

Free/no-charge transit in December intentions survey

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Introduction

During the month of December, transit service in Ottawa is being offered without charge as directed by City Council. The initiative is being offered as restitution for the system’s shortcomings since LRT launch that culminated in a prolonged LRT shutdown this autumn, with the fare shortfall being offset by payments not made to the LRT maintenance company Rideau Transit Management. The free service is being advertised through system signage and has been well covered by local media as well as by OC Transpo and elected officials’ social media

During the evening of November 30 through the afternoon of December 1, I asked residents of Ottawa to respond to a survey asking whether they intend to take more transit when it is offered at no-charge, as well as a few questions about their demographics to glean some further insight.

I have posted a nearly-raw version of the survey responses [here](#). In a small number of instances, respondents provided their full postal code, and I have removed the final three characters of those for the publicly-available version; the data is otherwise as provided.

A total of 975 responses were received. Because the sample is self-selected, I have not calculated confidence.

Limitations

This survey and analysis are a kitchen-table exercise and not affiliated with the City of Ottawa or OC Transpo. The survey language was not user-tested and there are clear instances when respondents were uncertain how to answer some questions. Advertising for the survey was entirely online using social media, and respondents self-selected their participation. The sample base is not weighted according to the usual demographic parameters: it may not reflect geographic distribution in the city, age, gender, ethnicity, income or other considerations that might influence respondents' likelihood of taking advantage of the month-long free transit service. In the tables that follow, I have removed blank answers: in all cases, these were no more than a handful for any given question or cross-tabulation. I am not a professional analyst and there may be shortcomings or errors in my analysis using Google Sheets.

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Overall

Of the entire sample base, a majority of respondents indicated that they will not be taking more transit despite being no-charge in December.

<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>	COUNTA of Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?
No	586
Yes	383
Grand Total	969
<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>	COUNTA of Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?
No	60.5%
Yes	39.5%
Grand Total	100.0%

Age and gender

With respect to age and gender, the most likely to say they will take more transit when it is offered at no charge are those who do not identify as either male or female and are 19-39 years old. My caution is that this is a small sample size. The number of respondents who identify as non-binary in other age groups is too small to include. Overall, women are somewhat more likely to say they'll use free transit in December than men. Older and younger women and older men are slightly more likely to say they'll take advantage of the no-charge service.

		<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Do you identify as:</i>	<i>How old are you?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
Female	0-18	2	1	3
	19-39	138	108	246
	40-59	105	63	168
	59	25	17	42
Female Total		270	189	459
Male	0-18	2	3	5
	19-39	175	98	273
	40-59	101	59	160
	59	21	14	35
Male Total		299	174	473
Non-binary	0-18	1		1
	19-39	9	15	24
	40-59	4	1	5
Non-binary Total		14	16	30
Grand Total		583	379	962

		<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Do you identify as:</i>	<i>How old are you?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
Female	<i>0-18</i>	<i>66.7%</i>	<i>33.3%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
	19-39	56.1%	43.9%	100.0%
	40-59	62.5%	37.5%	100.0%
	59	59.5%	40.5%	100.0%
Female Total		58.8%	41.2%	100.0%
Male	<i>0-18</i>	<i>40.0%</i>	<i>60.0%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
	19-39	64.1%	35.9%	100.0%
	40-59	63.1%	36.9%	100.0%
	59	60.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Male Total		63.2%	36.8%	100.0%
Non-binary	<i>0-18</i>	<i>100.0%</i>		<i>100.0%</i>
	19-39	37.5%	62.5%	100.0%
	<i>40-59</i>	<i>80.0%</i>	<i>20.0%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
Non-binary Total		46.7%	53.3%	100.0%
Grand Total		60.6%	39.4%	100.0%
<i>Small sample size</i>				

Ridership frequency

Respondents who say they “sometimes” take transit are much more likely to say they will take transit more often when it is free.

	<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Are you a regular transit rider?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
I don't regularly take transit	264	138	402
I sometimes take transit	176	175	351
I take transit often	145	69	214
Grand Total	585	382	967
	<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Are you a regular transit rider?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
I don't regularly take transit	65.7%	34.3%	100.0%
I sometimes take transit	50.1%	49.9%	100.0%
I take transit often	67.8%	32.2%	100.0%
Grand Total	60.5%	39.5%	100.0%

Car ownership

Respondents who say they don't own a car and are age 19-39 are particularly likely to say they will take more transit when it is free for the month of December. Note that the sample size for teen and younger respondents is extremely small.

		<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Do you own a car?</i>	<i>How old are you?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
No	0-18	4	4	8
	19-39	114	114	228
	40-59	50	28	78
	59	15	11	26
No Total		183	157	340
Yes	0-18	1		1
	19-39	209	107	316
	40-59	161	95	256
	59	31	20	51
Yes Total		402	222	624
Grand Total		585	379	964

		<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Do you own a car?</i>	<i>How old are you?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
No	0-18	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	19-39	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	40-59	64.1%	35.9%	100.0%
	59	57.7%	42.3%	100.0%
	No Total		53.8%	46.2%
Yes	0-18	100.0%		100.0%
	19-39	66.1%	33.9%	100.0%
	40-59	62.9%	37.1%	100.0%
	59	60.8%	39.2%	100.0%
	Yes Total		64.4%	35.6%
Grand Total		60.7%	39.3%	100.0%

Kids at home

There is no discernible difference between the general population and those with kids at home with respect to intent to take transit more often when it is offered at no charge.

	<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Do you have kids at home?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
No	402	261	663
Yes	183	120	303
Grand Total	585	381	966

	<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Do you have kids at home?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
No	60.6%	39.4%	100.0%
Yes	60.4%	39.6%	100.0%
Grand Total	60.6%	39.4%	100.0%

Ridership frequency and payment method

Respondents who say they don't regularly take transit are much less likely than the overall sample of respondents to say they will take more transit when it is offered at no charge. The most likely to say they'll ride more often are those who say they "sometimes" take transit and who pay for each ride with a balance on their Presto card. Note that some categories have very small sample sizes and answers likely reflect uncertainty with respect to the question wording.

		<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Are you a regular transit rider?</i>	<i>How do you pay for transit?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
I don't regularly take transit	I buy a ticket or pay cash for each ride	74	30	104
	I have a bus pass	9	2	11
	I pay for each ride with a balance on my Presto card	165	104	269
I don't regularly take transit Total		248	136	384
I sometimes take transit	I buy a ticket or pay cash for each ride	21	19	40
	I have a bus pass	11	6	17
	I pay for each ride with a balance on my Presto card	144	150	294
I sometimes take transit Total		176	175	351
I take transit often	I buy a ticket or pay cash for each ride	6	1	7
	I have a bus pass	87	22	109
	I pay for each ride with a balance on my Presto card	52	46	98
I take transit often Total		145	69	214
Grand Total		569	380	949

		<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
<i>Are you a regular transit rider?</i>	<i>How do you pay for transit?</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
I don't regularly take transit	I buy a ticket or pay cash for each ride	71.2%	28.8%	100.0%
	I have a bus pass	81.8%	18.2%	100.0%
	I pay for each ride with a balance on my Presto card	61.3%	38.7%	100.0%
I don't regularly take transit Total		64.6%	35.4%	100.0%
I sometimes take transit	I buy a ticket or pay cash for each ride	52.5%	47.5%	100.0%
	I have a bus pass	64.7%	35.3%	100.0%
	I pay for each ride with a balance on my Presto card	49.0%	51.0%	100.0%
I sometimes take transit Total		50.1%	49.9%	100.0%
I take transit often	I buy a ticket or pay cash for each ride	85.7%	14.3%	100.0%
	I have a bus pass	79.8%	20.2%	100.0%
	I pay for each ride with a balance on my Presto card	53.1%	46.9%	100.0%
I take transit often Total		67.8%	32.2%	100.0%
Grand Total		60.0%	40.0%	100.0%

Work-only riders

Transit is used only for commuting by some riders. Among respondents who replied to the survey indicating **only** that they used transit for work, nearly 1/3 say they will ride more transit during December when it is free, with a large majority of those including shopping as a trip they wouldn't ordinarily make.

<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>			
<i>Do you normally take transit for... (check all that apply)</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
Work	121	55	176
Grand Total	121	55	176
<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>			
<i>Do you normally take transit for... (check all that apply)</i>	No	Yes	Grand Total
Work	68.8%	31.3%	100.0%
Grand Total	68.8%	31.3%	100.0%

<i>Do you normally take transit for... (check all that apply)</i>	<i>What trips will you make with free transit that you wouldn't ordinarily? (check all that apply)</i>	Yes
Work	just to ride the train	1
	Shopping	3
	Shopping, family outings (with three kids) to downtown, museums	1
	Shopping, Fitness and recreation	2
	Shopping, Fitness and recreation, Short trips that are easily accessed by transit for which I would normally drive in cold weather	1
	Shopping, Socializing	11
	Shopping, Socializing, Fitness and recreation	6
	Socializing	5
	Socializing, Take a first ride on the LRT with the kids	1
	Tourism	1
	Work	6
	Work, Fitness and recreation	1
	Work, School	1
	Work, School, Shopping	1
	Work, Shopping	2
	Work, Shopping, Fitness and recreation	1
	Work, Shopping, Socializing	3
	Work, Shopping, Socializing, Fitness and recreation	4
	Work, Socializing	4
Work Total		55
Grand Total		55

“Core” ridership

While arbitrary, I have grouped a number of geographic “core” postal codes together that include K1K, K1L, K1M, K1N, K1R, K1S, K1Y, K1Z and K2P. This cluster of respondents is slightly more likely to say they will take advantage of free transit. Note that the table contains an unresolved data issue that results in some codes being listed twice. I have confirmed that these results are not duplicates.

	<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
	No	Yes	Grand Total
K1K	9	18	27
K1L	18	8	26
K1L	1		1
K1M		2	2
K1N	22	19	41
K1N		1	1
K1R	26	26	52
K1S	18	28	46
K1S	1		1
K1Y	69	66	135
K1Y	1	1	2
K1Z	33	24	57
K2P	31	31	62
Grand Total	229	224	453

	<i>Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free?</i>		
	No	Yes	Grand Total
K1K	33.3%	66.7%	100.0%
K1L	69.2%	30.8%	100.0%
K1L	100.0%		100.0%
K1M		100.0%	100.0%
K1N	53.7%	46.3%	100.0%
K1N		100.0%	100.0%
K1R	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
K1S	39.1%	60.9%	100.0%
K1S	100.0%		100.0%
K1Y	51.1%	48.9%	100.0%
K1Y	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
K1Z	57.9%	42.1%	100.0%
K2P	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Grand Total	50.6%	49.4%	100.0%

Reasons for taking more transit when free

Open-ended questions in the survey were an opportunity to provide further information. The following verbatim answers were provided by respondents indicating that they would take more transit when asked why they would do so (n=327).

the free month is in december and i'll be going to xmas parties, holiday get-togethers, etc downtown. Being free makes it a little more worth it than ordering an uber. and taking the bus allows me to drink (and not drive). I'll only be taking it if the train is working, because I only use transit to go downtown.
\$3.65 adds up quickly when you're traveling all day
A combination of having to go do Christmas shopping/errands and more events happening around the city, mixed with worse weather that makes it difficult to travel how I normally do (bicycle)
Access
As an alternative to walking longer distances generally doesn't save much time so not worth the fare but useful when free.
At current prices, transit cost adds up EXTREMELY quickly so I normally only go places I'm prepared to walk to. Not a huge deal in the summer, but it significantly impacts my travel through the city during the winter or on days when the weather isn't great. Free transit allows me to easily visit neighbourhoods I wouldn't normally be able to justify visiting. It means freedom! I love shopping and eating along Wellington west, hintonburg, Vanier, Old Ottawa South, etc but it's just too far to walk in the cold (or after a long day at work on my feet, or [let's be real] after a few drinks at a local bar)!
b/c usually transit costs too much
Because fares are already ridiculously high, gotta get my rides in before the fare hike.
Because I am already paying for transit through my taxes
because I can make different choices about parking vs: cost of a ride. If I'm imbibing, I can choose transit.
Because I don't have to pay for it and can save on gas😂😂
Because I don't have to pay for it and feel like I'm getting ripped off.
Because I don't have to pay for the garbage that is OCTranspo, so if the bus doesn't show up I'm only out 30 minutes of my time instead of that plus \$4.

Because I don't take transit often, I don't put money in my Presto card. I usually only take transit when I'm in a rush to go somewhere. Now it'll be much easier to just grab a bus when it's available

Because I have a car. Interested in seeing how the system is working now that it is finally up and running.

because I have to get my moneys worth on all the fares I've already paid

Because i usually have a budget ... I can't afford a pass, only enough for school days.

Because I usually walk whenever it's possible to save on bus.

Because I want to send the message to City council that I support free transit - but not just for 1 month, for all the time permanently

Because I won't be out of pocket if it craps out

Because I won't feel as personally humiliated as I do when I pay a fare for a dysfunctional system, whose creation ruined my neighbourhood for seven years

Because I would be saving money compared to taking the same trips when it's not free

Because if it's 'free', at least I won't be too upset about getting what I paid for if/when the train breaks down/we're back to R1s.

Also, there are a few events happening downtown in December and it makes sense to take public transit from Orleans to downtown, whereas some of my day to day activities in the suburbs are just brutal commutes on public transit.

Because it changes the decision point around parking costs vs up to 5 people on transit

Because it is free.

Because it is more convenient when I can break up trips without worrying about the transfer period expiring; because I don't want to spend money on short transit trips that nevertheless are extremely useful and make my days more productive/easier

Because it should be low cost/free all the time.

Because it's different, might save money on gas, might have time to read in transit, my partner has never been on a bus before..... might show him

Because it's easy, I don't need to think about how to pay. OC makes it way too hard to pay, there's nowhere near me.to top up and I have no cash. What if I don't have enough on presto and am stranded? Nah. Free transit 4ever, raise my taxes!

