

California Polytechnic University, Pomona

Academic Senate Resolution in Support of Silver Streak Pilot

- WHEREAS, The Academic Senate at Cal Poly Pomona adopted Senate Report (AS-2728-167-AA) approving the establishment of a Transportation Advisory Committee as a standing committee that reports to the President and provides recommendations to improve access to the campus for all modes of transportation and to promote alternatives to Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOV), thereby reducing emissions and easing traffic and parking congestion for those who drive; and
- WHEREAS, The Academic Senate adopted Report (AS-2911-201-AA) approving new bylaws that restructured the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) as the Alternative Transportation Committee with new composition and charges for advancing bike, pedestrian and transit improvements, in line with CSU policy and Education Code 89701(b)(4) requirements; and
- WHEREAS, Cal Poly Pomona is a major activity and employment center, located in the East San Gabriel Valley/Pomona Valley with limited transit services; and
- WHEREAS, Cal Poly Pomona's 2020 Climate Action Plan Update 1) established environmental sustainability as one of the University's core values, 2) inventoried commuting activities which represent thirty-seven percent (37%) of the campus' greenhouse gas emissions sources, and 3) set a benchmark of increasing non-single occupant vehicle shares to campus to fifty percent (50%); and
- WHEREAS, Providing sustainable transit is a basic needs initiative and helps students graduate in a timely manner and expanded transit services help students access campus, jobs, internships, and other opportunities; and
- WHEREAS, According to the Hechinger Report, transportation can account for almost twenty percent (20%) of the cost of college for commuters, and there are ways in which transportation poses barriers for students, including fare costs and stops or stations being inaccessible to where they live or work;<sup>1</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Over sixty percent (60%) of Cal Poly Pomona students who commute to campus solely by car reported not taking the bus due to inconvenient bus schedules and the time it takes to use the bus;<sup>2</sup> and
- WHEREAS, The campus Alternative Transportation Committee has long advocated and supported various partnership initiatives between the University and Foothill Transit, including participation in the Class Pass Pilot Program, a Silver Streak connection, and the Bronco Mobility Hub; and
- WHEREAS, The Class Pass Pilot Program, which was launched in Fall 2021, has been popular among students and enables free rides on all Foothill Transit local and Silver Streak buses at no cost to students; and
- WHEREAS, Silver Streak is a rapid bus route between Montclair and Downtown Los Angeles operated by Foothill Transit along the Interstate 10 Freeway that provides fast, frequent, and reliable transit service, comparable to rail services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but currently does not stop at Cal Poly Pomona;<sup>3</sup> and
- WHEREAS, Based on preliminary ridership data from Foothill Transit, more than 1,450 Class Pass trips have been taken using Silver Streak by students since the inception of the Pilot Program through mid-January 2022, despite the fact that Silver Streak currently does not stop on campus;<sup>4</sup> and
- WHEREAS, According to zip code data on home locations, a significant number of Cal Poly Pomona students, faculty, and staff live within a five-mile radius of the Silver Streak line;<sup>5</sup> and
- WHEREAS, The University is working with Foothill Transit to explore feasible Silver Streak stop locations near the Student Services Building as it creates a more efficient route to the main parts of campus, is close to student housing, and is optimal for bus operations; and
- WHEREAS, Commuters to campus will benefit financially from having a Silver Streak stop location near campus as they will be able to make the shift from car transportation to using Cal Poly Pomona's Class Pass; and
- WHEREAS, Commuters to campus with late courses will feel safer transporting to and from campus if a Silver Streak stop location were closer to campus; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, The Academic Senate hereby supports the University and Foothill Transit piloting a Silver Streak stop as close to the campus core as possible by the Fall 2022 semester upon approval by the University and Foothill Transit Governing Board; and be it further
- RESOLVED, The pickup and drop off location for Silver Streak buses should be on campus in a location that is safe and efficient for passenger boarding and alighting, allows for ease of bus turnaround, and minimizes the walking distance to the campus core; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this resolution shall be widely distributed, including, but not limited to: University President, Dr. Soraya M. Coley and her cabinet; the University Division of Administrative Affairs; the University Division of Student Affairs; the University Division of Academic Affairs; the University Academic Senate; the University Staff Council; the University Alumni Association; the Associated Students, Incorporated; the Poly Post; the students of Cal Poly Pomona; and the Foothill Transit Governing Board.

Adopted by the Academic Senate of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.



Jocelyn Pacleb, Academic Senate Chair

<sup>1</sup> <https://hechingerreport.org/a-surprising-reason-keeping-students-from-finishing-college-a-lack-of-transportation/>

<sup>2</sup> Student Commuting Behavior at Cal Poly Pomona: Commute Modes, Preferences, and Motivators for Sustainable Transportation: Thesis by Hannah F. Brunelle (2017)

<sup>3</sup> <http://foothilltransit.org/line/silver-streak/>

<sup>4</sup> Presentation slides from Alternative Transportation Committee meeting on February 1, 2022

<sup>5</sup> Data compiled from University's Institutional Research, Planning, and Analytics Department Foothill Transit