

**Orange County Transportation Authority
Low Carbon Transit Operations Program – Project Descriptions**

Youth Ride Free Program

OC Bus 360°, the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) comprehensive plan to improve bus service from all angles, identifies youth as a key audience for bus service growth. Beginning in September 2021, OCTA began offering subsidized youth passes to youth aged 18 and under allowing them to ride the OC Bus system for free. The free transit service allows this transit-dependent group to reach destinations such as home, schools, parks, and other recreation centers at no cost and trains youth to use the bus system in the future.

Fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Age Based Fare Program (19-20-D12-160) funded a six-month promotional Youth Ride Free Program. The OCTA Board of Directors approved an extension on February 14, 2022, and revised the fare structure to add the Youth Ride Free pass to allow all youth 18 and under to ride free.

Since FY 2021-22, an estimated amount of \$11.88 million has been invested into the Youth Ride Free Program. This prior year LCTOP funding is expected to fund the program through the end of March 2025.

The FY 2024-25 LCTOP funding is expected to fund an additional 30 months. The FY 2024-25 LCTOP funds will include the \$300,000 cost for the distribution of new passes for OCTA's new Rider Validation System which will plan to start in July 2025.