Because it's free

Because it's free, I will chance it.
Because it's free! I'm not paying hundreds of dollars per month for a car, nor am I spending extra money every trip I take. I'm going to use the shit out of free transit
Because it's free.
Because it's not usually worth the hassle. The service is too expensive for the quality
Because it's expensive to take two adults and one child as a round trip. Might as well take the car or our bikes. Or walk.
Taking it more for the novelty factor as well - a five year old can't remember taking transit before COVID....and in our case, had no need to take it since. seems like something special.
I'll likely take one round trip, still not regular use.
Because it's free
Because it's free.
Because it's no longer galactically overpriced.
Because its the holidays and I want it to be fun.
Because public transit should be free in every city, but especially in Ottawa where there is such a large gap between those who are comfortable and those who have very little. Free transit plays a small part in helping to make that gap smaller.
Because taking free transit offsets any perceived inconvenience over taking the car
Because then I will not have to pay so much in Uber. But I will need to budget more time for travelling.
Because transit, despite being less convenient, often costs more than taking an uber or parking. Free transit eliminates this cost. However, even while it is free, I still would not rely on transit to get somewhere that is time sensitive (e.g. Via station, work, etc.) because it is not reliable.
Because we are a single income family of four and I can't afford to take the bus more than once a week with my daughter otherwise.
Because we mostly do it as a whole family and transit is very expensive when we travel together versus taking the car

Because when it is free, it is less expensive than taking my car and warmer than taking my bike. Otherwise it is more expensive. Usually I walk or cycle to things that are close enough and then take the car for things that are further. All of those are cheaper and more convenient than transit usually.

Because...it's free. I'll toot about just because.

Before COVID, I had a monthly pass because I needed to be able to use STO to get to work and took transit everywhere. I cancelled my monthly pass when the pandemic hit, and now rarely take transit because most of the places I go are not worth the fare - it's either close enough to walk or so inconvenient on transit that I drive (even if I have to pay to park, it's often close to the cost of a return trip). With transit being free, I am much more likely to use transit for both the short trips (especially as it gets colder) and the longer trips (paying to park is now much more expensive/it's now worth taking a longer time on transit vs driving directly).

Better cost proposal

Bit of a reductive answer, but I'm taking the free bus because it is free.

Can just hop on when I see one. Save money and time. I will use it for shorter trips too.

Can take shorter trips more frequently, explore other parts of our neighbourhood.

Can't afford to park downtown. My kids will also be able to take it to get to school. There are 4 of us that need it.

Cause free

Cheaper

Cheaper than gas, convenient when functional.

cheaper than parking. sometimes it is cheaper to drive and park. for work, if its free I'll be more inclined to take it then walk the hour home. both are reasonable options. I would bike longer season if the bike routes were winter maintained.

Cheaper than paying for parking

Christmas time shopping. Try the train to see if it jams.

Coincidence, we would've gone anyway this month

Convenience

Convenience of the LRT since I live downtown

Cost of transit (free) relative to cost of parking. As well, I tend to use public transit more frequently at this time of the year (Christmas and New Year) because it is more practical, easier and safe. I feel that there are more people on the roads at this time of the year (year end parties, shopping, etc.), shopping mall parking is very busy and I don't have to worry about how much I drink when I socialize.

Please note that I was a regular transit rider before COVID and had a monthly pass. I used it daily to get to work, and frequently to run errands. I mention this because the questions on transit use do not account for possible temporary change in behaviour as a result of COVID and only ask about current use which may not reflect "normal" use.

Curious to see if the experience has changed since the beginning of the pandemic.

Currently I would rather take the bus to visit places like Rideau Centre, Market, the pubs on Elgin Street. The truth is even though driving in those neighbourhoods stresses me out, I drive anyway. Parking is SO much cheaper than transit, especially if I'm with my partner or friend(s). I actually can't wait to take the bus to do holiday shopping!!

December is cold .. so rather than walking ...

Doing some holiday clean up plus might take transit downtown while family is here.

Don't have to carry change to get on the bus or LTR, main barrier for use is gone.

Don't have to worry about transfers or short trips

Don't often go to Rideau because parking is expensive. Expect I will go now that transit is free.

Don't want to pay for parking or deal with the hassle of driving at/around Lansdowne. I'll use the parking and gas savings on my time at the Xmas market!

Don't have a bus pass now because of WFH, so I try to keep things local to keep transit expenses down. Free transit means I can go to a farther location that I like better without worrying about the extra cost

Due to not paying

Easier to bring the kids

Easier to get to Byward market for free without worrying about parking

Easier to just get on the bus if I forget to carry my bus pass with me

Easy to get on and go

Family of 4, less expensive day trip
Finances.
Financial
For one it's a little less stressful but I'm also very low income so every ride matters.
for two people to pay fares there and back is \$14.40. I can drive and park for less than that especially if I'm going somewhere with free parking. Given the added convenience of NOT DERAILING my car will get me there more reliably.
But free is free, you know?
Free = I can spend more time shopping, in different neighbourhoods and not have to worry about paying ~ 7.00 in fare prices going from my home to my destination. In the past I've been under the limit but have had to wait for buses and needed to pay an additional fare to get home since the bus I need is running behind. Free transit means I am inclined to visit parts of Ottawa I would only visit once a year or would never visit when paying via presto.
Free is a good price
Free is cheaper than gas
Free plus winter
free transit means fare enforcement is eliminated, this makes the city and service much safer for riders, that's a service i can support
Free trips make transit much more enticing compared to alternatives such as uber/taxis. For certain trips with multiple people, OC transpo's high fair rate will end up being more expense than splitting an uber. Taking fares out of the equation makes transit an easy choice
Free! Fun!
Get out more.
Go shopping at Rideau, which I hate driving to.
Going to multiple destinations in a single trip, without worrying about the transfer time running out
Gonna result in higher taxes either way
Great time to try it!
Hard to justify going out sometimes since travel is expensive
Hard to say no to a free ride
have nothing to lose

Having to pay \$8/round trip discourages me from using transit. I'm more willing to use it often knowing it's free, just like using our roads is free for private car drivers.

Hmmm good question.... I guess because free is psychologically appealing. Also I am more likely to take random trips with no specific destination if its free. Nice way to see more of the city.

I am hoping that the problems with the LRT are more or less behind us and I think free transit is the impetus for me to get back on.

I am usually only going places within 0-10km from home, and usually with my partner,. It doesn't make sense to take transit when I can use a service like uber for roughly the same price. Transit takes much longer, is unreliable, you have to deal with inclement weather, in covid times are surrounded by more people. But, I will endure those downsides to save the \$6-8 per trip. If we were not coming into winter, I would use the free transit much less, maybe not at all, as I bike.

I bus often but not enough for a pass. I may make errands more often, go shopping or go out to eat. Not having to fork out extra money to go out and come back is appealing. Also, will most likely use Uber or Lyft less often. Who doesn't like saving money when they can or using that saved money from free transit to use on things I actually want to spend money on.

I can go further without the need of multiple fares.

I can make more spontaneous trips rather than planning efficient trips

I can save transportation costs. But I will only take it more often if the bus is reliable... it isn't always and have to be at work on time.

I can take my kids downtown and not pay for their fares, or parking

I can't afford to take the bus regularly; it is way too expensive! Not having to worry about how to pay, and not seeing people get kicked off the bus due to their inability to pay will make the experience way better! The only thing holding me back is the level of service and slow transit times around my neighbourhood.

I commute to work, so two paid trips per day, 5 days a week. So I try to plan errands around the transfer period on the way home from work, or take my partner's car on weekends for errands. We'll likely use transit now that it's free and don't have to worry about driving in the winter

I do not take transit normally, because I have a car. However, gas is also expensive, parking is expensive, the cost of living in general is expensive, so I will take any reprieve possible to save even the tiniest bit of money in this city. This past weekend, I went for my booster vaccine at Minto (OttawaU), and I took an Uber to get there because I didn't want to worry about finding and paying for parking. This is a perfect example of a time that I would've much rather taken a free transit trip (I'm doing my part to help the COVID situation, it would've been nice to not have to pay for the pleasure of getting vaccinated).

I don't have to reload my presto card in order to try out the system again. And if the lrt isn't running, I can reschedule my outing. I will probably never go back to taking transit to work...unless it was permanently free.

I don't have to worry about only spending 90 minutes somewhere because of the transfer window. I will probably only take the train more often because I live right by it and it is very convenient for Xmas shopping downtown. I doubt I will take the bus at all because the trips take so long.

I don't like our transit system for two reasons: it's expensive and unreliable. Now it'll just be unreliable.

I don't need to try to fit things into a single transfer period.

I don't want to spend \$7 return for a 10-minute trip, so I'd likely drive. But willing to take transit if I don't have to pay the fare. Today, I went to the Rideau Centre on my lunch break, for instance

I find it expensive to take the train a short trip from near my place (Lyon) to say the Market. If it's free I would take it instead of walking. Normally I would walk instead of paying almost \$7 for the short ride. I also would likely take it to work during bad storms to avoid driving in terrible weather. I do this even when I need to pay but will likely do it more often. The last reason would be for social events in December using transit as my DD instead of Uber.

I find the cost of a fare to be high for the short local trips I normally want to take. For instance, traveling to Little Italy for an evening of is almost \$8. I can split an Uber for roughly the same cost and I don't have to worry about reliability of departure time.

I hate driving and looking and paying for parking, so I am so looking forward to exploring the city and doing some Christmas shopping using the free transit. I will certainly be spending more money at local and small businesses now that I can get to them easier and for free.

I hate paying for crap service

I have no need to take it, usually; so this is an opportunity to explore more.

I haven't taken transit since COVID - my 7 yr old has never ridden the train. I might take him because trains are fun.

I haven't used OC transport since the train "rolled out". I've had no interest. Since it's free I might take a ride and see how little I've been missing.

I like the convenience of going into the city and not worrying about parking but transit is normally more expensive and less convenient than my car. Transit is also very unreliable particularly if I have several places to go. Free transit makes it easier to hop on and off and take short trips with many different stops.

I like the idea, but I am too fearful of viruses, and getting lost

I live downtown, and don't necessarily need a bus pass (working from home) but with unreliable service and a loss of convenient buses (for the train) I've started taking Ubers when I need to leave the house. Free transit will entice me to use transit more often, without feeling like I am paying for a low value service.

I live on the Transitway not far from a mall. Short trips to pick up a few things—a bottle of wine, a bag of chips— make a lot more sense without the \$3.60 price tag. (As someone who works from home, a pass makes no real sense either.)

I live very close to the LRT, it's the holiday season and I normally Uber (rather than drive if I plan to have a drink) but if anything I'm attending is near the LRT route, I will take advantage of the free service.

I may as well make use of it

I may take 1 or 2 trips during the month to the shopping centre as opposed to driving and paying for parking.

I might take the bus more often for short distances that I would normally walk (2-3 km) or bike (3-7 km) -- if it is cold out and/or I want to save energy by not walking or biking, but only if it is convenient (don't have to go far out of my way to catch it or wait for a long/uncertain amount of time for it to arrive).

I might use it once or twice more, but not a significant amount. It does make it easier to justify taking it for distances that are a bit longer than comfortable - but not impossible - to walk or bike (40 mins - 1 hour), especially if the weather is bad. Normally fares are so high that I would almost always walk, bike, or borrow a car from a relative if I happened to have an errand further away. (But in general my life is set up to be quite local!)

I never have the exact amount of money to take a bus.

I normally cycle and walk most places, and occasionally use Communauto. If I can cycle or walk somewhere for free and get exercise, I don't see the point in paying for transit.

However, it's getting to the time of year when I will cycle less because of the temperatures and/or ice and snow and I might be inclined to take transit more. With transit being free for the month, that is an extra reason to not cycle and take transit instead.

I normally don't go downtown because I have to find parking, and it's hugely expensive to park. Now I can avoid this stress and cost. Everyone needs a lot less stress these days!

I often choose not to go places because the length of transit time and cost ends up feeling like it's not worth it. (It takes min 30 min to get anywhere from where I live by transit) - this removes one of those two obstacles which will make it easier to get over the other one.

I put off doing things normally, until I can do them all at once to make fewer trips. If it's free, I don't have to worry about that and can do it when I have the time.

Alternatively, for very short trips in awful weather, where I would tough it out before, I might not now

I resent paying for the privilege of late and cancelled buses and trains. If it's free, though, I'll give it a shot. Can always Uber home with the money saved when it doesn't show up.

I sometimes walk to work to save money, but will be more likely to take the bus every shift.

I take transit as a convenience. For example, sometimes I will bike to errands and take transit home if it is convenient. With free transit, I will be more inclined to supplement biking etc., with OC Transpo. However, I don't think that it will create a habit, as once fares are reinstated, it will still be cheaper to walk or bike.

I think it is better for the environment ; I am a senior I already get 2 days free transit every week

I used to take it daily before the pandemic. I have been working from home for almost two years and simply haven't had to take it as much. I cancelled my monthly pass long ago, which means that I will walk most places now instead of paying for a fare.

I used to take the bus for everything but not once I had a family. I want to reduce enviro impact.

I usually cycle but I think I'll take the LRT downtown a few times to avoid cycling in bad weather

I usually default to my car, given its convenience and sunk cost--even though transit is cheaper, there's still a non-zero monetary and time cost. Given there's no monetary cost in December, I'm happy to pay more in time cost to use it (compared with using my car).

But I have no faith that RTG can maintain the O-Train properly or that the city is equipped to provide effective oversight to the contract. I'm glad I can walk to work because I couldn't rely on the O-Train for my commute.

I want to personally thank the operators and staff for keeping our city moving while most of us were working from home.

I want to see if I can do without a car for all local activities. I bike as much as I can in Spring/Summer/Fall. This may help me decide I also have a winter alternative to a car. We need waaaaaayyyy fewer cars on the road. They are ruining our city and our planet.

I want to send a message that people are willing to use the system.

I want to try it out after avoiding it for a long time

I want to try the train

I will be able to explore various more parts of the city I wouldn't necessarily venture to.

I will take the bus/train to work because it's convenient. I won't use it for any other reason (shopping, socializing, etc.) because it's inconvenient, requires you to stand out in the cold, never know when the bus will come, and generally take longer than driving. Even free, it doesn't work for me.

I woke from home now and don't socialize or shop much because of COVID. We'll use this as an excuse to ride the train for fun.

I won't have to budget to take the bus! I can use the extra saved to help pay other bills this month.

I would normally walk if the distance is not too bad, but with free transit, I would hop on the train for a couple of stops to save time.

I would normally walk or ride my bike, but with the winter weather, free transit will be much more convenient and warm.

