

FAQs – Implementation of a Student Transportation Fee

Overview

Beginning in the Fall 2023 semester, qualifying students will be automatically charged a *Transportation Fee* through the USC student fee bill system. This fee is being assessed to offset the rising costs of providing transportation services to the USC community and to provide new benefits. This FAQ sheet was designed to answer what we anticipate will be the most common questions. If your concern is not addressed here, please contact us directly at auxtrans@usc.edu.

How much is this new fee?

The Transportation Fee for FY24 (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Summer 2024) will be \$93 for each semester.

Who approved adding this fee?

The Transportation Fee was reviewed and approved by the USC Board of Trustees and USC Administration. It is a necessary step to address the rising costs of providing transportation services to the USC community and to provide new benefits.

What does “qualifying student” mean? How do I know if I will be charged this fee or not?

In order to include accurate information in the Fall 2023 Schedule of Classes/Cost of Attendance, this fee is being announced before the qualifying parameters have been finalized. Once the qualifications have been thoroughly vetted, they will be published publicly. Our goal is to be transparent about who is being charged this fee and why.

What are the transportation services that this fee will cover?

Primarily, the fee will offset the rising costs related to the USC Safe Rides (Lyft) program. Since the program was introduced in 2016, it has expanded from 16 hours/week to 56 hours/week at University Park Campus and been extended to cover the Health Sciences Campus (including service to Union Station).

We are committed to providing the USC Lyft service to our campus community, and we encourage all students to utilize this program rather than walking alone during nighttime hours. Implementing a fee to help defray rising costs is the only way for USC to continue to provide this program moving forward.

What other services will be added?

The first service being added in Fall 2023 is a free Metro U-Pass for all current USC students which allows for unlimited travel on LA Metro buses and trains, including the “E” Line (formerly the Expo Line) that wraps around the UPC campus.

The second service will be free bus service from University Park Campus to LAX airport for Thanksgiving Break, Winter Recess, and Spring Break.

We encourage the use of these services to both provide convenient transportation options, but also to align with the university's sustainability goals. Details regarding these new services will be announced on the [USC Transportation website](#) as details are finalized.

I don't plan to use any of those services, can I apply for a fee waiver?

The parameters for a qualifying waiver are currently being determined, in the same way that the parameters of determining a qualifying student are being finalized. Whether you use these services or not, you are likely eligible to use them, which is the typical determining factor of whether the fee is assessed.