

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Adiel McKnight, Executive Assistant
DATE: June 2, 2025
SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION re: Proclaiming June 2025 as Ride Transit Month

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Jefferson Transit Authority is committed to providing safe, reliable, comfortable public transportation service in Jefferson County, which is cost-effective, reduces energy consumption, and contributes to the cultural, environmental, and economic betterment of the residents of Jefferson County.

In 2024, Jefferson Transit Authority's (JTA) annual passenger trips on fixed route services were 242,332. This includes services on the west and east sides of Jefferson County. In January of 2024, Jefferson Transit eliminated all fares on Jefferson Transit vehicles for all riders. The elimination of fares creates more equitable transportation options for community members. In 2023 and 2025 Jefferson Transit increased service levels on local and regional routes to provide additional connections for community members and visitors alike.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to Jefferson County.

RECOMMENDATION:

To honor the employees of Jefferson Transit Authority and approve Proclamation re: Proclaiming June 2025 as Ride Transit Month

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

5/30/25
Date

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on average public transit provides almost 100 million passenger trips in Washington each year; and

WHEREAS, transit agencies in Washington State invest almost \$5 billion in transit capital and operations each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 the public transit service provided by Jefferson Transit Authority avoided 244.71 MT CO₂e that would have been emitted if the trips were completed in single occupancy vehicles; and

WHEREAS, transit trips are 10 times safer per mile than car trips, and a person can reduce their chance of being in an accident by more than 90 percent simply by taking public transit as opposed to commuting by car; and

WHEREAS, each full bus takes 60 cars off the road, reducing congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and saving you money; and

WHEREAS, 25 percent of Washingtonians do not drive and may rely on public transit; and

WHEREAS, greater transit use is associated with higher levels of physical activity, which is associated with lower health risks and better health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, whether you're new to transit or a regular rider, Ride Transit Month is a time to celebrate YOU, our community of riders who are helping Washington State lead the nation in ridership; and,

WHEREAS, people 18 years and younger make up more than 20 percent of Washington's total population. By making transit free for youth, the Transit Support Grant improves access for a large number of Washingtonians and helps lower family transportation costs, which on average make up 16 percent of all household expenses. This percentage tends to be higher for families with lower incomes;

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2024, all Jefferson Transit routes are zero-fare; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Jefferson County Commissioners do hereby proclaim June, 2025 as:

RIDE TRANSIT MONTH

in Jefferson County and ask all residents of this community to join us in honoring JEFFERSON TRANSIT EMPLOYEES, who care for the public, and show our appreciation not just during this month, but at every opportunity throughout the year.

APPROVED this 2nd day of June, 2025.

SEAL:

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Heidi Eisenhour, Chair

ATTEST:

Heather Dudley-Nollette, Member

Carolyn Gallaway, CMC,
Clerk of the Board

Greg Brotherton, Member