I would normally walk or use car sharing but I'll use the free transit even if doesn't get me exactly to my destination to save money

I'll take my kid and make use of the freebie ride

I'm a low income senior with physical and vision disabilities. I can drive through the daytime but if I want to socialize or shop at night I have to take transit. I can't afford Uber or taxis. The weather is becoming quite inclement and it's also the Christmas season. It's a natural time of year to get out and about more often especially in the evenings and on weekends. I'm still very wary and take extra precautions because of the pandemic; however, the lockdowns and the isolation has caused me to suffer significant depression and anxiety. I'm hoping a little bit of free transit will help me to expand my social activities and improve my mental health.

I'm cheap so instead of walking everywhere I might use the train to get closer to home

I'm much more inclined to use a free service than to pay for an unreliable one. If the bus is free I'll take my chances vs soaking an uber

I'm not being gouged

I've never wanted to spend since I had a car, but if it is free, I would love to help with the environment by taking my car off the road, and expand my areas of travel.

I'd often walk home from work to save a bit of money/exercise, but work is especially draining this time of year so I will take the bus more. I'll also shop downtown and take the train during the holiday season.

I'm a little cheap.

I'm a senior and can't afford a bus pass. I could go downtown and save on parking

I'm currently working from home as a federal public servant. Normally I would have to commute on the LRT / bus to 1285 Baseline from centretown. I have saved around \$2300 not paying for monthly bus passes during the pandemic (April 2020 - now). I haven't loaded any money on my card because I just book a communocar to do errands that are outside walking distance (3km). But if it's free, and most are vaccinated - I'll save the \$10 a trip.

I'm retired now, so any savings is appreciated. Just this week I paid \$12 for parking for a medical appointment. That's more than half my discretionary spending for a day.

If I have to pay \$7+ to make it downtown, I would rather pay for parking (or get free parking in some cases) and do it on my own accord. But I can't argue with free transit, allowing me to not just have one beer or smoke.

If it's between transit and an Uber, I'll run the numbers and take the cheaper option.

If there is not time constrain and it is a light trip, I would rather take a free bus ride, as it is free and does less damage to the environment.

It being free is a boon; I'm just a baby about the increasingly cold temperatures
It cost 7.40\$ (Two fares) to go to the gym and then back. Parking is free after 5:30pm. Tunneys to Parliament/Rideau station.
It is free and I don't have to pay.
It is free. Free is good.
It is more affordable and so I will go more places.
It is normally much cheaper to drive for an outing with a family of five. However, free transit (*with reliable service*) tips the scale and is more attractive than driving/parking.
It is now more worth the effort / increased time taking transit than driving or calling an Uber.
It is very tempting especially because snow is setting in. Too bad omicron virus now a concern since public LRT crowding not desirable. Too bad there is a feeling of risk with the LRT due to accidents. So it is tempting anyway because it is free. Should always be free. Stop charging so much at least. Make it part of solution to cars everywhere by making it a tempting, low or no cost travel option. Past due.
It makes a trip special for my daughter but it takes twice the time and is twice the headache with a toddler compared to taking the car. Being free makes it that tiny bit more tempting that we might do it more often for her sake.
It makes taking transit for shopping an easier decision, especially as it gets colder.
It should be
It should be free all the time. It's not fair that the Queensway is free for users but transit costs so much.
It will be cheaper than a Lyft or Uber, or car sharing
It will be cheaper than parking
It will bring me places I wouldn't be able to walk or bike to, without having to use a single-occupant vehicle - exploration is fun!
It's an incentive to go downtown. I don't normally drive downtown because I'm not a skilled driver, but I like to go to shop. I used to be a regular transit user before work-from-home. Looking forward to getting out more this month.
It's cheaper than paying for an uber
It's expensive to take transit otherwise

It's expensive! As a student, it's nice that I am getting reimbursed for the amount I paid for my university bus pass as well. I'm grateful I can afford to pay for a UPASS, but not everyone can pay \$122/month, or even regularly fill up a pass with a certain amount. I will likely be going out and socializing more. It is likely I will also be going back to work, so I will be getting my money's worth over the winter break.

It's free

it's free! no need to think about it

IT'S FREE!!!

It's free. Gas is expensive

It's not as cost effective for my wife and I to each pay \$3.60 both ways when we can take an Uber for not much more and get to our destination faster. With free transit, we can take it more frequently and will have more money to spend wherever it is we are going.

It's so expensive normally

It's too crappy to pay for/rely on

It's a fun activity for the kids that normally might cost \$20-25 return for a couple hours downtown on the bus or train. So just avoid it. But if it's free, we'll do it.

It's Christmas, more traffic at malls and parties

It's free

It's free - so if it isn't reliable at least I didn't pay for it

It's free, don't have to think about it.

It's free!! I love transit! But hate that I can park for free at my destination and have to pay for transit, so I generally drive because it's free/cheaper. Also, transit takes about twice along. I live a 2 minute walk from Wellington. I have driven to MEC before (9 minutes) despite WANTING to take transit.. it takes 30 minutes to get there by bus. It is the SAME road! Would love if Wellington or Scott were bus-only roads! (Preferably Wellington.. if only we had streetcars.....)

It's free. Only reason. Cheaper than paying for parking at the Rideau centre.

It's not cost effective (i.e., too expensive) to take the train only a few stops (within the core) - parking or Uber is the same price, or cheaper if my husband and I are going together.

It's so expensive to take it that I will only normally take it when I need to. This will allow me to take it for shorter trips and not have to waste my money on a shitty LRT and bus system

It's too expensive to spend almost \$7.50 a day to go from Bayview to Parliament. I bike because I don't want to pay. I would rather be warm on the bus/train. So now it's free I don't have to bike in the cold and pay a ton of money for a 10 minute train ride.

Its free! Better than walking and no parking to worry about

Its too expensive, paying for an uber is a few dollars more

Its way too expensive at its current price. Taking a car is just so much easier/cheaper. Plus, it is hella unreliable even if I decide to take it.

Just because! It was very hard to justify spending the money on riding OCT, unless I absolutely had to (e.g. when I had to go into the office) - it takes me forever to get across the city (1.5 hours from Lincoln Fields to Chapel Hill - which is only 23 km according to Google Maps), and it used to infuriate me any time I thought I was getting taken for a ride (if you'll pardon the pun) by subsidizing subpar transit. But with the cost factor out of the way, I can justify it more. I don't actually know how many I will end up taking, but I'm willing to experiment and to see how it goes.

Just cuz it's free & cold out. But it will be a last resort as I find it very unreliable.

Just for shopping at a mall that is not my usual mall. I live beside the Kanata Centrum and will shop there to avoid a paying bus trip.

Just one less thing to worry about.

Kids love riding the train for fun

Leaves me more pocket money for Christmas presents/donations.

Less complicated, no parking but mostly I like that it removes a barrier for others.

Less tiring than walking whole way

mainly just because of the free aspect. i used to take transit much more frequently when i worked in office and paid for a monthly bus pass, but now, i tend to wait until i have a few errands to do in the same area before taking the bus/train out, since i'll be paying ~\$7 for a round trip

Makes it cheaper

Makes me happy that it's free.

Maybe I'm in the minority, but I find transit to be an enjoyable way to get around, especially when I'm not in a hurry. My 3-year old daughter loves it. But, sometimes it feels silly to take transit when you don't need to with the cost of a fare. Fare-free gives me the freedom to take fun transit trips with my daughter.

Maybe like one because it's free but I'd rather lower fares! And improved routes!
Maybe when plan on drinking
Might as well!
More accessible. The cost of transit is a major barrier for a lot of people and I feel the impacts it has on ridership numbers (coupled with those of the pandemic) are used to justify remarkably poor levels of service. I would like to think that more usage will help justify more investment, but it isn't clear if ridership is even being tracked during the free month.
Councillor Fleury has done a great job highlighting how disproportionate trip cancellation is in my area compared to others (none should have this level of trip cancellation). OC Transpo is incredibly unreliable as a service and the people managing it, and those with the power to fix it should be ashamed of the system.
More likely to go further from home if it is free rather than paying for transportation adding to cost of outing
More likely to take transit instead of driving to places that are difficult to park where I would have to pay (like downtown).
Most trips are short. Not worth \$3.75 each way to go 2 km. Especially when street parking at my destination is free or I can walk
My main method of transportation is by bicycle, which is "free" for me to take. So having multiple options at the same price point gives me more choice. If I'm paying \$7 for a round trip on transit vs free round trip by bike for essentially the same length of time, I'll choose the free trip. Now I have multiple free options to pick from. Will also add to comfort levels and my interest in shopping at local businesses in other parts of the city during the colder months :)
no charge + the fact that taking transit removes stress from being a driver will make taking transit more attractive for some trips to destinations with heavy congestion or limited parking, trips during more inclement weather, trips to destinations where I may consume alcohol
No presto card to maintain for the month.
No winter tires yet, I find it more relaxing than driving, lessen pollution, save wear and tear
No.
Normally bike all year but will take transit a few times this month when it's cold or super slushy.

Normally taking the bus is not worth the price when I could bike but if it's free, why not? Also, loading presto cards is a hassle and I have a hard time remembering my balance.

Not having to pay the fee + the convenience of not having to find the exact change to pay for the bus. I don't often happen to have \$3.XX in my wallet (and don't have a presto card at the moment) unless I'm specifically planning to take OC Transpo, so maybe this will allow a somewhat more spontaneous use of the system.

Not really, likely only once just for the kids novelty.

Not willing to pay for transit unless absolutely needed. With it being free, taking the opportunity to use it more to see what the service is like.

Office reopening

Often times I would rather walk than pay bus fare, but I will likely take transit more often during the free month, since it's getting colder as well.

On a very small pension

On maternity leave - Way to get out of the house, explore different neighbourhoods without the hassle of packing baby into car

One less barrier. Convenience. No need to prepare ahead of time, especially when in bring me kids.

One less expense

Only taking it for entertainment - will just be doing a circle and returning to original station

Only to give the system a try. Why spend money just to say I rode the lrt? We live just outside Ottawa so it's more convenient to drive in. But now we could park at St Laurent or Blair and try out the train for ourselves

Perhaps just to get outside?

Rather bus for free when it's cold out than walk or Uber, which is what I'd typically opt for with normal transit costs.

Removes financial barrier (current price for one ride is quite steep especially for shorter trips). Also, weather is getting colder making walking less desirable.

Requires no planning ahead for getting tickets or having payment on me.

Run errands at lunch (Xmas shopping etc)

Save a bit of money when going out as a family, also to prove that free transit works

Save money

Save money instead of taking Uber

Save some money when finances are tight.
See parts of the city that I do not know. Venture further out beyond 90 minute transfers.
Seems easy to get on and off
Short trips are not worth \$7 return if there's free parking and I can drive instead. Free transit levels the playing field compared to those car trips. By the way, we should call it a core service (or something similar) and not free transit. We don't call it free roads or free water pipes - we know they're essential infrastructure paid by our taxes. Transit should be treated the same way.
short trips I'd normally walk (e.g. Lyon to Rideau on the o train) make more sense to bus now, especially with cold weather
Since I don't have to spend the ridiculously expensive fare of \$3.60... \$7.20 for a round trip to the gym isn't worth it.
So the kids can ride the train.
Sometimes I like taking the train just for fun!
Started walking everywhere during pandemic. Saved money. Will take a few free buses when I otherwise would have walked
Take advantage of free transit. I find it very inconvenient that they don't sell tickets anymore. For someone who uses transit infrequently, it's a burden to have to buy a Presto pass.
Take advantage of the opportunity
Take advantage of the opportunity. Transit is currently too expensive for the quality of service it provides.
The cost differential between transit vs. Uber/lyft becomes greater
The cost equation of doing trips with groups won't exist (i.e., 2 or 3 people going somewhere splitting an Uber is often cheaper than transit fares). It seems silly to pay almost \$4 each way to get somewhere as fast as it takes to often walk there in the inner city, and substantially slower than biking.
The cost of a ride on this city's transit isn't worth it when I factor in my way there and my way home. An Uber to my destination is marginally more with less hassle, more reliability, and less exposure to people. But now that transit is free, I'll use it.
The current cost of transit adds up too quickly for my budget.

The daily cost of to/from bus fare is nearly the same cost as daily parking at my workplace. I am happy to take the bus when it's FREE so I can zone out for 40 mins and not have to fight traffic on the 417. If the bus is late or no-show then I will not feel like my money is wasted.

However, if I had to pay for the bus, then I'd rather not be at the mercy of the unreliable service. I'd prefer to have the control using my own car, even if that means being stuck in traffic a little longer.

Additionally, I hate driving the 417 in winter because of the constant accidents and congestion, so the free bus makes winter commuting a bit more appealing. If the bus service was free in the summer, I'd likely stick with my car.

The fare cost is often the deciding factor for me. It is too expensive to justify taking it for a short trip, or when transit is the longest duration option (which is almost always the case). The level of service is not high quality enough (frequency, speed etc) to merit that cost. I can only afford to take transit when I have all the time in the world.

The fare would have been paid through my property taxes, so why not using it?

The free transit means I don't have to worry about keeping track of the balance on my Presto card or keeping track of receipts while I'm on the go.

The freeness is a big draw. It's cheaper than driving my car places and better for the environment, which I appreciate. If it was more reliable AND free it would easily be my primary mode of transportation.

The paid service is a joke and certainly not worth it.

the single fare price is far too high to justify taking transit anywhere in the city.

The transit system is too expensive and inconvenient (especially for the price) when I could more easily get somewhere in my car for less money and time. If it was free it would be the more appealing option for getting around the city. Also I don't have a balance on my presto card and would need to wait 24 hrs to load the card online, and I don't even know how else to purchase tickets or pay for transit.

The value equation of taking transit with kids vs driving shifts if transit is free. Otherwise, transit fare would be more than parking at the destination (museums, downtown, etc).

There is no effective access to transit in Metcalfe so it's a non-starter for regular commuting. The trip I would take would be just an outing to ride the train again (for the first time since the start of the pandemic).

