

City of Alameda Paratransit: Free AC Transit Bus Pass Program

City of Alameda – AC Transit Interagency Liaison Committee

April 17, 2025

alamedaca.gov/paratransit



Paratransit Program Elements



Free AC Transit bus pass program (Pilot)



Alameda Independent Mobility (Pilot)



Travel training and outreach



Group trips



BayPass for Alameda Point Collaborative



Capital projects



Free Bus Pass Program Overview

Eligibility

- Low-income residents **65 or older**. Pass holders must maintain Mastick Senior Center membership
- Low-income residents aged 18-64 with a **certified disability**

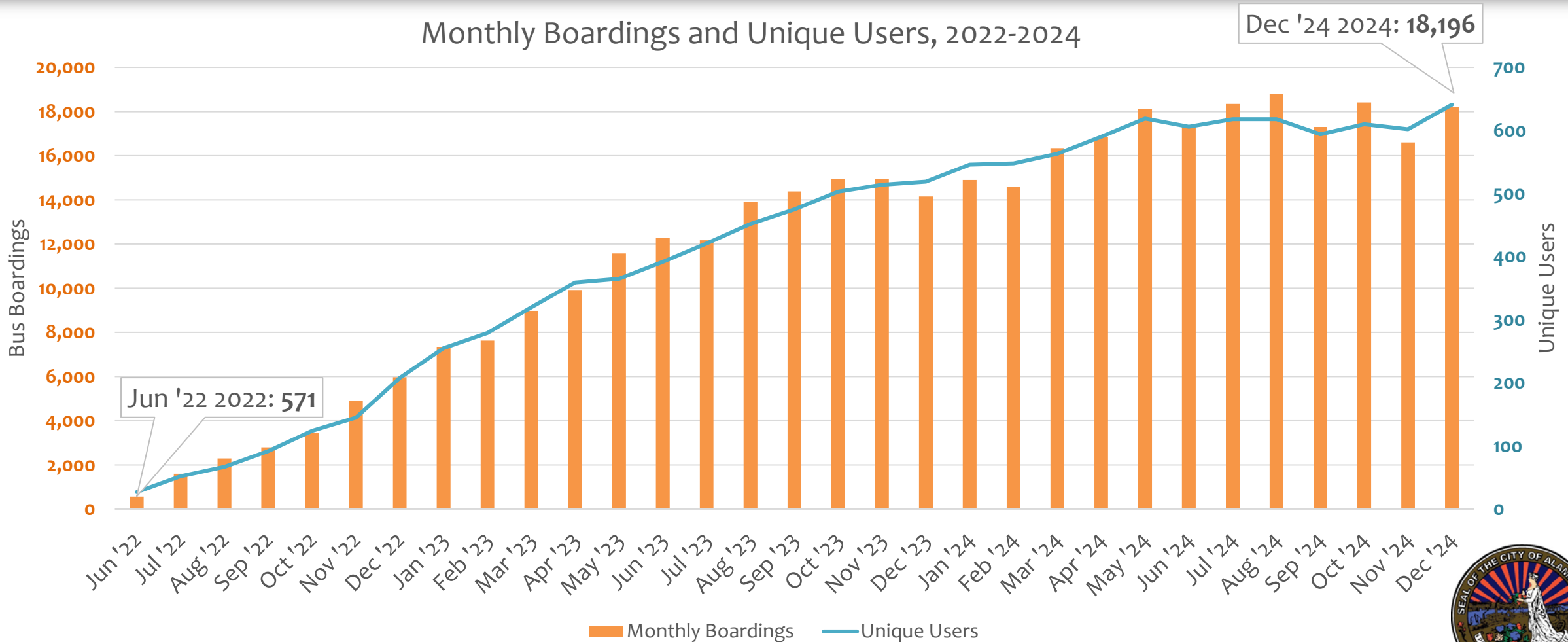
Participation

- 970 program members + waitlist



Free Bus Pass Program Ridership

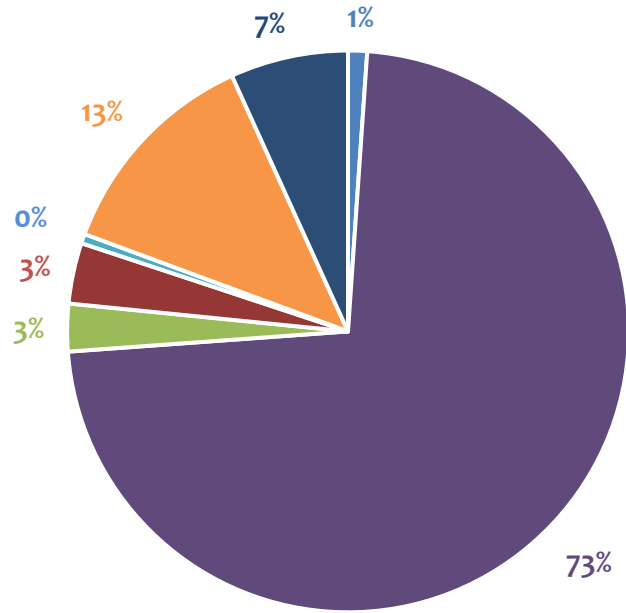
Monthly Boardings and Unique Users, 2022-2024



Free Bus Pass Participants

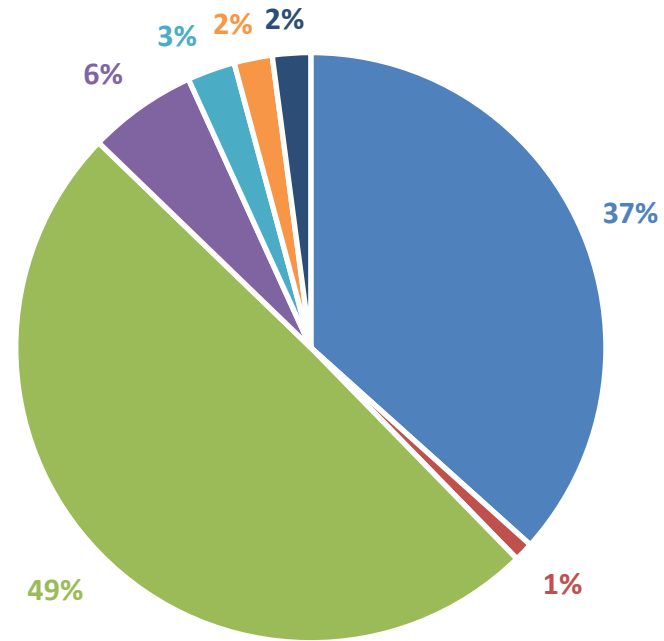
Responses: 914

Race/Ethnicity



- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Other
- Asian
- Hispanic or Latino
- White

Languages



- English
- Vietnamese
- Spanish
- Tagalog
- Cantonese
- Mandarin
- Other



Free Bus Pass Program Feedback

I am so happy having a free transit pass because it **helps me a lot** financially.

Like most retired elders **saving money** is the Holy Grail! Therefore, I do use the pass and it has made my life less stressful.

We are so grateful for this program. My disabled son need lots of practice and this pass opens up opportunities for greater **independence**. We use it to go shopping, to volunteer and to socialize.

Really great for learning how to use the bus system. Definitely **lowered the barrier** for access and use.

LOVE IT!!



Cost Considerations

- Currently at top of Measure BB Paratransit budget
- High enrollment, active riders
- Fare increase implications
 - 230,000 rides * \$0.25 increase = \$57,500
- Contract timing
- City response
 - Prioritizing budget for Free Bus Pass program
 - Enrollment renewal summer 2025
 - Documentation requirement for low-income status
 - Program alternatives



Program Alternatives with Rate Increase

- A. Limit Program:** Within existing Paratransit Measure BB funding, reduce enrollment through renewal and stricter income verification.
- B. Maintain Program:** With a moderate GF budget addition, maintain existing program size (allow new participants to enroll after renewal and income verification).
- C. Expand Program:** With a larger GF budget addition, the program could grow.
- D. Convert to EasyPass:** Transition to the flat rate EasyPass program instead of pay-as-you-go. *Feasibility and fiscal impact TBD.*



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