September 29, 2023

Chair Meg Froelich
Transportation Legislative Review Committee
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Transit Zero-Fare for Youth

Chair Froelich and Members of the Committee,

The North Area Transportation Alliance (NATA) is a coalition of thirteen local governments, the Adams County Regional Economic Partnership, and Smart Commute Transportation Management Organization in the northeast quadrant of the metro Denver area. NATA's partnership of public and private entities work collaboratively to identify, develop, advocate, and promote transportation solutions that will enhance mobility, drive economic development, and reduce traffic congestion in the north area. Our goal is to ensure an effective regional transportation system that can foster a high quality of life and maintain a highly skilled workforce to support diverse industries in demand in today's economy.

We are writing to request support for legislation being considered by the Committee to fund zero-fare youth transit programs throughout the State of Colorado.

Creating a policy and program for the state of Colorado to invest in our region's youth to utilize transit at no cost is a wonderful concept that will help assist in meeting many goals that local municipalities and communities are working to implement. Not only does a zero-fare for youth funding program help families financially and school districts improve attendance, but the youth of our region are provided with more opportunities to improve their futures. Lastly, zero-fare for youth programs can help foster an individual's willingness to become a transit user for life yielding greater environmental benefits, congestion relief, and a better quality of life within our communities.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important request. Please support funding for continued zero-fare for youth programs. If we can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to contact NATA directly at nataboardcolordo@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Greg Mills
NATA Chair
CC: NATA Membership