Thing to do with the kids over the weekend

To applaud this initiative taken by the city of Ottawa
To explore other areas of the city that are not within walking distance of my home (and I am a walker!)
To make up for all the other times I got screwed by OCTranspo, PRESTO, or both, and also get things done in December so I don't have to in January. Bring in a monthly cash-to-pass fare option!
To save money on Uber. Not worth it when transit is so pricy, I would rather just pay for an Uber for convenience. But if I can take transit for free, I would rather save the money.
To take advantage of the offer.
To try it
To try the LRT
Transit fares are prohibitive when compared to alternatives (ie: uber, driving my own vehicle). Fares for a family of three from home to downtown, or shopping, is not reasonable for a five km one way trip.
Transit in our city is broken but free is free
Transit is really expensive for more than one person. \$14 round trip for two people is way too much, especially considering the extra time cost.
Transit is so expensive, it would be nice to take advantage of it when the price fits the service
Transit isn't worth the high fares and headache, I won't complain if it's free
Transit should be free. Not having to worry about having enough money to get to work OR choosing between a monthly pass, rent or food.
Transit takes slightly longer than driving. The free price makes that more acceptable.
Try a different mode of transportation and Leave car at home
try and change some habits, i support the idea of free transit so might as well try to use it more. maybe if lots of people use it, the city will see benefit of free transit to increase ridership, will improve service (praying haha!)
try it out. See if it still takes as long to commute by bus as it does to walk (50 minutes to go 6 km)
Uber is too expensive and so is paying for parking anywhere downtown for longer than 30 mins.
Ubering is more efficient but not having to pay makes up for the lack of efficiency
Unreliability is not worth paying for
Usually quite expensive for non-regular use.

Waiting for a bus in the downtown core to go 1-2 km (or even 3-4) is not worth \$3.60 or whatever the cost is. But I will wait for a free bus!

Warmer than walking

Was planning on doing some shopping downtown and at Landsdowne market, driving and parking is a nightmare in those areas, so transit, however in reliable, is the better option

We are a family of 5. To take bus 3-5 stops and back home makes no sense financially. I feel bad for not taking the bus more often as a family to events, quick trips to bayshore etc bc we live a 3 min walk from iris station. I would take bus so much more often if it was free. As another example, my partner and I would take bus to britannia cross country ski trail if it was free, but it is only 2 stops...not worth paying almost16\$ for 30 mins of skiing, might as well drive... ..

keep up the good work, we are all excited for what 2022 holds for ottawa (after the election)

We are a one car couple, usually husband will drive me to work. I plan on taking a bus/train if I go into the office. If I was going into office regularly non-pandemic I would usually try to walk to avoid paying fares for such a short distance (45 min walk) . Line 2 being down really makes transit inconvenient to get downtown from civic hospital neighbourhood.

We may use transit to go downtown if it is free; it is normally too expensive for a family of 4.

Weather, it's free

Well, honestly for me I would take transit more often if it came more frequently (i.e. at or above pre-pandemic levels) but I want to take it more often during December to show city council that I believe in and want to see more free transit in the city.

When travelling with kids transit gets expensive so use it less often. Kids are now using transit for school and to explore the city.

Why not

why not? I'm planning on living car free soon so it will be good to try transit

Why should I pay for shoddy, unreliable service, leaving me standing out in the cold? So many routes have been truncated and reduced in frequency, it is impossible to get anywhere now. Schedules and GPS data are totally unreliable. This is the only way I can complete errands without paying twice because transfer time (which was supposed to have been extended, in recognition of the number of bus trips which are being cancelled) has expired.

Will find reasons to go out.

Will take it with my friends instead of Ubering. Ubering is cheaper when you have three people
Will take transit home after work instead of walking (winter weather + quicker and easier, but otherwise costly) and will go shopping after work (away from home) then take transit home - easier, quicker cheaper.. Will also take my 2-year old son on transit as he loves seeing the bus and train, but with most things he needs in the 'burg we haven't had a reason!
With a bike, a car, and kids, transit it's too expensive relative to my other options, but like to drive less when biking is less of an option
With transit free, I am more likely to consider using transit as opposed to a car or Uber for socializing this holiday season.
Won't be paying for individual trips
Worth trying it to see if it fits in our lifestyle more - we typically walk everywhere we need to, with occasional LRT trips to visit clients.
Would carpool otherwise, but free transit allows more schedule flexibility
Wouldnt need to balance the cost of the trip against the time spent walking.
Yes
Yes, because it's getting cold outside and usually the cost of an Uber (safer) is only \$10, so price transit \$\$\$ is too high.
Yes! I won't have to budget my money in between paychecks anymore!
Yes. Paying OC Transpo isn't something I've been doing much (I'd rather beg for rides from family) because it's too unreliable. Why would I pay for something that doesn't function on a fundamental level?

Reasons for not taking more transit when free

Open-ended questions provided respondents with an opportunity to describe why they would not be taking more transit when it is offered in December. Following are the verbatim responses provided by those who indicated that they would not be taking more transit (n=507). With proper coding, it may be possible to discern specific trends according to age, ridership frequency, etc., but it would take further time. Note that the covid-19 pandemic is mentioned in a significant number of answers (n=62)

I am privileged to be able to work from home and drive into work when I need to do so. I use transit because I know it is better for the environment. I would have preferred reduced/ free transit for those who really need it, for longer than one month.

I had a terrible experience with the train pre-pandemic and for the first time in my life am planning my work day and commute around avoiding transit.

I only take transit to get to work and currently wfh due to covid

1) Because the system is unreliable, and my time is worth more than \$3.60 in each direction.

2)It's not free! It's zero fare up front, then collected on the back end through property tax or future fare increases

15min city. I have a car, bicycle and I walk to most places. Transit is unreliable and time consuming.

4th Variant. Too many people. Don't feel safe. Haven't a clue How to get around. Too many connections to go from point A to B. Routes are messed up, unfamiliar and unfriendly for journeys beyond the main route lines.

Afraid of crowded trains.

All forms of transit in Ottawa are unreliable. I'm tired of constantly being late or needing to leave 2 hours earlier than necessary to hope I make it in time. Transit for me is a "last option only" resource.

Already paid for a uPass with my tuition so it doesn't change anything for me

As a student, I have a pass through the University of Ottawa that's already paid for with my tuition, so the free rides don't impact me at all since I don't pay per ride anyway.

As a vulnerable Senior I prefer to be cautious with interacting with large groups.

Avoid Oc Transpo unless absolutely need to. Transit in Ottawa is a joke.

Avoiding transit during pandemic but had been using it less because of unreliability prior. Been a dedicated public transit user for 17 years and have never owned a car. Ultimately depended more on uber when I could not afford to be late and did not want to count on the bus arriving on time.

Awful service
Bad schedule, too many transfer, and would add at least 2h of commute to work.
Bad service
Because every time I think “hey! I think I’ll take this trip by OC Transpo instead of driving/walking/biking/calling a cab”, I end up either freezing on a street corner waiting for a bus that shows up late or not at all, standing on an LRT platform waiting for an LRT that’s delayed because it was too rainy/snowy/leafy/crowded for the train to run, or for the really fun times, trapped underground. Utterly horrible transit system.
because free doesn't mean it's gonna be worth it. I'm not trying to get stuck in the cold for hours. I'd rather spend my paycheck and waste it on Uber if it means getting to where I need to be on time
Because I already use it for most things
Because I already use transit for everything
Because I am already using transit as much as I need to. I also don't fully have faith in our transit system at the moment so I avoid using the LRT at all costs in favour of the Buses
Because I can't rely on the service, and my commute to Kanata would burn approx 4 hours of my day
Because I currently use it for most things, but also I don't trust it for anything I need to do on a tight schedule.
Because I don't need to and, even though it's free it doesn't guarantee that the train will arrive or won't get stuck between stations
because I don't need to use the bus
Because I fully expect the train to break down again during the free month, and because service cuts to the bus network make a 15 minute commute take 45m+. Uber is getting my transit money now because of Mayor Watson's corruption and incompetence.
because it is unreliable
Because it sucks
Because it sucks lol
Because it's embarrassingly useless and unpredictable when it's fare based, I don't know why it would be any better when it's free.
Because it's not really free and the service is still terrible
Because it's terrible service

Because oc transpo fucking sucks and just because it's free doesn't mean I want to spend even an extra second of my time on the shitty buses or "train"

Because OC Transpo is completely unreliable and usually takes anywhere from 2x-5x as long to get to my destination.

Because of COVID 19, I don't plan on going anywhere unnecessarily.

Because of the inconsistency: buses are very late or just plainly don't show up at all, and because it feels like such a pittance compared to everything that has happened and gone wrong, not just over the past year or so, but for the last decade or more. They will raise the fares *again*, probably as soon as January. It is way too expensive as is. Especially for the terrible service we receive. OC Transpo is a national (maybe even global) laughing stock, and a black eye on our city.

Because of the pandemic - mask wearing is not enforced and the train breaks down often.

Because our transit is an utter failure. It is unreliable, and too expensive, so I'd rather take an Uber or drive. It's cheaper at this point than free. If I miss work, I lose money or will be fired. Free or not, our transit is garbage and you, as a councillor, should be ashamed of yourself for failing the city and its residents.

Because the LRT has not been reliable. I need reliable transportation, to me that is more important than cost.

Because the LRT is inherently unsafe. The last derailment demonstrates that out of spec conditions aren't reliably caught by the system. I won't ever ride it until there's proof positive that the system can detect a derailment. How we missed that critical point on a system that was allegedly capable of autonomous operation is actually terrifying. The operator caught the fault. No operator in that circumstance could have been a disaster.

because the service still sucks and it still takes three times as long to get anywhere than it does when i get a ride from someone or take an uber... i don't have all day to waste waiting for buses that never show up

because the service will still be unreliable

Because the system is kindly described as unreliable. I Will not waste my time with it.

Because there's still a pandemic - I'm only travelling when I have to. I JUST bought a car but my answer would be the same had I not.

Because we have the worst transit system in the world.

Before the pandemic I commuted to work by bike three seasons and used transit through the winter. I am working from home and still cautious about COVID so won't get much benefit from this short term offer. I fully support and encourage council moving to fare-free transit on a permanent basis. It will guarantee access to a vital service that's a lifeline for many, making our city a more equitable place for everyone. It will encourage greater use among drivers, which has big environmental benefits, and may also ease pressure to expand major arteries, saving money on road and highway megaprojects. I would also like to say this month cannot undo or remedy the damage that's been done by the P3 LRT arrangement, nor can it mitigate the problems that very likely loom ahead. The best solution is to bring the maintenance contract in house for greater transparency, direct city control, and cost savings by eliminating the profit motive. We can't let this fare-free month provide cover for this ongoing fiasco.

Bought a car to avoid relying on transit for going to work during pandemic. Also, trepidation around new COVID variant.

Buses are too unpredictable and it wastes too much time waiting.

By buying a monthly pass previously, all elective trips are functionally free by having been prepaid. Something external to transit would need to happen for me to take more transit trips, i.e. pandemic ending and additional socialization opportunities presenting themselves, but those transit trips would necessarily happen even if the fares were waived because of the monthly pass and lack of car, as mentioned above.

Can not depend on it (unreliable) and too slow, at least 2 transfers to get anywhere

Can walk to my destinations and there's a pandemic

Cannot trust LRT nor my city councillor

City has done its best to prove transit to be unreliable.. unsafe.. and a waste of time... council has refused to listen to residents who ask not to cut services.. and chose to provide one month free service costing \$7 million while on the other hand approving a motion to cut next year's budget by \$11 million thru staff attrition! These policies are ridiculous! Number of bus drivers should not be reduced... this is purely irresponsible from this council especially knowing that when the LRT breaks, and when schools are out of luck finding drivers, we turn to OCTranspo bus service for cover! If anything, city should increase the number of drivers in anticipation to those reaching retirement! given the current state of our system i would not take transit even if you pay me!

Cost doesn't factor in, only need

Cost is not what stops me from taking transit more often.

Cost not an issue given low frequency of trips - btw walk by LRT lines regularly - if you car sounded that bad (wheels screech) I would get it repaired or park it # lemon

Cost of a fare is usually not a make-or-break factor for me when making social plans.

(Also, let's please have a judicial inquiry...)

Cost per trip isn't the issue. Reliability, structure of the system is

Covid

Covid - buses are starting to get uncomfortably full again. Plus the issue of late/no show buses has not been fixed so for a lot of trips it is easier to walk.

COVID 19 concerns

COVID scares the living shit out of me and adults are leaky

Covid still scares the bejesus out of me. I wish you had a selection for "used to take transit often" because in the before-times I bused everywhere. I bought a car last July because we were sure we were going back to work in an unsafe time. Now I plan to take transit occasionally for social trips or things that are local but just a slight bit unwalkable. I want to be a transit lover, but a month of free transit during a pandemic is just tricky.

COVID-19 Exposure Risk

Covid-19 has changed my habits. I would make arrangements to walk or drive to avoid crowds.

While I haven't taken the train since before the pandemic, it has a general aura of unreliability so I don't trust it.

Covid-19.

Covid; reliability

Covid. But assuming covid wasn't an issue, I'd take the trips I would normally take (assuming the train is running and the bus shows up).

COVID. No need to go downtown anymore for work. With kids, car is far more practical to get anywhere.

COVID/omicron, WFH, socialize local, shop local/online, intown of no interest

Cycling everywhere and no time to get to UQO because of kids. If the 50 crossed Island Park bridge or I didn't have kids, my answer might be different or

December is a terrible transit month. Typically winter storm first run problems plus the joys of stressed people due to Christmas. It also isn't a month when I would normally by a pass. There are basically 3 work week not four so it isn't a month I normally use transit much.

Dependency, and prefer to have my own space.
Do not feel safe on the LRT.
Do not intend to take transit due to unreliability and unnecessary risk of being exposed to infected
Doesn't come close to where I live
Don't need to now that I have a car and it was unreliable for me anyway
Don't trust the safety on in covid times on transit. My routes are too often packed full. And service is generally awful.
Don't yet feel comfortable taking bus during COVID, and LRT doesn't connect anywhere close to my part of Vanier. If I lived closer to an LRT stop, I might've considered it.
Don't feel safe in general, COVID concerns, involves too much walking after stop usually
Don't feel safe on crowded buses (COVID) ... don't trust that LRT will get me where I want to go, - will it work or break down, yet again!
Don't like the LRT as all the problems cause me severe stress and anxiety
Don't use transit.
Don't want to be in close quarters with others if I don't have to be
Driving is faster, walking takes the same time and is cheaper, gets me exercise, is more reliable, and more flexible.
Driving more convenient
Due to Covid I have been fortunate to be able to work and study from home and have been making an effort to use public transit infrequently. The challenges of using public transit since the LRT began to be used have not improved. My commute is more expensive, includes more transfers, and requires a longer walk than before the LRT. Also, bus routes that used to take me directly to shopping locations have been discontinued and replaced with routes that take longer and require a transfer, it's easier for me to walk to other stores closer to where I live than plan a bus trip to go shopping on a Saturday now.
Due to the overall unreliable nature of the public transit system, especially after the O-Train expansion of line 1, it has become necessary to use my personal vehicle to get to work on a daily basis in a timely manner. 2 hour commutes in one direction due to multiple cancelled back to back runs is ridiculous, and has put my employment on jeopardy on more than one occasion, no matter how early I leave.
Due to the reliability rate of public transit, we were forced to purchase a car.

