



CRES Supports SB 24-032 Concerning Methods to Increase the Use of Transit
February 5, 2024

Dear Senator Priola, Senator Jaquez Lewis, Senator Vigil and other sponsors,

Thank you for sponsoring the Transit bill, SB 32. Part of the mission of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES) is to decarbonize and de-pollute our transportation sector, which currently is responsible for the largest share of greenhouse gases in Colorado.

CRES was founded by scientists. We appreciate that Section 1 of the bill requires thorough quantitative and qualitative study of the economics, marketing, implementation, and administration of statewide transit passes, and focuses on ozone reduction. As you know, our state has been out of compliance on federal ozone requirements for many years. Getting people out of cars is a very high-leverage way to reduce production of the particulates that are predecessors to ozone. We also appreciate that the sponsors appear to be wishing to explore the seamless user interfaces currently used in Europe across systems and geographic areas, making it easier for the riding public to take advantage of transit.

We're especially appreciative of Section 3's provisions for fare-free youth transit passes for the simple reason that transit miles traveled by young people will inevitably translate into higher rates of transit use – and lower VMT in private vehicles – as those young people grow into adulthood. **Habitual** long-term use of transit is a key strategy for VMT reduction and associated reduction in ozone and other pollution and particulates that are extremely harmful to human health and our environment. Of course, these harmful toxins are most concentrated in environmental and social justice communities of concern; the state is morally bound to take action to improve public health in these communities and to include their populations in improvements in level of transit service. Such communities also tend to have higher levels of young people than the population at large.

We trust that the important Sections 2 and 4 will also ably assist the state to implement this important boost to transit use in Colorado.

Thanks again for bringing this important bill!

Sincerely,

Vince Calvano
Chair, CRES Policy Committee