

Cespedes, Christopher

From: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:15 AM
To: Cespedes, Christopher
Subject: FW: Followup thoughts - Re: Please KEEP Michigan Flyer-AirRide Discount Parking

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Rita Loch Caruso <xxxxxxx@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:51 AM
To: DDA <xxxxxxx@a2dda.org>; Environmental Commission <xxxxxxx@a2gov.org>; Sustainability <xxxxxxx@a2gov.org>; City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <xxxxxxx@a2gov.org>
Subject: Followup thoughts - Re: Please KEEP Michigan Flyer-AirRide Discount Parking

Commissioners,

I received responses to my earlier email from Councilmember Briggs and the DDA (signed "Ann Arbor DDA") regarding the imminent discontinuation of Michigan Flyer-AirRide Discount Parking at the 4th Ave & Williams parking ramp. Please see my response below to the rationale provided by the DDA.

There may be some hope. I thank you for your consideration of this issue.

- 1) There may be agreement that encouraging ridership of the Michigan Flyer is good for the environment by reducing car trips to the airport. Maybe this can be the starting point for consideration of options other than elimination of the program.
- 2) East Lansing and Brighton offer [Michigan Flyer parking](#) for \$2.50 per day. They do it, why can't Ann Arbor? There seems to be agreement that the Michigan Flyer discount parking program is likely low cost.
- 3) Using AAATA bus transportation to get to the Blake Station bus stop is challenging with luggage. Many residents will simply not be able to navigate the walk to a bus stop with luggage, especially for senior residents, families with small children, during inclement weather, and where sidewalk gaps still exist. Can we consider doing this for the common good.
- 4) AAATA "ride share" -- referenced in the DDA response as an option -- does not seem to exist. The AAATA website describes "[FlexRide](#)" availability, but this is not a realistic option. It is only available to Ann Arbor residents for Late Night & Holiday Service. Otherwise, it is limited to Ypsilanti and Pittsfield Townships.
- 5) Maybe the City and the DDA should do more to help Amtrak/FlixBus users get to their pickup area (both are at the Depot Station).
- 6) The DDA describes the discount parking as a DDA subsidy, but the DDA is subsidized by public funds. Can we consider keeping this program as a use of public funds for the common good.

Thank you again.

Rita

On Wed, Nov 29, 2023 at 4:10 PM Rita Loch Caruso <xxxxxxx@gmail.com> wrote:

Please KEEP the Michigan Flyer-AirRide Discount Parking in the 4th Ave & William St parking structure. Using the Michigan Flyer for trips to and from DTW is good for people, good for the planet, and good sustainability practice. It should be supported by the City of Ann Arbor.

Elimination of the discount parking will severely limit the utility of the Michigan Flyer for users who do not live in the downtown area. The cost for parking in the structure will increase from \$2.00 per day to \$28.80 per 24-h day. This is a HUGE increase and is the same cost as parking in McNamara Long-Term Parking at the airport.

I would like to know what is the basis/rationale for the decision to eliminate this discount parking? When I pass the 4th Ave & William St parking structure, there are many scores if not hundreds of spaces available, except on specific event days/times. I think that the current policy of Michigan Flyer-AirRide Discount Parking is an excellent use of a parking structure paid for by taxpayers that supports the common good.

Please do whatever you can to reverse this decision and keep the Michigan Flyer-AirRide Discount Parking in the 4th Ave & William St parking structure.

Thank you.