Ease of use to just drive

Easier to drive.

Even if it's free busses will still show up late, speed past you at the stop, not follow the GPS in the app and the train will still be a mess

Even when I was below the poverty line and affording transit was sometimes difficult, my main gripe with OC Transpo was never the cost - it was the unreliability. I don't care about transit being free, and I suspect that most folks feel the same. \$3.50 in fare is absolutely minuscule compared to the cost of being fired because your bus is always late, having to leave two buses early and waste your precious few hours of personal time to compensate, or having to pay for Ubers on top of your monthly pass because your bus often just doesn't show up at all. I care about transit being reliable, frequent, and clean so that low income Ottawans can actually count on it. The unreliability of OC Transpo is really damaging to low income Ottawans' job security and mental health. And beyond the practical aspects, commuting with transit is just a really stressful experience and makes you feel worthless, like you don't matter to the city because they view you as a "captive market" - you can't afford a car or parking so you just have to put up with bad service.

Family stopped taking transit with the pandemic, and bought a used car. Prior to 2019 hour long commute to work for wife on bus. ~50% of other trips were made by vrtucar/communauto. Transit not effective unless traveling to core. Improved slightly with the 55, but long detours to lrt station trade time for no need to transfer. Honestly, the short lived 106 connection at the Riverside hospital was our fastest trip. Offered shelter for transfer, easy access to hurdman.

Far too unreliable and I don't want to get stranded in bitterly cold temps. Took transit to work before LRT and it was bad. Working at a hospital, I NEED be at work on time. That's the reason I stopped taking city transit. Unreliability and it hasn't gotten any better.

First, due to the pandemic, I don't think I should ride transit just because it's free. But even without a pandemic, it's horribly inefficient. If I can't walk there easily or faster, I'll just drive. My commute is walkable, so I do that, ignoring buses. For any shopping or recreational activities, I simply drive. It's so much easier for me and far more predictable. I've travelled many places in the world and loved moving about various cities on public transit, but this city is still primarily designed for cars. There's improvement no doubt for cycling infrastructure - I've dropped my car off for maintenance and pedalled the 20km home; I can go to my favourite shop across the city because I can cycle. But transit isn't there yet. There's just no incentive for me to take public transit. Every time I look at it, I realize it's too inconvenient, and I hear the complaints of others, and think, I'll just drive - I pay to keep a car in my driveway anyway. The old issue of feeding the meter at paid parking is solved by the Pay By Phone app. But I certainly acknowledge the privilege I have of owning a car and feel for those that have no other means to navigate this city. I can't imagine spending hours commuting.

For my personal situation, the cost is not an impediment to me taking public transit, but I know that is not the case for everyone.

Fortunate enough to not be price sensitive on transit

Fr the month of December: I work from home. I have a car and it's just not part of my routine at the moment.

Free does not equal in good working condition. I spent many years watching full busses drive by for 30+ minutes on cold nights. I bought a car for work transit as I felt like I could no longer depend on OC Transpo to get me where I needed to on time without a self imposed 30min buffer on either side.

Free does not equal reliable or safe.

I will not use transit while pandemic safety measures are not enforced and with no guarantee that I will make it to my destination on time. There are too many transit horror stories right now.

I am, however, grateful that transit is free because the low income members of our community deserve an affordable option. OC transpo has put people in a position where they have lost wages and lost jobs because they no longer have reliable transport to work.

This project is an embarrassment. Unfortunately the people who are most affected by the city's transit failures are people who have the hardest time advocating for themselves so it's going to take increased pressure from the rest of the community before the city actually achieves anything by way of a solution.

Public transit in Ottawa is absurdly expensive and useless as compared to other major cities, so by all means keep it free. Fix it and keep it free.

Free of the virus - staying safe - walked to work during lockdown.
Free or not doesn't change my life. I bike for trips around the home, shopping (trailer for groceries). I take transit to go to the office (2/week during COVID) and see a few more distant friends. The free has no relevance whatsoever.
Free or not, it is still unreliable. Often turn to Uber or taxis out of frustration with transit service.
Free or not, the transit system lacks a reliable schedule and routes that bring me to my intended destination outside of work. The suburbs are underserved for regular, reliable local routes, which in turn undercuts local business.
Free transit is not enough of an incentive to change my behaviour. Free transit with a reliable system would. Free transit isn't worth the risk of being stuck for an extended period of time. Plus nothing is free. Someone will have to cover the costs and I don't have confidence that will be RTG
Free transit only reduces the operating budget that could have been used to ACTUALLY improve transit. Its a political gimmick by the political lazy like Lieper, Menard, McKenney, and at this time Watson
Free trips don't make up for the headache of the system. I've just lost all confidence in OC Transpo.
Getting a drive is faster, and safer with Covid still around. And the reduction in bus routes in my area
Have a car to busy to browse
Have you ever been on an OC Transpo bus? It's a headache to go in a straight line. I'd love to take the O-Train out to the St. Laurent Centre for Christmas shopping but I don't trust that I could safely get home
haven't used it in ten + years
Haven't taken transit since March 2020
having free transit does not change my transit habits. I have enough money that the free fare is not enough of a driver to make me take transit when I would not normally have used it. I think this is a waste of funds and could have been directed into either making transit better or reducing transit fares over a longer period to encourage more riders over time.
I actually bought an old second hand car as OC transpo is too unreliable, this free transit means nothing and is not the proper way to right what's wrong with this city's transit .
I already had a bus pass. Also this free month should have been extended to students who pre-paid through their school, now it's more expensive for us for no reason. I also had the inconvenience of the train being broken, as I take that to work.

I already have a free pass, and the service sucks. Why bus for 2 hours when you can drive in 15 minutes.

I already paid for the UPASS and uOttawa isn't offering a reimbursement so taking the bus or not won't change anything to the fees I paid.

I already pay the bus pass so I have unlimited bus access, so I would just carry on as normal. I will be very happy however to save the bus pass amount and put it towards financial stability.

I already rely on it 5 days a weeks, I don't think I could take it more than I already do.

I already rely on transit to live in the city, it being free makes no difference. It working properly or not makes all the difference since car-centric road planning and urban sprawl makes it impossible for non-car-owners to walk or bike anywhere safely. Example: Cyrville station is my O-train station, but when R1 is in place I have to cross Cyrville in the middle of traffic to get to my westbound stop, since the closest crosswalk intersection is too far away (fine for cars, unfeasible for walking). I often wait many minutes for a clearance and nearly got hit a few times. Climbing the overpass across a 10-lane highway doesn't help either, especially in windy/rainy weather and winter. I already plan to move to downtown despite my current location being "transit-oriented development"... without even a sidewalk on my own street to walk to transit safely... All this to say, free transit makes no difference, OC Transpo is trying their best with the mess they're given and, if anything, should be funded more, not less. Well planned and working transit integrated with proper city planning and higher density is what we need.

I already take it for everything! It's my only choice.

I already take transit daily to get to work from Orleans to downtown

I already use transit as my main transportation

I am able to walk or bike to most places that I go to so free transit is not going to change my pattern of behaviour.

I am already used to not taking public transit, so having it for free won't make a difference.

I am appreciative of free transit because I am a regular user and it's been a doozy few months with the train. I'll appreciate the savings, but it's business as usual for me.

I am currently working from home.

I am fortunate to be able to not have finances dictate my actions at this level. I take transit when I can because it is more environmentally responsible. I would have preferred targeted increased/cheaper access for those more impacted by the high cost of transit.

I am just not a big user of transit in general. I work in suburb, live in Hull, and often need to carry lots of equipment. Too many transfers and it would take more time than the car.

That being said, I think public transit should be free 100% of the time.

I am not commuting for work any more and more importantly do NOT feel safe on a bus with just a mask.

I am so frustrated with the buses and trains right now. I used to have multiple options for a quick route downtown but now I either walk to LRT or have nothing as far as can tell; or maybe a very slow option that runs every half hour that I don't really understand. I looked into parking and am seriously considering that as my best winter option for \$265 a month, although recognize having the money for this is a privilege. In warmer months I bike (lasted til about Nov 5 this year). When I moved to Ottawa 15 years ago I was impressed with the bus system now it is just a bad joke that confuses and exhausts me. I tried to use it because I hate the environmental impact of cars but I give up.

I appreciate you making this post on Reddit and for being so active. However, I do agree with what has been said so far. The state of our transit system is an embarrassment and nothing a month of "free" riding will fix.

OC Transpo has benefited more from COVID than anyone else - they had almost 2 years of low ridership to fix the train but it still lets people down. However, the biggest issue is the reliability of OC transpo as a whole - the timeliness (or lack thereof) and complete unreliability of their services is unbelievable for a capital city

I bought a car in mid-November because the biggest stressor in my life was OC Transpo. Over the last year, several routes I took to work were removed or changed and it would take me an hour or more to get to work. It is now a 12 minute drive. OC Transpo is wildly inconsistent - either extremely late or extremely early. It would mean that I would miss my connecting bus or have to add a 25 minute walk to my trip. I can't count the number of times that I've cried out of frustration on an OC Transpo bus because I've missed a transfer or my bus is late. On top of all that, the buses are packed and people don't wear their masks properly. As a young woman, I have been harassed by strange men more times than I can count. Including a man telling me he was going to follow me home and a man taking photos of my toes while I was wearing sandals. This is a bit long winded, but all of this to say that you couldn't pay me enough to take OC Transpo. Paying extra for my car/gas/insurance is infinitely better than taking OC Transpo. The biggest value for me is all of the time that I now have to use as I please, instead of sitting on a bus for 2+ hours a day.

I can afford to pay and prefer safe and reliable vs "free". Free passes for low income would be ideal.

I can get everywhere I need to go faster with my car, even though I live downtown. I also don't want to be packed on a bus with a bunch of people in the middle of cold/flu season and COVID. I am generally pro-public transit but it's not worth it for me at this point in my life. I also still work from home so I only need to go out for socializing and shopping

I can walk everywhere I need to go. And if I can't walk there, bus/train riding definitely doesn't make it any more convenient

I can walk to my daily destinations, and longer trips are too inconvenient on our transit system

I can't rely on the busses to be on time or covid safe (ventilation, space, masks, etc.)

I commute from Kanata to Tunneys Pasture (on office days). The bus in the morning isn't bad but if I had to come home during the day - ie. if the school called me to come pick up a child, it would take me a long time to get home on non-express buses. Driving is also much much faster (25 mins vs 1 hour on the bus).

I currently work from home and don't leave the house much (everything within walking distance). If this was pre-pandemic, free transit would've been a big help for me getting to/from work and taking the bus to see friends/family

I cycle year round, and do so because transit in Ottawa is both too expensive, and not reliable.

I don't believe it is free. It's running on a deficit that will come to haunt our taxes.
I don't have an extra 1.5 hours each way to get downtown
I don't have anywhere to go.
I don't have much reason to go anywhere transit would take me. I also don't feel like getting stuck on the train.
I don't intend on taking more trips because I have a uPass, so my bus fares have been paid for till the end of April 2022
I don't see anything changing at the moment. Like above it's a bit of a nuisance already.
I don't trust OC Transpo anymore. I relied on it from 1996-2019. It makes me sad because I'm a huge public transit advocate. It's really disappointing and stressful now.
I don't trust that the safety issue are fixed
I don't trust the city when it comes to transportation, I suffered for 3 month at Hurdman Station Hunger Games and will never do that again, the mask mandate on OC is loosey goosey, cannot enforce, I am more calm and relaxed by the time I get home from a trip where people don't touch me, I am not running for a bus, and have to stand. Don't want to give them my \$\$ even if it costs me more in the end.
I don't trust the LRT is safe.
I don't trust the safety of o train and not a fan of the bus
I don't consider the transit in Ottawa to be safe or reliable. I would rather drive my car than risk being stuck somewhere.
I don't feel LRT is safe unfortunately especially in Ottawa winter with all the problems we have experienced i will not take the LRT but i might enjoy free bus ride
I don't find the routes go where I need to go- I live in Centretown and want to go other places in Centretown. It's usually faster to walk because the buses don't run on time so waiting for the bus = shivering in the cold when I could just be walking a more direct route. When I'm in a hurry or want to go further I have just started using Uber instead. Don't feel great about it ethically, but it's worth the money to get places on time.
I don't generally take transit anyway.

I don't have a license and live walking distance (<10 min) to two LRT stations so I am the target demographic. I do not take the LRT. The transit system is completely unreliable no matter the cost. I have been working from home since the pandemic and therefore have managed to pretty much avoid the LRT for the last two years. The last time I had to go downtown to pick up a computer monitor the LRT was down. I took my local bus instead of the R1 because it is more reliable and faster, despite taking the long slow route down Montreal Rd, Rideau. I have an in person Xmas party this Friday. Even though transit is free I don't trust the LRT to get me downtown reliably. Rather than risk missing my party by being stuck on a train I will either take my local bus or a taxi. I imagine more low income people may take transit during December, likely as a warming mechanism. As such, I fear my local bus may be cancelled/delayed, which is why I am considering taking a taxi.

I don't have a need to use it for anything out of the ordinary. A free fare does not entice me to use it more

I don't have a STO card, I'm not exactly sure what I'm going to do to transfer.

I don't have that many places to go since I started wfh/during the pandemic

I don't need to go more places ̄_(\u221f)_/\u0304

I don't need to. LRT is limiting, busses are disgusting - and I'm not even a germaphobe or clean freak

I don't plan on taking more than usual since I usually buy a bus pass. But hopefully this will lead to some real conversations about the cost of services in this city.

I don't plan on using it because I don't trust it to be reliable, on time, and efficient for me to get around town. I would rather drive, cycle or walk as I know I will get to my destination at a certain time.

I don't trust the system to be reliable or efficient. I also can shop for anything I need in the neighbourhood.

I don't trust the train and think it's dangerous

I don't use octranspo because it's unreliable. I dont care if its free when I have to wait 20 minutes in -10C.

I don't use transit very much anymore, prefer biking or walking asilive in the Golden Triangle and current transit is so limited nd unreliable. Maybe one of these days I'll come back. Thanks for everything you are trying to do, Jeff and CatherineM

I dont trust it

I dont trust that it will not break down if i have appt or flight. It's not reliable. Too many switched now from bus/lrt/bus. Takes forever to get anywhere.

I drive on weekends and when parking is free
I enjoy transit more than driving and used to take it daily - I can't take advantage of it now because it is too unreliable. I look after a very sick family member and when I have some time to leave the house (when someone is looking after my family member) I have to be back at a certain time and I can't trust transit to live up to their schedules.
I feel the reliability of the system is very poor. It also doesn't run at times that are convenient to me. For instance, for me to take transit to the Mayfair or the Bytowne for a movie, and then transit back home, would take longer in terms of wait times and bus riding than the movie run time.
I live near Central Park and Merivale. I can often get to where I need to go faster by walking or cycling.
I fly to visit family for the holidays in mid-December. If I get even mild asymptomatic COVID, my plans will be completely disrupted and I may even need to cancel. Taking transit is a high-risk activity, so I can't afford to do it unnecessarily any time within like three weeks of my flight.
I had to take transit for work. The pandemic was the best thing to happen to me. I ended up on medication from stress from transit. Since I no longer have to take it? No more stress. Unreliable and I was always afraid it would break down in a tunnel while I was on it or go off the tracks. Not risking going on it again. Pity those who have no choice.
I have a bus pass from being a student that is already paid for. It makes no difference to me.
I have a bus pass, so have unlimited rides. It just means that I can put the money towards my student loan this month.
I have a bus pass, so I don't limit how much I go out based on bus fare
I have a car
I have a car and don't use public transit, but when I did it was anyone's guess when busses would show up. I would rather fork out \$30 for an uber than wait in the cold for an overpriced "service" that probably won't show up.
I have a CNIB card so I don't pay for transit anyway.
I have a monthly pass regardless
I have a U-pass so I already paid in December
I have a U-Pass through school, so all the free transit month means for me is the 50\$ rebate, which is nice but doesn't influence my use of transit
I have a u-pass through uOttawa so I have already paid for 8 months from sept-april & my riding habits won't change

I have a U-pass, so I already have all the transit I need

I have a Uottawa Upass so this month does nothing for me - I would have preferred they spend the money on making the bus pass cheaper for people on ODSP/OW

I have a uPass throguh school, so my transit always feels free (since the cost is built into my tuition). That said, transit doesn't save me time since I am in Centretown within a 20 minute walk of work, school, home, and my essentials. Transit isn't convenient at this rate, and ends up being more a source of stress. I may hop on a bus if it passes by and is going where I need too, but it being free does not change the other issues.

I have been hesitant to use transit since the pandemic began. My job (repair plumber) makes it impossible to use transit to get to work. I can walk or drive to all other locations at the moment.

I would like to mention that outside of the pandemic, I would likely still be hesitant to ride the LRT. I've lived in Toronto and I know from experience how chaotic broken trains can be. Futhermore, I have an anxiety disorder and think that it will be a bit of a struggle to get back onto the LRT after the derailment. It's really a miracle that the train didn't go off a bridge or anything like that.

I have mostly given up on transit. I work from home so no longer need to make the long treks into middle of nowhere Gatineau that has worse bus service than Ottawa. I tried going to concerts and festivals but the service was unreliable. I tried going to shows at bars but the service to my area stops at midnight and shows ran until 1am. The only time I will take transit is when I need to be downtown on a weekday.. and I do everything I can to avoid these trips.

I have no trust in ottawas transit system. The LRT system is a joke. There is no accountability. Where did the billions of dollars go that were supposed to be spent on the LRT? Again the entire system is a joke and you should be ashamed.

I have no where else to go because of covid lol

I have to go from Barrhaven to Bank St. Mazda tomorrow to pick up a new car. I looked into taking the bus, and it would be *3* buses, 20 minute of walking and 1.5 hours in total. And that's IF the buses are running on time, which r/Ottawa often says they are not. I'm taking an Uber. Transit in Ottawa really only works if you want to go downtown. This thinking was great when the PS worked downtown. Now they don't. A major re-think is required. Thanks for asking.

I have zero confidence in the reliability or safety of the train. Prior to the pandemic, I took transit regularly. I haven't been back on transit since March 2020.

I haven't taken it for a long time now and the free transit doesn't make a difference for me anymore

I haven't taken transit since the pandemic started but used to every day to and from work. I don't plan on using it anytime soon though.

I haven't felt comfortable using transit since the start of the pandemic. I walk a lot more than before.

I like my car. Transit is not flexible enough to make my life work.

I live close enough to the things I need that I can walk/bike most of the time, and when I can't, I value my time more than the transit system allows. If there were an LRT station in Vanier, say along Montreal road, I would be far more inclined to take it.

I live in close proximity to everything I need, including my work, so I don't really need transit to get me around. I might take it a couple times this month just to get to some favourite cafes that are a decent distance from me. Otherwise I just...don't need it.

I live in Riverside South, it would take over 2 hours to get to work vs a 15-20min drive.

I live on the 88 route. I use it to go to work. If it isn't late, it's way too early. The drivers are often wearing their masks incorrectly. Most bus drivers I've had have been scary drivers. I don't want to use the transit any more than I absolutely have to. I would have preferred a fare price freeze until reasonable service is provided for all instead of a single free month. The fact that we will be paying even more I'm January for this abomination of a transit system is disgusting.

I might take one or two to the Rideau centre, but I don't have confidence in the LRT to make it worth it. Would be easier to just drive somewhere else.

i mostly take transit if I'm consuming alcohol since I own a car. The cost of transit will not impact the rate at which I require the service.

I need transit to get to work, which is a one hour commute in each direction (Heron and Alta Vista). I *might* take transit more for social activities, but honestly I hate riding the bus for sooooo long so I avoid it when possible. I am glad to atleast not be spending so much money on it this month.

I no longer need to go to an office (working from home permanently). I chose a residence that's near to most of my shopping needs so I don't need to take a bus quite as regularly anymore.

I normally take transit to boop around the city as needed and would never plan my trips around a "free" month! I would prefer a good transit system for all users (frequent busses, shorter routes, better roads for cars, better bike infrastructure, better walking infrastructure) at an affordable price year-round. The free month seems gimmicky because it kind of trivializes the experiences of those who rely on transit on a consistent basis. Trying to attract people who don't already take transit because it's "free" also adds to the idea that roads for cars are free even though those roads are what I would assume to be the most expensive transportation option for a city. Instead of making transit free for users who do not use transit (because those who already use it would use it regardless) it would have been cool to make bus passes/rides cheaper for those who have already paid into the system for years.

I now work from home. Also, when I did take transit, it was unreliable. It took about 25 min to get to work (3.5k) if perfectly timed, but often 40-50 min to get home (ghost bus 80% of time). Instead, I would bike whenever I could. Summer times were 12-15 min and winter 20-35 min door to door. When the train worked, it was fast to get downtown, but anything outside of walking distance from the LRT was faster to bike directly since the urban bus routes unreliable. (e.g. needed to factor 1 ghost bus minimum). For any trip, more convenient to either use my bike (shorter distances) or the car (longer). Last point: still have larger concerns about Covid-19 transmission on transit, since inconsistent service has buses bunched up, when they do arrive.

I only ever used it to get to work and now I work from home.

I only take it to work.

I only take the bus to go to work or shop. Its awesome that it will be free bit I wont use it more then I normally would. I also usually get a monthly pass anyway so I can ride how much I want.

I only take the o-train to get between downtown/byward /westboro as it's really close and convenient, fare isn't a concern for me.

I'll never take the bus as our road infrastructure makes it so slow and inefficient. Anything without access to the train has to be a car trip for me

I only take transit on days when my wife needs the car.

I own a car but not a license, so I have to bus anyways.

I paid for a UPass already. This month isn't free, if it's already been paid for.

I prefer to walk or cycle to work and do my errands.

I prefer to walk to places, or the few places I need to drive to are not near LRT stops

I recently moved to Ottawa from Vancouver, and purchased a car in anticipation. I am self-employed as a doula and work with my clients in their homes all over the city, at all hours of the day - transit isn't a reliable means of transport when having to meet a mother in labour, or helping a family in the suburbs overnight. My husband works downtown and prefers to bike to work (15 minutes vs an hour on transit), and his goal is to bike all year. I am hesitant to try OC Transpo because I have only ever hear about how unreliable it is.

I rely on it for work and shopping. I live in the downtown core and can walk most places. Ps. This is barely enough to make amends for the atrocious LRT issues that have plagued my work commute. Watson is a moron and is corrupt.

I stay closer to home nowadays, and it's more convenient to use our vehicle.

I suspect it will not get me there on time

I take it so frequently, I don't think it being free will make me ride it more. Not paying is nice though!

i TAKE IT WHEN I HAVE TO AND THAT IS IT. IT IS THE WORST TRANSIT, IT NEVER ON TIME AND THE GPS DOSENT WORK HALF THE TIME.BUS DRIVERS DONT CARE ABOUT THEY PASSAGERS AND THEY LET PEOPLE ON FOR FREE WHEN THE REST OF US PAY.

I take the bus daily to and from work. My spouse and I share a car and I use the vehicle for shopping, errands etc. I don't want to ride transit any more than I have to!

I take transit because I need to go somewhere. If I need to go, I'm willing to pay. Having free transit doesn't create a new need to commute.

I take transit for literally everything already

I take transit when I need to, and I drive when I need to. Making it free for a month doesn't change my usage it just reminds me of all the failures that we had to endure in order to be given a free month.

I take transit when I need to, saving \$3 here and there for a few weeks isn't going to change my habits. Two months of no train already has.

I take transit when it I
S more convenient

I take transit when it's my only option, I don't plan on going places more often just because transit is free.

I take unlimited trips with my bus pass so the number will not change. Free month will help though.

I took transit to work before the LRT was in place. When the LRT opened service was so much worse that I now primarily drive.

I transitioned away from regular transit use in the winter when the pandemic struck (last trip was early February 2020) because it was incredibly unreliable and never got me where I needed to be in anything resembling a timely manner.

I typically need the car to haul groceries & other errands

I use the bus when I need to go somewhere, the price does t change the frequency I need to go places

I use the transit when I need it regardless of the price. Whether I need to go out of my way to a mall, to work, to the gym, it will be by transit. Free transit will not change my behaviour as I'm already using transit for all of my non walkable trips. Also, it's winter so taking transit is even more miserable.

I use to take transit regularly but stopped taking it before the pandemic hit because service went downhill with the train. Not reliable enough regardless if it's free. City messed up one of the best transit systems now it's not worth taking.

I use transit as my main method of transportation already.

I used to be a regular transit user, and my bleeding liberal environmentalist heart wants me to still be one, but I also want to not die of hypothermia and get the place I need to be in under 90 minutes. I have to go somewhere where taking transit will be efficient, I will opt for transit. Unfortunately, none of the places I see myself going in December are convenient by LRT or bus :(

I used to bus to work everyday but now I work from home. The between COVID and the issues with the LRT, it just isn't a safe option.

I used to live I the K2G area and would have to bus and use the LRT system to get to work downtown. There were often issues with the LRT, and busses not showing or being on time. It led to me having to skew my work-life balance and leave hours early to ensure I would not be late due to delays.

This was understandably frustrating, and with the pandemic and a weak immune system I decided to stop using the transit system altogether. I now choose to Uber or use a ride share to get to farther locations, and have moved to where I can be close to work to instead be able to walk.

This provides me with a better work-life balance, and I no longer have to feel stressed about busses not showing/being late, or the LRT being down yet again.

I used to take transit before I had a car. The reliability of it is an embarrassment. Why would I want to stand in the cold waiting for transit that may or may not come?

I went on a trip to Japan before COVID and everything there was on time and clean. The bus stops had displays telling you how long it was until the next bus. Their climate isn't too dissimilar to ours and they move a lot more people, so we know it's possible to have an effective system.

From my experience, it isn't the drivers. I haven't seen them slacking off or doing things that I think would lead to the dysfunction. The problem, I believe, lies with the scheduling being unrealistic.

I used to take transit regularly but have gotten used to driving since train service became unreliable

I usually take transit for any trips where it's a reasonable option, such as commuting anyway. The lack of fares is nice but I'd be taking transit either way.

I usually walk everywhere unless the weather sucks or in a rush, cost is not a determining factor.

I want to use transit far more, even though I own a car. I would be very willing to use my car sparingly and take transit as my primary mode of transportation, the car being a back up. But after taking transit everyday for years and seeing first hand just how unreliable it has been, I have lost trust in it and will only now be using it as an absolute last resort. I would pay for an uber or call friend or family member for a ride if my car was not available before I would take transit again. Even if it is free, it is still a horrendously unreliable service that causes more frustration and headache than it's worth. So, no I will not be taking it more while it's free. I'm generally quite proud of Ottawa, but I'm embarrassed to have people come to visit and see how unreliable our transit is (my sister in law flew in from Edinburgh and couldn't believe how finicky our trains are, as they of course were once again not working while she was here) I'm done with OC Transpo. I'm done with buses that are 15 or more minutes late, or that don't even show. I'm done with a rail system that was undercut by political cronyism on its construction and that now is a running joke nationwide. I hate that I need to use my car, but until the city offers an actual alternative it looks like that is my future. Please, please, please, bring us up to date with every other major city in Canada and give us a reliable transit service!

I was a regular / daily commute transit rider for 18 years and stopped using it in Dec 2019 when the LRT made the commute unreliable and made me late for work and my kids too often. I still commute daily, but would rather pay more for the safe and reliable commute in my second hand small car. I realize I'm lucky to be in that position and it is unfortunate many are stuck with an expensive, unsafe, and unreliable system that the city seems incapable of managing.

I was already paying for a bus pass, meaning the amount of trips I take did not affect the price I pay. However, it is extremely relieving that it is free this month and that I won't have to renew my pass.

I will have to wait and see .Don't want to take transit if it's too crowded and there are more covid cases.

