



**FAIR CALGARY COMMUNITY
VOICES
PUBLIC BRIEF TO
CITY OF CALGARY BUDGET
2023-2026**



**Fair Calgary Community
Voices is calling on the City
of Calgary to freeze the fares
of the Low-Income Transit
Pass and the Low Income
Seniors pass at 2021 prices**





**FREEZING FARES AT 2021 PRICES
WILL SHOW THAT CITY COUNCIL
HAS LISTENED TO THOSE WITH
THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF
POVERTY.**

How:

Safety, reliability, and affordability are the top areas of focus of the most recent Calgary Transit Business Plan

FCCV is pleased that the City of Calgary has recognized the importance of affordable and accessible public transit in their 2023-2026 budget. We recommend that the Low Income Transit Pass remain affordable for those people that depend on it every day to connect them to community.

82% of 2021 LITP (Low Income Transit Pass) Survey respondents stated that the LITP was affordable
86% indicated that it was saving them money, with the most common usage of saved money going to purchase other necessities.

Of 14 Calgary residents who qualify for the LITP, 86% mentioned affordability when asked to share their experiences with the Low-Income Transit Pass.

100% of 18 women at the Women's Centre stated they could not afford even a slight increase in the cost of their transit pass

***"[thanks to the low-income transit pass I can...]
Afford the pass. Otherwise, it is too expensive,
and I cannot afford it."***

***"It gives me more money to buy decent food [...] it
is more money I can spend on necessities."***





The Low-Income Transit Pass is utilized by all regions of the city; it gets people where they need to go; it supports healthy and active lifestyles; and it reduces social isolation for those most at risk.

How:

72% of 2021 LITP Survey respondents indicated that it helped maintain social ties (visit family and friends) and 77% said it made it easier to get to medical and other appointments.

Compared to other groups, new immigrants, (lived in Canada for less than 3 years) indicated they relied on public transport for personal, work, medical, and social trips.

Three out of four people who came from lower income households (annual household income less than \$30,000) are more likely to use pass for personal trips such as shopping, healthcare, and social trips.

In a 2022 Calgary Food Bank survey, 55% of those arriving by transit had a LITP

"I'm very thankful because I would not be able to afford to go to all my appointments, or my amazing workshops, or see my family. Or get a peace of mind when I need to leave my house. Thank you Fair Entry."

"It improves my quality of life."





All transit passes are an integral part of public transit infrastructure.

How:

For all age groups except for seniors, transit use increased after purchasing LITP.

Youth had largest increase in usage after purchase, which might reflect more consistent in person attendance at academic institutions in 2021.

75% of respondents indicated they are able to go to different places in the city

Of Food Bank Survey respondents with the LITP, 50% stated their LITP allowed them to travel across the city and to different places in the city





Transit ridership adds to the local economy by enabling people to find and keep jobs and delivering people to businesses.

The LITP reduces the rate of transit fines, lowering costly administrative impact.

How:

Majority of users who use the LITP are working as more than 50% of the pass purchasers are employed, including almost one in four who are employed full time.

Seven in 10 purchasers who are working indicated the LITP allowed a member of their household to look for jobs they would not have tried to find before.

This number jumps close to nine in 10, when the pass purchaser is unemployed and is looking for work.

Higher percent of purchasers who identify as an Aboriginal, Indigenous, First Nations, Métis or Inuk (Inuit) person indicated that LITP helped someone in their household to look for a job and keep a job.

Younger workers (18-24) are more likely to indicate that the LITP helped them get a job and keep a job

Calgary's business community (outlined in the 2023-2026 budget engagement report) support improved transit





A main theme of the 2023-2026 budget engagement was affordable and accessible public transit for all

How:

Calgary offers the most affordable Low-Income Transit Pass compared to all Canadian cities; we are the leading edge.

The City of Edmonton is proposing a 2-year freeze on all subsidized transit passes in their 2023-2026 Budget.





CONCLUSION

DATA SOURCES

Fair Entry 2021
Low-income transit pass Survey

Women's Centre of Calgary Poll
November 2022

Calgary Food Bank Survey,
Walk in Survey, October -November 2022

Fair Calgary Community Voices
postcard survey, November 2022

