



**705 30<sup>th</sup> Street**  
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## ZERO-FARE POLICY

Number: 20.15 Revision 2025  
Effective: 2-11-2025 to 6-30-2027  
Approved by: GHT Board

### Purpose:

Zero-fare bus service provides an effective and cost efficient way to boost ridership:

- **Increased access.** Not paying fares makes it easier to use transit service and removes barriers for riders, especially casual riders. It also supports equity and affordability goals, making the system more accessible to low-income populations.
- **Faster Service.** Transitioning to zero-fare service significantly reduces dwell time.
- **Elimination of farebox conflicts.** Zero-fare system operators note the lack of conflicts that occur with fare-free boarding.
- **Compliance.** Move Ahead Washington transportation grant package (SB 5975) provides free fares for passengers 18 and younger on all public transportation through 2038 through grant funding. All youth (18 and under) will be able to access all transit modes provided by GHT through June 30, 2027.

### Goals:

- Encourage ridership
- Maintain passenger convenience and ease of understanding
- Minimize the economic hardship of inhibiting ridership

### Fare Structure

1. All youth passengers (18 years of age and younger) shall ride free of charge regardless of the type of service provided.
2. All passengers traveling on service labeled as regular fixed route, dial-a-ride, Specialized Van Service (SVS) shall ride fare free.
3. All fares in Zone 1 (Grays Harbor County) will be free to all passengers.
4. All fares in Zone 2 (outside of Grays Harbor County) will be free to all passengers.
5. Zero Fares do not apply to Vanpool services except if rider is age 18 and under.

### Reporting

Reporting ridership will continue to be collected in all zones, all routes, and all services.

Reporting under youth 18 and under will be collected for Move Ahead Washington grant funding.

### Sustainability:

The Grays Harbor Transit Board will review annually in December to determine if the Zero Fare Policy is in the best interest of the citizens of Grays Harbor County as well as the Authority.

Adopted this 11th day of February 2025

Ken Mehin  
Ken Mehin (Feb 12, 2025 10:17 PST)

Ken Mehin, General Manager

Vickie R. Raines

Commissioner, Vickie Raines  
Grays Harbor Transit Chairperson