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### **Free Youth Transit Passes Recommended by SANDAG Board of Directors**

SAN DIEGO –Today, SANDAG’s Board of Directors approved the Social Equity Early Action Transit Pilot Program that will address equity concerns by providing free transit passes for youth 18 and under and increase service on weeknights and weekends.

**“Providing free transit passes for youth is the single greatest investment our region can make to ensure that transit ridership grows in the future,” said SANDAG’s Social Equity Working Group Chair Vivian Moreno. “Free youth transit passes also have an immediate benefit of connecting youth to school, work, internships and other education and career opportunities. The community has been fighting for these youth opportunity passes for years, and their persistence has paid off.”**

SANDAG’s Social Equity Working Group (at its September 23, 2021 meeting), voted unanimously to recommend that the Transportation Committee and Board of Directors approve a budget amendment to consider the following projects for inclusion in the Early Action Transit Pilot: Free Youth Fares for 18 and Under, Education and Research, and Transit Improvements in Underserved Areas. The Transportation Committee (at its October 1, 2021 meeting), also voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Directors approve the budget amendment.

SANDAG Staff will work with Metropolitan Transit System (MTS), North County Transit District (NCTD), and stakeholders to finalize the details of the fare costs and transit improvement projects. Pending MTS and NCTD Board approvals, the Free Youth Fares would start in the spring of 2022; the education, outreach, and research would begin before the free fares start; and the transit improvements would start in the fall of 2022. The pilot would end in the late summer of 2023, with a research report presented shortly thereafter. More info can be found [here](#).

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*Councilmember Vivian Moreno represents the Eighth Council District of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Barrio Logan, Egger Highlands, Grant Hill, Logan Heights, Memorial, Nestor, Ocean View Hills, Otay Mesa, San Ysidro, Shelltown, Sherman Heights, Stockton and the Tijuana River Valley.*