



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

September 12, 2022

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item Number 22-22, which requested a report on the feasibility of increasing the number of high school students who receive a MBTA M7 Card at no cost, Executive Director of the Family Policy Council, Nancy Tauber reports the following:

In response to the School Committee and City Council policy orders requesting that staff research the feasibility of increasing the number of high school students who receive a MBTA M7 Card at no cost, and also recognizing the advocacy of the Cambridge Youth Council who proposed that the program be expanded beyond high school students who qualified for free /reduced lunch to include all high school students who attend Cambridge Public Schools, the following is being implemented:

All Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS), High School Extension School (HSEP), Home-Schooled students, Community Charter School of Cambridge (CCSC) and Prospect Hill Academy receive a M7 card for the school year 2022-23.

- The M7 card allows students to ride the bus or T at no cost to the student throughout the school year.
- If a pass is active for the entire 10-month school year period, the annual per pass cost per CRLS student will be \$290 (bulk rate) and CCSC and Prospect Hill Academy student will be \$300.
- Summer - On July 1, the M7 card functions as an S card. Students can add money to the M7 card at any MBTA fare vending machine and receive a 50% discounted fare for each ride or purchase a monthly pass with the student discount rate (\$30/month).
- M7 cards expire August 31st.
- CRLS, CCSC and Prospect Hill Academy staff will distribute and track how many students receive M7 cards.
- The MBTA does not track usage.

Budget

- If all students receive M7 cards and they are active for the full 10-month period, it will cost approximately \$610,000.



- The City has approximately \$250K budgeted for FY23 for the initial program which offered free passes to students eligible for free and reduced lunches. The additional cost of expanding the program to all CRLS, HSEP, Home-Schooled, CCSC and Prospect Hill Academy students will be charged to the \$2M ARPA allocation for Transit initiatives.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yi-An Huang", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yi-An Huang
City Manager