

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Cramer, Executive Director
Detroit Department of Transportation

THRU: Council Member James Tate, Council President

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: March 25, 2026

RE: Building a Free Fare Pilot

After discussion during the Department of Transportation (DDOT) budget hearing, I am requesting further action on a free fare for all program. Please provide the following:

1. The full cost for DDOT to establish a pilot, for a period of one month, providing free access to city transportation. The response to Council Member Benson during the DDOT budget hearing has suggested the funding will come from the allocation to Transportation Services Support.
 - a. Is this still considered the correct location of the funding?
 - b. How much of that budget will need to be used for this program?
2. An outline of the comprehensive plan which will be needed to establish the program for this period of time.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council
Louise Jones, City Clerk's Office
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison