$112,500.00 |

and move its adoption.

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 16 NOES: 7
(Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Fabiano, Hansut, Litts, Lopez, Roberts and Ronk)

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No Action Taken in Committee: Public Works, Capital Projects and Transportation on June 13, 2022

No Action Taken in Committee: Public Works, Capital Projects and Transportation on July 11, 2022

Passed Committee: Public Works, Capital Projects and Transportation on August 8, 2022

Passed Committee: Ways and Means as amended on August 9, 2022

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

~~\$122,500.00 — ANTICIPATED 2022 BUDGETED REVENUE REDUCTION~~

\$112,500.00 – INCREASE 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

\$ 87,500.00 – DECREASE 2022 BUDGET REVENUES (\$350,000 ANNUAL)

\$112,500.00 – DECREASE UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Erner, to amend the Resolution to add two Resolved clauses and update the financial impact, as indicated in bold font.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 16 NOES: 7

(Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Fabiano, Hansut, Litts, Lopez, Roberts and Ronk)

Legislator Roberts motioned, seconded by Legislator Litts, to amend the Resolution to add an additional Resolved clause stating, “RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall expire fifteen (15) months after its enactment, unless the policy is resubmitted and affirmed.”

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 7 NOES: 16

(Ayes: Legislators Corcoran, Fabiano, Hansut, Litts, Lopez, Roberts and Ronk)

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STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF ULSTER

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is the original resolution adopted by the Ulster County Legislature on the 16th Day of August in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Two, and said resolution shall remain on file in the office of said clerk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 18th Day of August in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Two.

|s| Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Submitted to the County Executive this
18th Day of August 2022.

|s| Victoria A. Fabella
Victoria A. Fabella, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature

Approved by the County Executive this
22nd Day of August 2022.

|s| Patrick K. Ryan
Patrick K. Ryan, County Executive