



# Free Student Bus Pass Program and Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)

Board Transportation Committee

February 25, 2025

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# Fairfax County's Free Student Bus Pass

- Program started in September 2015
- Allows all Fairfax County High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers to ride the Fairfax Connector buses for free
- We had 32,904 trips in January 2025



**3,549,546** trips have been taken by students

# Fairfax County's Free Student Bus Pass + Metrobus

Expanded in September 2022 to include a total of five schools.

- Justice High School
- Annandale High School
- Falls Church High School
- George C. Marshall High School
- Davis Center

Students who attend these schools can ride Metrobus for FREE in Northern Virginia, along with Fairfax Connector



## 448,669 trips

# Potential Additional Schools



List of schools interested in being included in the Free Student Bus Pass + Metrobus program

- Edison High School
- Fairfax Academy
- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
- Robinson Secondary School
- Lake Braddock Secondary School

# The Future



Combined these programs will reach more than  
4 million trips in February 2025



# Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)

- TRIP is supported by a grant from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
- TRIP goal: Reduce financially-based barriers to transit use
- TRIP Criteria: Criteria based generally on qualifying criteria for TOPS (Transportation Options, Programs & Services)
- TRIP provides a 50% reduction in fare for Fairfax Connector

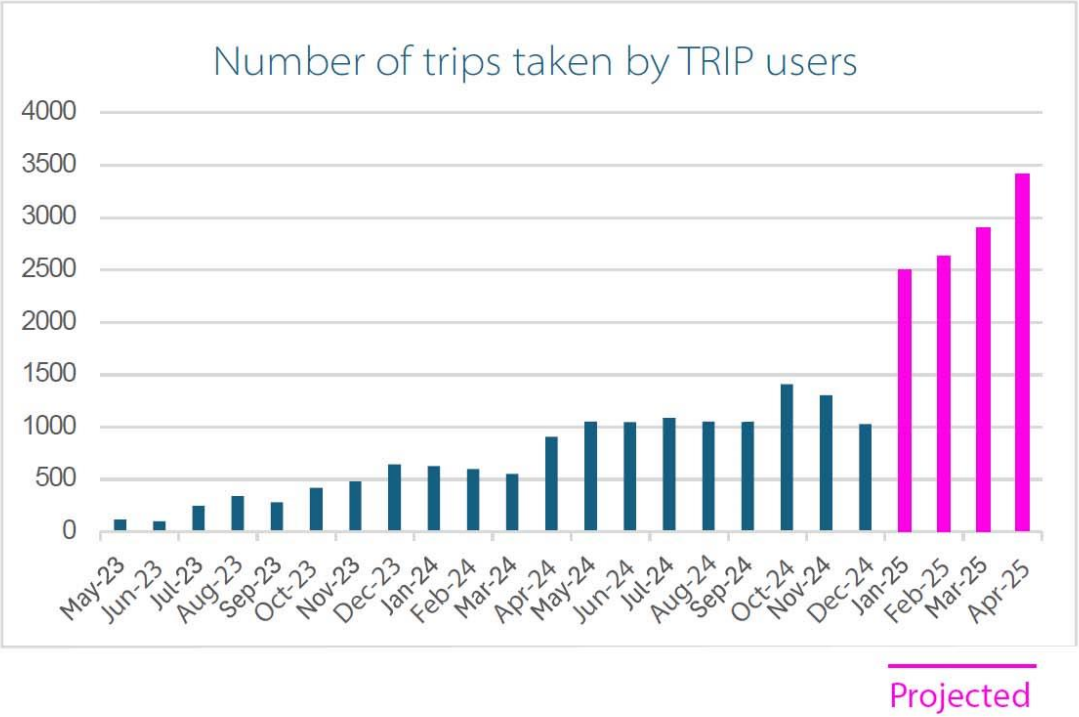


# TRIP Trips

May-23	119
Jun-23	99
Jul-23	249
Aug-23	341
Sep-23	282
Oct-23	419
Nov-23	480
Dec-23	645
Jan-24	626
Feb-24	600
Mar-24	553
Apr-24	909
May-24	1,051
Jun-24	1,099
Jul-24	1,108
Aug-24	1,029
Sep-24	1,163
Oct-24	1,439
Nov-24	1,246
Dec-24	1,101
Jan-25	2,490
Feb-25	2,607
Mar-25	2,889
Apr-25	3,401
<b>Total:</b>	<b>25,865</b>

Projected

Projections of TRIP Program\*



\* These are conservative projections, based on existing trends.

# Expanding the Program

- Initial two collaborators: Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) and Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH)
- Future coordination (not limited to):
  - Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
  - Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA)
  - George Mason University, Department of Family Services (DFS)
  - Fairfax Area Disability Services Board, Community Services Board
  - Non-profit organizations
  - Area churches



# Promotion

Fairfax Connector  
Published by Hootsuite  
February 3 at 9:58 AM

Do you qualify for Fairfax Connector's Transit Ridership Incentive Program (TRIP)?  
Details <https://bit.ly/46k7Afj>

**14,703 trips**  
were taken by TRIP users since May 2023

QUALIFIED RESIDENTS OBTAIN A 50% DISCOUNT FOR ALL FAIRFAX CONNECTOR ROUTES.

TRIP  
SmartTrip

Fairfax Connector  
Published by Hootsuite  
January 15

<https://bit.ly/2AyxspL>

No car, no worries.  
Ride the Connector  
to your part-time job  
for FREE!

Fairfax Connector  
Published by Hootsuite  
January 13

Middle and high school students in Fairfax County have taken nearly 4 million FREE trips on Connector! Still don't have your Student Bus Pass? Get one <https://bit.ly/2AyxspL>

**3,892,591**  
trips taken by students since 2016

- Printed material
- Social media material
- Videos
- 2d animated material
- Active participation in fairs and festivals
- School visits
- Presentations in community activities
- Interviews



## Feedback Requested from the Board:

Does the Board have thoughts about the expansion of either/both programs?

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