I will still only take the bus/LRT to/from work since I can't drive to work. I will not be going out of my way, let's say, to go to Bayshore from the Glebe by taking the 10/LRT/61,62, 63etc when I can easily jump on the hwy and go straight there by car. Transit used to be fun to take, I loved it, but now it sucks and I dread it. Only reason I'm taking it now is cuz parking at rideau center/city hall is 20\$ a day and I'm full time, aint got money for that. Don't care how free it is, I have a car, I'll use it.

I will take the normal amount of trips that I take. Most of what I do is within my neighbourhood and I tend to only go elsewhere for planned activities.

I work from home and when I need to go to the office it is a 7 minute drive by car and an hour by bus. Most errands I use my car. Socializing and shopping in downtown core or in Westboro I tend to take transit.

I work from home.

I would have had a bus pass regardless of the decision to make it free for the month

I'd rather drive, bike or Uber -- more convenient

i'll continue to use it as often as i do. i just won't be using any more than i normally do

I'm afraid the bus will be more packed with people (similar to Canada Day) and that it will simply become a COVID hazard. Hence I intend to take transit only if I absolutely absolutely absolutely absolutely need to.

I'm already a regular transit rider, and so I don't expect trip frequency will change significantly. Though I may wind up taking the bus to do some Christmas shopping.

I'm not comfortable on buses or trains with Covid

I'm not going to go out in a pandemic just for the hell of it.

I'm not more inclined to take transit just because it is free. I take it only when I need to, and cost has no impact on my decision.

I'm not taking transit these days because I'm in strict COVID lockdown due to being one of the vulnerable ones. But, if these were the Before Times, I wouldn't take transit if I didn't have to and the cost didn't enter into it. I don't take transit if I can avoid it because I don't enjoy waiting for a bus that might not show up, taking twice as long to get anywhere as it would take to grab a taxi, and standing packed like sardines on a dirty bus. I also don't feel safe on the train these days. Basically, I'd much rather we focused on IMPROVING the transit system than the mayor's stupid "no charge" games to distract from all the problems with the transit system. Reliable > free to me.

I'm working from home and not taking much transit during the pandemic

I've already arranged my life to be car free, and those trips I can't make by foot, transit is too unreliable to use.

I've used public transit since 1993, with all these train issues I have enough. We are now in the process of purchasing a second car and have no plans on taking public transit

I'm a student who has to pay for a bus pass for the year in September. I have not received any refund for the month of December so it's not free for me.

I'm actually boycotting transit, as I think this idea is nothing but a way to hide all the bad decisions taken by the Mayor and some city councillors.

I'm already taking transit as much as I want. And there's an ongoing pandemic.

I'm completely dependent on the bus. My life is my life, the trips need to be made regardless. The free aspect just means I can afford more food this month.

I'm fortunate that price was not a barrier to transit use when I was a regular user so free transit is unlikely to change my usage pattern. Also noting above that currently pay by trip with Presto but was a bus pass holder pre-pandemic.

I'm skeptical about the train...

I'm still paying for it because I have a upass. I know the universities are getting a credit but that's not going to get to me because I've paid already for the whole semester. Regardless, I already take transit for all my trips that it's reasonable. The only trips that I don't already take transit for are those that I can't, either because there are literally no options (ex. Sunday at 7am I cannot get to work on the bus - there is no bus) or because it would take significantly longer than my other options (biking, walking or driving)

I'm working from home and I'm also concerned with reliability and crowding issues.

I'm working from home anyway, so my transit use has tanked in the last 20 months. Literally, I have used it once, whereas I was a pass user in the winter months before. I expect to use it once again this month, for the same reason as last year: to get safely to and from my in-laws' on Christmas Eve. Also, I'm offended by "one month free" and the mayor decides on December, a month that will see most people taking time off and using transit less. Ottawa transit riders deserve a system that works, not lacklustre attempts to buy our affection. It's insulting.

I'm working from home most of the time so I don't currently need it more than twice per week. Pre-pandemic, I used OC Transpo at least 5 days per week. This past weekend I tried to use public transit in my neighbourhood but scheduled buses never came so I ended up using Lyft. A 10 minute drive can take up to 45 minutes and more than one bus. Transit service in Kanata is terrible.

If I don't need to use transit, then I don't use transit. Since I WFH and have a car, I'll prioritize using my car because I rarely have reasons to use it to begin with and for proper maintenance, it needs to be driven.

if it was reliable I would use it daily to get to work, it is not and I do not use it for anything else unless I am demanded to go into work even then I consider weather, check twitter to see if it is working and then still strongly consider driving, paying for \$14 parking as it is peace of mind.

If transit within Orleans was more convenient, we'd use it more. We're a one car family and we'd love to use the bus more. The only additional trips I can see me taking are within Orleans. But, bus routes here are not convenient.

Immunocompromised so I have not used public transportation since the first week of March 2020.

In the time it takes for a bus to arrive I can walk to most places that are within 15-20 mins. I never gave getting a car serious thought until moving to Ottawa bc the transit is so inefficient. Something 10 min away by car can take >1 hour to get to by bus. I'd rather walk most places. I only take the bus if I absolutely need to. Transit being free is the least the city can do.

Inconvenient and unreliable transit system.

Ineffective. The system is kind of broken in this city. Easier just to walk. Haven't taken transit since moving to Ottawa 2 years ago.

It being free doesn't make OC Transpo any less reliable or desirable to take. I'll take it at the same frequency I already do, this month being free is just an added perk.

It doesn't go where I want to go or its far from convenient

It doesn't work. Our transit is a joke. Fix the transit problems first then Ridership will grow.
it has become untrustworthy and unreliable, even before the LRT was implemented. Cost is much too high for lack of reliability, safety and sanitation on transit system.
It is not a matter of cost - it is a matter of transit quality and convenience
It is slower and less reliable than driving
It isn't reliable or convenient. I can't rely on it for anything super important.
It sucks..
It would make more sense for people who buy tickets or pay as they go to use it more. I get a monthly equipass, so my rides are all already paid for at the beginning of the month, so I already ride as much as I want, because I've already paid the full fair.
It's a stunt. The train is unreliable torture for those who depend on it, and very likely dangerous.
It's all so unreliable I can't get where I need to go
It's been so unreliable lately that more often than not I plan on walking where I need to go and if a bus *happens* to be going by headed in my direction I'll hop on.
It's Christmas vacation, I'll be drinking mulled wine and toasting my chestnuts
It's crap service. At free, it's still a crap service that at the end of the day the fare is going up for worse service and I'm going to end up paying for this "free" transit in my property tax.
It's just not reliable enough to get me to work on time. I'm a supply teacher, and there's no way I could reliably get to both West Carleton high school, and Gloucester high on the same day using the current system.
It's not free. We/taxpayers have been paying for it both literally and figuratively since beyond the "no-fare" concept was introduced, and will continue to do so until the current group is no longer responsible for it. Ottawa's transit system and attempt to introduce a 'functional' LRT is quite literally a farce.
It's not reliable, convenient, or safe (I have young kids who cannot be vaccinated yet and masking is not enforced well enough to make me comfortable to take them on transit yet).
It's ridiculously unreliable
It's still a pandemic and my day-to-day life isn't changing just because transit is free.

It's still such an unreliable system. I use it as a last resort when it's too cold/snowy/icy for biking.
It's still too unreliable
It's still unreliable and possibly not safe. Buses are regularly cancelled and the LRTwell you know. Uber is better if you need to be on time.
It's a bogus PR stunt. The rates are going up after this anyways.
It's awful
It's inconvenient to use and I don't use it unless I absolutely have to. The cost isn't what puts me off using transit, the unreliability and inconvenience of multiple transfers does.
It's nice that transit is free this month but it won't necessarily incentivize me to use it more often. Convenience, cost effectiveness (at least over a car), and concern over my carbon footprint motivate me to take transit. I think better service would motivate more people to take transit in Ottawa. Fares are high in this city, but if the service level matched the fare that's being charged, I think people wouldn't mind as much. I'm lucky that I live in a TOD so I get good transit service but, speaking anecdotally, I know some people that live in relatively central locations and still can't feasibly take transit because it takes too long or is unreliable. I appreciate all the efforts being made by councillors and staff to make transit work better in Ottawa.
It's not part of my routine; I don't trust the LRT.
It's not safe
It's not useful for me. The system in ottawa is unreliable so I only take it when totally necessary. Also my habits don't change because I have a student upass so Im paying per academic year and not per month
It's still not a convenient or stable system
It's unreliable and inconvenient for the activities that I do that are outside of my immediate neighborhood.If it is more reliable, I'd considering taking it from Westboro into downtown on occasion.
It's unreliable, and too slow. I can drive downtown in 20 minutes or take the bus in 45. If one of the buses is late/early/no show then that trip easily exceeds an hour.
Its not free. My taxes are paying for it.
Its terrible and unreliable. A miserable experience, making it free changes nothing
Just going to keep going on with daily life.
Limiting trips during pandemic; private car travel safer during pandemic.

Live downtown so can walk most places I need to go
Local service in Kanata is terrible. Always has been, never improves.
LRT is a death trap waiting to happen
LRT is useless and horrifying
LRT too unreliable.
Mobility issues. Overcrowding. Lack of reliability. Convenience. Car trip = 15 minutes to anywhere. Bus ride= 15 walk, wait for bus/train while standing, bus ride 15 minutes, train 10 minutes plus walking.
Most of my non-work trips are either with two large dogs or to do an amount of shopping that would not be feasible by bus. But if I'm going anywhere that's not for these two things, transit is definitely an option, if feasible.
Mostly because I would rather walk or bike to do my local errands.
Mostly because the pandemic has limited the reasons I would normally choose to use transit.
Mostly wfh. No need.
Mostly, because with such unreliability and high cost, I've organized my life to be car free and not use transit. For example, I realized that it didn't make sense to pay bus fare for my 9 year old and I to go grocery shopping - with a \$10 Instacart membership, the cost of 20% tip to an Instacart shopper is about the same as our bus fare - but saves me so much more time.
Also, New variant, unreliability of buses and trains in the cold with often little place to shelter from weather, often takes just as long to walk as it does to bus for travel within the ward.
My bus pass is paid through tuition so it feels free anyways. A free fare would be more beneficial in the summer I feel as well for tourists and because the weather is nice
My commuting patterns are fairly set and organized. If I change my transit use or increase it, it has an impact on rest of family's schedule. For example, it will take me longer to get home and I'll have to leave before my kids which impacts daily routine. Little things like this.
My need has not increased
My time is not free
My time is worth more than getting stuck at unreliable transit for 3.5\$.
My travel is not cost sensitive.
My wife owns a car so when I'm able to take the car, I do. Transit is less convenient than the car 100% of the time.

Neighborhood is under-served
No
No current need to take it and it is very unreliable
No easy access to a bus.
No need for unnecessary travel.
No need to
No plans to make trips downtown during peak hours.
No way to get downtown without at least one transfer to LRT or different bus. LRT is totally unreliable, bus route much slower
No where I need to go
No, it's still unreliable and driving is just easier.
No, the price doesnt matter to me because it is already the cheapest option.i just want the train to run.
no, work from home. Still don't trust the train or the actual system. Busses often don't come and I can't afford to not make my destination on time.
No. I don't trust it.
No. Bus pass. And the pandemic has me avoiding the bus.
Nope. Transit does not serve my neighbourhood in a meaningful way. A ten minute walk to a bus? F that. I can drive downtown in 15.
For the most part, we have built a car dependent city while stripping transit out. At one point, three buses went by my house. Now it is zero and a ridiculous walk on poorly maintained sidewalks to get a bus that takes us to an out of the way train station.
Line two, just 3 km away might fix this, but it will require a major redesign to the bus system to get me on that line. The whole state of city planning is quite embarrassing and I wonder where I should move. I keep thinking Spain or Portugal. I have lived here most of my life, so it is a bit sad what being cheap as a city does to the city.
You are the best though. Well, it is a tie with one other.
Not comfortable yet with covid 19
Not convenient
Not convenient enough. Does not save me time. Do not trust reliability of service.
Not convenient until stage two

Not interested.
Not looking to spend any more time than I have to on public transit with COVID numbers increasing
Not necessary
Not reliable
Not reliable, dont trust, can get to and from faster
Not reliable. I pay for a u Pass & have to get rides to class otherwise I'm late.
Not safe - mechanical, and covid exposure. I own a car so am putting miles there instead and yes bad for environment but for now, this is it.
Not using transit currently due to pandemic and WFH
Not using transit in Covid time
Not worth it as i am already on transit 6 days a week and always have a bus pass which is unlimited
Nothing is ever free, the costs will be rolled up somewhere next year. Plus, people aren't wearing masks consistently and no monitoring so too stressful.
Now that I work from home, I avoid OC Transpo like the plague. The local buses are never on time, the train is insanely unpredictable and the fact that the price is going up shortly is so tone deaf.
Now working from home, minimal need to go downtown. Local routes make it extremely long to get where I need to go
OC is inconvenient unless you're going downtown. The frequency and travel times are awful in my area. Service to work for myself is 1.5 hours and 2 transfers to go 5 km (Nepean) and non-existent for husband (Dunrobin). Similar issues for non-work trips. We bike and drive.
OC Transpo has a really bad track record and at this point I'm actually scared of taking the train.
OC Transpo is a terrible commuter service that is overpriced and unreliable. They abandoned me and I almost lost my job when they went on strike years ago, since then they have done nothing to earn my business back.
OC transpo is too unreliable

OC Transpo is unfortunately just too unreliable right now. I ended up walking home from my repair shop after dropping off my car recently because the 14 that is supposed to show up every 15min didn't show up for close to 45. I was able to make it to the stop that I would have gotten off at before a bus drove by me (a 45min walk).

I do want to make a note that the drivers I've interacted have always been kind and helpful. This is no fault of theirs and I feel terrible that they are bearing the brunt of the frustration :(

On principal. I think it's a cheap way to distract from the real issue.

Only used transit for work, now I work from home.

Oops. See above.

other options are usually more convenient and reliable.

Ottawa city transit is broken. It's unreliable and it takes a long time to get to places. Free transit doesn't fix the problem.

