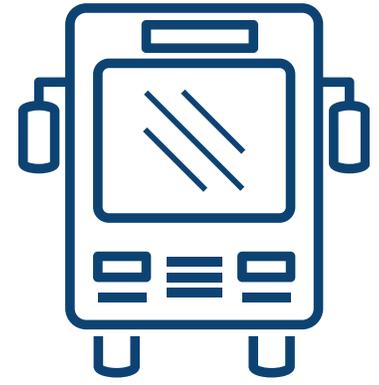


Mid-City Community Advocacy Network (CAN):

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY PASSES (YOP)



No-cost transit passes for youth 24 and under



Mission and Vision:

Mid-City CAN is a community collaborative based in City Heights working on the issues of food justice, peace promotion, police accountability, and improving transportation. Our mission is to create a safe, productive, and healthy community through collaboration, advocacy, and organizing.

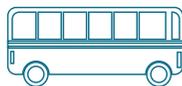
Since 2011, the Improving Transportation (ITCH) team has advocated for Youth Opportunity Passes in San Diego.

Why YOP?

The ITCH team envisions a future where every young person has access to the opportunities they need to reach their full potential. Youth Opportunity Passes will increase access to educational and work-related opportunities for all youth, especially transit-dependent youth in San Diego.



Access to school, work, and early-career opportunities



Young transit riders become adult transit riders



Eliminate the financial burden for youth



Less traffic and reduced GHG emissions

Pilot Program in San Diego:

In 2013, Mid-City CAN won a 2 year pilot program funded by the City of San Diego and San Diego Unified. 850 students in transit-dependent communities in San Diego received a bus pass from the pilot program.



Findings: *

- Low-income youth depend on public transit the most in San Diego. The cost of a transit pass is their greatest barrier to transportation.
- Mobility and sense of safety increased for high school students who received the no-cost transit pass.

Why Youth 24 and under?

According to a study by the San Diego Workforce Partnership, in San Diego County, there are about 444,132 youth 16-24 that are entering the workforce. 60.2% of them are either looking for work or working. The average age for this age group is 20.1 **

50% of youth surveyed stated that transportation is a major barrier to finding a job. **



Opportunity Youth:

YOP can connect youth to schools and jobs. In San Diego County, 9.7% of youth 16-24 are opportunity youth, not in school and not working. While this rate is lower than 77 of the top 98 metro areas in the nation, San Diego is in the top 20 areas for opportunity youth.** We must invest in this youth group to connect them to opportunities.

Other cities with no-cost transit for youth

"Student ridership on light rail and buses more than doubled last month compared to the previous January, thanks to the agency's decision last year to let students ride free." - Sacramento Regional Transit ***

San Francisco, Alameda, Sonoma, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Tempe (AZ), Portland (OR), Montgomery (MD), Minneapolis (MN), Nashville (TN), Washington (DC), Kansas City (MO)



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*Oswald, William T. "Youth Opportunity Pass – Year 2 : Final Report." The Global ARC/ Mid-City CAN, January 4, 2016.

** Flip the Script." <https://workforce.org>. San Diego Workforce Partnership, 2017.

*** Bizjak, Tony. "Sacramento Regional Transit Offered Students Free Rides. Here's How It Turned Out." sacbee. The Sacramento Bee, February 12, 2020.