

Whereas it is in the city's best interests for sustainability to encourage mass transit.

Whereas mass transit is the best way to reduce traffic and congestion on our already overcrowded streets.

Whereas the only current fare free route, the Duval Loop, has more ridership than all the other routes combined.

Whereas the cost of bus service recouped through fares, \$370,000 in 2019, is inconsequential and less than 1/10 the cost of our bus service.

Whereas the patrons of our bus service are generally of lower economic income and those most likely to negatively impacted by the current pandemic.

Whereas fare free busing would significantly speed up the bus routes – and bus frequency is the number one rider complain.

Whereas the city is beyond parking capacity in the downtown area and paid parking should be priced accordingly to encourage mass transit use.

Whereas the city is unable to hire and maintain bus drivers because of comparatively low wages.

Whereas in the 2019 fiscal year metered parking earned 8.6 million dollars for the city of Key West.

Whereas an increase of .50 cents to the metered parking rates in the city lots would result in a revenue increase of more than a million dollars.

The SAB board recommends an increase of .50 cents to all metered and parking lot rates which would raise more than a million dollars in new revenue and that \$600,000 of that revenue be directly used for fare free buses and an increase in the pay of bus drivers with the remainder going into the general fund.