

Good Morning,

My name is Kimberley Matthews and I am here on behalf of the Calgary Ability Network Transportation and Poverty Reduction Working Groups.

We wish to express our gratitude to Council for the work that has been done towards developing a single entry system for low income Calgarians. This important project will increase the capacity of many low income citizens to engage in their communities. We thank Council also, for the interest in exploring alternative low income transit options. For many Calgarians who live at or slightly above LICO, community accessibility is directly related to financial capacity. A system that adopts a sliding scale takes into account not only those who live in poverty but also those who are at risk for poverty and will support the kind of inclusive, caring and accessible city that benefits all people who live here.

The proposed low income sliding scale would see the amalgamation of the existing low income, and low income seniors programs into one program that would best meet the needs of all Calgarians living on low incomes. This includes individuals who have a disability who rely on public transit to access employment, community programming and participate in our city's vibrant culture.

We wish to support a study of this sliding scale program at a starting rate of \$54/year that includes comprehensive community engagement, shared data through Fair Fares that will inform this group on purchasing and ridership behavior and integration into the single entry system which will ensure accessibility. We would support the suggestion that a strategy for increasing awareness of low income programs is key to ensuring that citizens who most need these supports are aware of them and know how to access them. In addition, we support the proposed addition of 9FTE Positions necessary to support the Single Entry System.

Thank you again for your time this morning, for your work on this important issue and for your understanding of a complex concern.

