



Youth Council Transportation Stipend Memo

MEMO

To: Executive/Budget/Audit Committee
Chair: Jeff Silvestrini, Co-Chair: Erin Mendenhall, Treasurer and Secretary: Christopher F. Robinson

CC: Laura Briefer, Salt Lake City Public Utilities

From: Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Mia McNeil, Community Engagement Coordinator

Subject: Youth Council Transportation Stipends

Date: November 25, 2024

It has recently come to staff's attention that some young people, including some in our Youth Council, don't have reliable transportation, which could impede their ability to attend meetings or join the Youth Council. Though their subcommittees generally meet virtually, there are situations in which the Youth Council meets in person, including their bi-monthly Youth Council meetings, on-the-ground work for their projects, and volunteer tabling opportunities. They will also be an important source of volunteers for the Central Wasatch Symposium.

With all of this in mind, and to mitigate any potential travel difficulty or hesitancy the Youth Council may have in being more involved with the CWC, staff would like to:

- Promote and encourage carpooling with fellow Youth Council members.
- Spread awareness of the UTA free-fare zone downtown and the free transit pass included with some university student IDs, including the U, SLCC, and UVU.
- Include a question about transportation availability on the Youth Council application to assess the needs of future Youth Council members.
- Help Youth Council members apply for a reduced-fare pass for people aged 18 and under.
- ***As needed, offer small travel stipends to Youth Council members to alleviate cost and logistical barriers to Youth Council participation.***

The stipends would take the form of UTA FarePay cards. Each card costs \$3, and current fares are capped at \$5 daily, or \$2 daily for youth aged 18 and under. These prepaid cards can be funded by the Youth Council budget and administered by CWC staff, who would reload small amounts of funding (increments of no more than \$10) onto each member's card as needed.

To our knowledge, members of the Youth Council have not been prevented from attending Youth Council events due to transportation difficulties (though they have used paid rideshare services like Uber/Lyft), so we anticipate the need to be low.



The cost of a Youth Council member needing consistent transportation help over the course of the fiscal year may look like this:

Event	Roundtrip fare	Total cost
6 Youth Council meetings/year	\$5	\$30
2 Youth Council/Stakeholders Council socials/year	\$5	\$10
2 volunteer events/year	\$5	\$10
10 events/year		\$50

At \$50/person, if three Youth Council members need this type of assistance in a given fiscal year (a high estimate), the potential maximum cost would **\$150 per fiscal year**. If this cost is a concern, we can consider setting a cap for this type of assistance.