



PRT Seeks Feedback on New Pass Option

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (July 26, 2024) - Pittsburgh Regional Transit is seeking feedback on a new program that could make taking the bus, light-rail or the inclines more accessible and significantly less expensive for thousands of people across Allegheny County.

The PRTner Pass aims to increase ridership on PRT vehicles by offering multi-family property owners and managers with more than 10 units, secondary and post-secondary schools, and employers 70% off, reducing the cost to just \$28 per monthly pass. Participating entities would be required to purchase passes for 100% of their eligible employees, students, or housing units, with certain exceptions and exclusions to ensure fairness, inclusivity, and fiscal viability.

"The PRTner Pass can be a win for transit, the participating entities, and riders," said PRT CEO Katharine Kelleman. "We're excited about the potential of this program and the positive impact it can have on our region."

PRT's Board today approved a 60-day public comment period starting on Monday, August 12 and continuing through Friday, October 11. During the public comment period, PRT will host two one-hour information sessions, at 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 10, and a public hearing on Thursday, September 12 at 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining the information session or providing testimony at the public hearing can sign up at www.rideprt.org/PRTnerPass. Testimony is also being collected online, beginning on August 12, via U.S. Mail or by calling 412-566-5335.

Following the public comment period and final Board approval, PRT expects to roll out the PRTner Pass early next year.

The PRTner Pass program came about following a pilot study through the generous support of the Heinz Endowments in 2023. After a meticulous application process, PRT issued more than 100 passes to four employers, enabling their employees to use the Ready2Ride mobile application to experience the benefits of public transit at an unprecedented low cost. The program increased transit use and influenced job choices, and employers expressed overwhelming enthusiasm and a strong desire to continue the program beyond the initial phase.

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