



Resolution Opposing the WTA Fare Increase and to Urge Whatcom Transit Authority to Continue their Contract with Western

Whereas Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) is considering a fare increase from \$1 to \$2 for fixed routes and \$1 to \$3 for Paratransit rides¹;

Whereas WTA has informed Western Washington University they will not renegotiate the contract for student fee-funded bus passes after the current contract expires at the end Summer 2026;

Whereas starting Fall 2026 students would have to pay out of pocket to ride the bus;

Whereas the University of Washington², Central Washington University³, Washington State University⁴, and Eastern Washington University⁵ all have contracts with local transit authorities to offer student fee-funded transportation.

Whereas students are already facing basic needs insecurity — 43.8% of students are facing food insecurity and 33.9% of students are facing housing insecurity⁶ — and increased fares compound this crisis;

Whereas Western students currently make up 38% of WTA ridership and 36% of WTA farebox revenue⁷;

Whereas in the 2024 student survey, 85% of students regularly ride the bus⁸ and Western students took the bus 1,342,042 million times during 2024⁷; and

Whereas if the proposed changes are implemented, students will no longer take buses frequently and for convenience, but only when necessary, which will predictably reduce WTA ridership; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Associated Students of Western Washington University:

1. Adopts this resolution to express its official opposition to increasing the fixed route base fare from \$1 to \$2 and paratransit fares from \$1 to \$3.
2. Urge the WTA to reenter into contract negotiations with Western to continue the student fee-funded bus passes.

¹ [Proposed Fare Increase | Engage WTA](#)

² [Employee U-PASS benefit policy - Human Resources](#)

³ [Central Washington University | Transportation](#)

⁴ [Transportation | Pullman Campus | Washington State University](#)

⁵ [STA Bus Pass – Parking & Transportation Services](#)

⁶ [2024-WSES-Executive.Summary.pdf](#)

⁷ <https://statics.teams.cdn.office.net/evergreen-assets/safelinks/2/atp-safelinks.html>

⁸ [WTA Bus | Transportation Services | Western Washington University](#)

Approved 12/1/25 by:

ASWWU Executive Board Motion #ASB-25-F-23

ASWWU Senate Motion #SEN-25-F-35