

YOUTH PASS PILOT

MASSACHUSETTS
SPORTS COMPLEX BUILDING

PICK UP IN PERSON at your city's Youth Pass Hub:

- Boston:** Department of Youth Engagement & Employment, 1483 Tremont Street
Chelsea: Chelsea Collaborative, 318 Broadway
Malden: Malden City Hall, 200 Pleasant Street
Somerville: Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue

CHOOSE:

\$26
MONTHLY

\$7
WEEKLY

You may switch between the two during the course of the program

Pilot runs from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. Rolling enrollment, please continue signing up! Valid on local bus & subway during all service hours, including weekends, holidays, summer & late-night service!

We started in 2007 driven by the youth rider crisis:

Young people were missing school, work, doctor's appointments and more due to the high price of MBTA fares. Young people came together as *Youth Way on the MBTA* to demand a low-cost monthly pass for youth ages 12 to 21.

At first, they ignored us. But we kept fighting.

We said youth are stranded every night because the Student Pass isn't valid after 8:00 p.m. We began working to extend the hours of the Pass, organizing youth and holding rallies.

They said it couldn't be done. But we kept fighting.

In 2009, we won a three-hour extension, making the Student Pass valid until 11:00 p.m. The MBTA committed to research the Youth Pass and meet regularly with the campaign.

They said it was too expensive. But we kept fighting.

In 2011, we surveyed over 4,000 youth riders and published the results. We found that nearly one-third of youth are priced out of the T and regularly blocked from accessing opportunities like school, jobs, sports and extracurriculars.

We shared our report with transit officials and secured a commitment for a Youth Pass pilot if we found a way to fund the proposal.

They said we needed to wait. But we kept fighting.

In 2012, we organized a massive campaign to stop fare hikes and service cuts, forming the *Youth Affordability Coalition*. With allies, we cut a 100 percent hike on student fares to 23 percent. Also, our demand for weekend inclusion resulted in a new seven-day Student Pass, with all Student Passes now valid the entire day, from beginning to end of service.

They said wait another year. But we kept fighting.

In 2013, we joined with partner organizations and successfully pushed the Legislature to provide an extra \$600 million in funding to the T and limit fare increases to no more than five percent every two years.

They said they weren't ready. But we kept fighting.

In 2014, we had enough. We held up our end of the bargain—winning extra funding for the T—and it was time for them to fulfill theirs. We collected more than 2,500 petition signatures and wrote a public letter to the Secretary of Transportation requesting the implementation of a Youth Pass pilot.

When we received no response, we held a Sit-in for Opportuni(T) at his office to demand an answer. After 21 youth and supporters were arrested, the MBTA agreed to set up a working group to develop a Youth Pass pilot program.

We met regularly with the working group to develop the pilot, which was presented to the MassDOT board for review in December 2014. In the spring of 2015, our pilot was approved as part of the MBTA's 2015-2016 budget.

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The Youth Pass pilot program is a tremendous victory, won by thousands of young people who refused to give up.

Youth Power! #YouthPass

[@YouthWay](#) [Youth.Affordability.Coalition](#)

PILOT TIMELINE

Rolling enrollment throughout the pilot!

- First step** – Lottery & enrollment
- First month** – Research on ridership
- Second month** – Youth Pass issued
- June 30, 2016** – Pilot ends