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LADOT Transit Uses Cap and Trade to Improve Mobility and Boost Ridership

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The City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation's Transit Group will use 2016 allocation of Cap and Trade Grant from the State's Low Carbon Transit Operation Program (LCTOP) to offer free DASH fares for holders of Metro 7-day or 30-day Passes.

"Metro riders have had to pay the regular DASH fare of .50 cents when paying cash or .35 cents when using a TAP card with LADOT Transit's electronic incentive fare, Corinne Ralph, Chief, LADOT Transit Group said. "By securing the LCTOP grant, LADOT Transit is removing that fare barrier to allow riders to transfer for free to LADOT's DASH services. This will provide a seamless transfer between Metro and DASH services that will not only increase the use of transit by existing riders, it will also lure new riders to both services."

Caltrans' Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) provides operating and capital assistance for transit agencies from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund created by the State of California's Cap and Trade Auction Proceeds. Cap and Trade is a market-based mechanism to lower Greenhouse Gas emissions. California is the first state with a comprehensive Cap and Trade Program. Under the Cap and Trade system, companies must hold enough emission allowances to cover their emissions; allowances that they are free to buy and sell. California's Cap and Trade rules apply to electric power plants and fuel distributors that emit 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per year or more. The emission allowances are auctioned quarterly to generate the funding for the grants such as the one LADOT Transit is using to accept Metro passes.

According to Jay Kim, LADOT Assistant General Manager, the grant will most directly benefit low income and minority riders, “Our DASH services are very unique in that they are the essential transportation service for many low income and minority populations in the City of Los Angeles,” Kim said. “The LCTOP Grant from Caltrans provides us with \$663,949 to demonstrate the potential of removing this fare barrier for these populations, while improving mobility and air quality for all Angelenos.”

There are 31 DASH routes that serve Downtown Los Angeles and 26 communities. During 2015 more than 19 million rides were taken on these services. The City of Los Angeles is the only major city in the United States to have such an expansive system of neighborhood circulator services; these DASH services not only take riders to local schools, hospitals, markets and work but they also bring riders to Metro Rail Stations and connect with other regional bus services.

Kim said that the demonstration would begin on July 1, 2016 and last until December 31, 2016. “LADOT Transit and Metro have collaborated on a public education effort to make riders aware of the benefit of this demonstration. We estimate that LADOT will generate 1.8 million additional rides justifying the demonstration as well as the need for a permanent solution to this fare barrier.”

About LADOT Transit

[LADOT Transit](#) is the largest municipal provider of transit service in Los Angeles County offering commuter bus and neighborhood circulator services as well as mobility services to seniors and the disabled. LADOT Transit provided 23,895,017 trips on these services in 2014. LADOT provides Commuter Express, point-to-point bus service, from the San Fernando Valley, Thousand Oaks, Calabasas, the Beach Cities, El Segundo, and the Westside to Downtown Los Angeles as well as between Pasadena, Glendale, and the Burbank Media District, San Pedro and Long Beach and from the San Fernando Valley to the Westside and South Bay. DASH circulator bus services operate 5 routes in Downtown Los Angeles and 26 other neighborhoods in the City of Los Angeles. Cityride is the largest voluntary paratransit program of its kind in the nation, offering essential transportation services to seniors and the mobility-challenged.

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