Ottawa transit is unreliable. I cannot sit on a bus stop with kids in freezing cold and bus doesn't show up

Ottawa Transit system is slower, unreliable, dangerous? Cost me more in time than the fare saved. Would ride lrt regularly once stage2 is complete and if it looks safe/reliable.

ottawa's hub and spoke system in conjunction with the mandated % of population within x distance means routes are meandering and bewildering, frequently not on time, and wholly unreliable for transit. stops in some cases are 10s of metres apart, and the tracking system is rife with ghost buses. transfers from bus to train are somewhat reliable as long as the LRT is running, but from train to bus is an absolute guessing game. making it free does not make it palatable and the city needs to completely rethink their system to support trunk-and-feeder or other quality of service changes like houston recently did

Ottawa's transit system is embarrassingly inefficient and overpriced compared to other metro areas/capitals. The minute I learned to drive, I never looked back. The system only works for the select few who either live in the core or in the far suburbs who get express routes. Everyone else is doomed to multi leg, long journeys on busses that don't show up for multiple trips then come all at once or a train that can't be relied upon to be operating from one hour to the next. What I'd pay in a monthly pass I can pay in gas and know that I have reliable transportation.

Our transit system is a disgrace. Ottawa is the capital city of the one of the most developed countries in the history of our species. I was born and raised here, and our transit system has been ineffective and overpriced for as long as I can remember. It's embarrassing

Our transit system is a failure. Takes me longer to get to work than before the lrt. Don't care if it's free, not worth the pain if I can help it.

Our transit system is an unreliable joke and I only use it whenever entirely necessary and unavoidable.

Our transit system is not great. Busses are constantly late or not showing up. While I understand some delays, the frequency with which it happens is ridiculous.

Out of spite & protest. I will nonetheless be paying for it thru the nose on my taxes. With COVID and real estate I can see Watson and his cronies pushing MPAC to reassess as many homes as possible to get more revenue without looking like the "bad guy". I.e. I paid 690\$/4200\$ for transit, that's a high proportion of taxes, and for what?

Pandemic

Pandemic life: we are staying home

Pandemic, health issues and cold weather - no patios, no work clothes needed, no home visits

Pandemic, lrt unreliable.

Pandemic. Child can't be vaxxed, I'm higher-risk. Without the pandemic, we'd be on transit 2-3 times a week easily.

Paying for a monthly bus pass meant I could go anywhere unlimited.

Poor reliability. The last time I tried taking transit a month ago, the bus didn't come. I waited 10 minutes after the posted time (it was something like 20-30 minutes between buses), then left. My time is better spent walking than waiting at a stop.

Pre-pandemic I rode the bus or train to work every day and for anything else I wanted to do. Since March 2020 I've been working from home so that cuts down on my use of transit by a lot. And there aren't a lot of places to go outside of work either. I'm a high income earner, and in normal times I have a monthly bus pass. The fare is not an obstacle to me. I'd rather pay my full fare this month than deal with a trip to a specialist in January that will take me 1h10min on transit but would only take 18 minutes by car.

Frankly, I'm concerned that folks will give transit a try this month, because it's free, but then never come back, because the service is terrible.

Prefer to walk, especially during the pandemic. Often see passengers not wearing masks properly.

Price isn't the main factor - the entire system is unreliable. I regularly took transit as a student as well as during my first few working years, and always experienced some sort of delay from OC Transpo. Cycling or even walking in some cases is simply faster and certainly more predictable. I've lived in several different countries, in a variety of cities with smaller, larger and roughly proportionate populations to the city of Ottawa, and none of these places have the same difficulties in rolling out reasonably affordable, reliable and consistent public transportation.

Public transit is already my primary mode of transportation

Public transport in Ottawa is terrible from top to bottom. I feel sorry for those who have to use OC Transpo in their daily lives. I will not be using it even if it's free because coverage is poor, scheduling is poor, reliability is poor and considerations for safety during the pandemic are anemic at best

Reason #1: Ottawa transit is infamous for not showing up or having any schedule; it is unreliable and I do not wish to be stranded. Coworkers have had painful experiences and learned never to depend on the 'last bus' of the evening, or even second to last one, to show up, particularly in winter. I have taken transit in other cities (US and Europe) and was impressed that the signs and apps could reliably assist me in trip planning and execution; in contrast Ottawa transit information is notoriously unreliable on if there will even be a next bus and when it will be.

Reason #2: Covid. I am keeping to myself as much as I can. I work from home, socialize only on Zoom, and keep travel to a minimum. I have fragile parents to consider.

Reason #3: There isn't any place on transit that I want to go, particularly with the problem of being stranded (See #1). I don't want to go downtown.

Regardless of whether or not OC Transpo is free the service is unreliable, overcrowded, and frustrating. You either wait an hour for a bus to show up or it arrives on time and is so full it skips you entirely. It's impossible to make plans/go to work/go to class etc when you are basing your travel on the bus bc of how unreliable it is. Free is the only "price" that is worth the service OC Transpo provides. Make the transit better - literally just look 2 hours over to Montreal for an example - and I would love to use it more often. Parking anywhere in the downtown core is an insane nuisance but I'd rather risk getting towed/a ticket than have to rely on the bus/train.

Reliability of the service is unfortunately very subpar.

Right now it is a way to get around I use only when necessary. Buses seem to be reasonably reliable at the moment' but with only a fraction of the normal people using them - and it's always a nightmare in the winter. As for the train, get it working properly, manage to keep it working properly and I would probably use it more. But honestly it's a 50/50 shot right now that I get stuck/delayed. Less than zero confidence in this train system. Need to prove it to population.

Risk of potential COVID transmission due to some people not following health guidelines, and the guidelines not being actively and effectively enforced.

Routes are inconvenient

Scared of catching covid

Scared of LRT (accidents), scared of bus (covid)

Service is bad, there is a pandemic so not travelling much, prefer to walk/bike when possible.

Service is just as bad as it has been for the past 10 years, before I bought a car. Routes either 5 minutes early or 15 minutes late on weekdays regardless of traffic and ridership. LRT was supposed to help with this but it has not.

Service is not great in Orleans. More park and ride required otherwise local route add 30 minutes on each end or 10 minute car ride. Multimodal mode would be better.

Service is still awful even if free

Service is too unreliable for me to return as a customer. I'll drive and get there on time.

Service isn't great in Kanata and it takes significantly less time to drive.

Service remains unreliable. I can't tell you how many times I have stood on Carling in -20 weather for 45+ minutes waiting for a bus home that never showed up. I have called and paid for cabs for seniors and women with young children who were half frozen waiting for buses that never appear. This city's transit is an embarrassment, that heaps additional cost, indignity and disrespect on people who can't afford a car. Free transit in December when the trains don't work and the bus never shows up is too little, too late.

Service too unreliable even when free

Since the 2nd derailment, I now drive to work

Since the bus routes were reduced to favour LRT, I find myself forgoing public transit. It takes the same amount of time to walk most places. It's free and I know exactly when I'll arrive versus the unpredictability of transit. If I'm carrying something heavy I'll usually order an Uber. It's a couple dollars more than the LRT and it's door to door service instead of half walking/half riding

Slower and less reliable than my car, even though I'm only 4km from work.
so horrendously unreliable
Some journeys do not actually save me time, compared to walking. Also, transit has been fuller (or less spaced out)
Spouse severely immunocompromised. Can't take the risk.
Still a bit reluctant due to COVID
Still difficult because of the poor options offered in my neighborhood
Still increased COVID risks
Still not comfortable with public transport during a pandemic, if there were not a pandemic I probably would take advantage of free transit.
Still not going out much btw, question above asked about buying a ticket, as far as I know, you can't buy single tickets anymore, that's how I ended up with a presto pass that I never use!
Still wary of transit with Covid. Few occasions I can think of when transit would be helpful, but will do so if the opportunity arises.
System is so unreliable I can't trust it to get me home on time for daycare pickup.
Takes too long to get anywhere and is unreliable
Takes too long to get most places especially with a young baby
Taking the bus with hockey gear sucks, we have too few rinks, they are all far apart in the city, and demand since COVID has been ridiculous and availability low. I'm not spending 2 hours on a bus to go from Blair to Barrhaven to play hockey, I'll just drive.
Terrible connectivity to Blair station. No express bus routes from our area except for three during am and pm peak
Terrible hours for anyone not commuting. If I were to head to the Centerpointe area right now (a 22 minute drive), it'd take 2 hours according to Google Maps and the first leg is a 10 minute drive to Stittsville.
The absolute unreliable nature of our transit system has led us to purchasing a car since the LRT went online. Our family only uses transit if absolutely necessary.
The bus is too slow and inconvenient. Improve routes and quantity and I'd love to take transit at whatever the price
The bus isn't efficient for me. Cycling is faster.

The bus isn't super reliable (always late etc), so although it is tempting to take advantage of a free offer, it doesn't make the trip itself any easier. I might get lazy on colder days, though, and take the bus to work instead of the 30+ minute walk.

The bus route I used to take to my gym has been divided into two routes with conflicting schedules and service was reduced so severely that it now takes 1 hour to travel a distance that I can walk in 1.5 hours- now I walk instead.

The bus schedule reliability hasn't increased nor has LRT dependability, expanding my transit usage to my personal and social life that isn't as strictly scheduled as work isn't worth it when I can't plan accordingly due to late or missing buses. The fare savings aren't enough to risk the personal time lost. Also, if LRT goes down, the R1 east of downtown is very unpleasant and frustrating.

The bus service on river road takes 2 hours to get to the downtown core. This year i just started being charged an extra 600 dollars a year on my taxes for a service that is slower than walking. Completely inefficient, i would never see my kids 2.

The car is quicker, covid safe, and more convenient. If you already own a car and are paying insurance you likely won't switch to transit just for one month. This would only make sense if I sold the car and switched completely to transit.

The commute from Westboro to downtown is so much longer and unpredictable by bus/train, that the stress and time lost is not worth it. 10 minutes by car, anytime between 35 to an hour by public transit. Paying for parking 2-3 days a week has become the better option even if it strains my budget. Also genuinely worried about my safety on the train since there doesn't seem to be any clarity on whether the issues that caused 2 derailments have been resolved.

The consistent problems and lack of accountability with the LRT don't make me feel safe taking it. And the bus service is so screwed up, I end up waiting for ages in the cold when I try to get anywhere. I'm very fortunate to live in the extremely walkable neighbourhood of Centretown and not have to rely on transit.

The cost is not prohibitive for me (though fares are too high for the services provided) but the state of the transit system is. I'm not planning on spending more time waiting for busses that never show or getting stuck on another broken train just because it's free.

The cost is not the barrier for me riding transit more. The poor service is the barrier. Consistently late or no show busses, lots of train downtime. I just can't plan around something that inconsistent,

The fare is not the major reason why I choose to take transit or not. That said, it is not cheap to take transit a short distance. As a couple, it's often cheaper to take our car. But, we try to do the right thing when we can.

The LRT is still unreliable, getting back from downtown to Orleans requires a transfer at Blair that often doesn't show up (34 or 38)

The LRT makes trips downtown much longer from my house. Having to get off the 87 and switch to LRT makes my ride downtown unpleasantly long. So long I'll pay for parking.

87 before LRT used to get me downtown in 25 minutes.
87 plus LRT is 49 minutes.

The ongoing plague.

The only thing it changes is it allows me to have an extra 123\$ in my pocket just in time for Christmas. I already take transit to get anywhere/everywhere. This extra money helps with Christmas presents as a single parent with no child support.

The places I go are not easy to take transit to

The price isn't a burden for me so I just ride when I want to / need to

The routes are not always convenient to get places

The service is crap and unreliable. I'd rather have to deal with parking/traffic then wait outside in the cold because my bus is late.

The service is not reliable, buses are late or no shows. LRT is too unpredictable. Make the service more reliable and people will come back. Please consider this, it's important!

The service is optimized to shuttle commuters from the suburbs to the core, not for travel from one urban neighbourhood to another. For trips of 2-5 km cycling or even walking is usually faster, and always more reliable. Unfortunately free transit doesn't fix that.

The service is unreliable, the system is designed to be as anti human as possible, nothing shows up on time, it's a COVID paradise with no assurance of safety. And let's not forget spite, I feel like if I ride more now it will make it seem like I have accepted a bribe for my compliance, which I most assuredly have not.

The service is unreliable.

The service sucks. My car is more reliable. My time is valuable. It's not free that's a misnomer! What good is free when the service has ZERO RELIABILITY!

The system has progressively become more unreliable, so I stopped relying on public transit about three years ago. My partner and I invested in a car, and usually choose active transport options (walking, biking) for activities we need to do within 6 km. We chose to find housing close to our regular life activities in part to eliminate the need to use public transit.

The system is just unreliable, taking a chance at being late has a cost, larger than the \$3.95 in most cases. I rarely go downtown, when I worked at the office, I drove and paid \$195 for parking so I could get my kid from school in time. In a G7 capital city, it is not normal to not have a reliable, clean, affordable transit system. In a city of 1M, it is also not normal to have this much car traffic, direct result of having a short sighted municipal leadership for 40 years.

The system is still terrible. Buses don't come on time, and there are regularly last-minute cancellations that force me to wait longer for another person, making me late for engagements. Even if it does come, the buses are slow and too crowded (packed beyond capacity). I can sometimes walk to my destination before another bus shows up. Biking and walking are just more convenient and cheaper.

The system reliability is horrible. I only take it when I don't have access to a vehicle.

The transit in Ottawa is abhorrent. I come from Montreal and I strongly support public transit, but the buses in this city don't show like 70% of the time. And when they finally do arrive 40 min late and you express frustration to the bus driver because you are naturally upset, they get defensive and say it's not their fault (which, yes, it isn't - but is that really the answer when people have been waiting in the freezing cold for 40 min?)

This is a constant thing, and the reason I pay more to live downtown because transit is so pathetic and unreliable here. I really do not have the words to express my anger for those who rely on the bus and lose so much time in their day waiting. How in the world are we supposed to fight climate change and get people off cars when this abomination is the alternative? Shouldn't incentivizing people to take transit by making transit more reliable, take precedence over electrifying our bus fleet?

I have been here for 6 years and my friends constantly complain about how horrendous the transit here is. I just truly cannot express my anger. No reduction in fee will replace the time spent waiting for something until you eventually Uber (which is so expensive now) because you're half frozen to death.

And, have the very low income people been part of this conversation? I ask because my friend has written to me that often transit allowance is used by the poor on food, and that \$75/month or whatever it is can make a huge difference in their livelihoods.

The transit is not reliable. I don't want to end up stuck waiting for a long period of time which regularly happened to me when I used transit prior to the pandemic. If I have to return to an office, I will seek out parking options until transit is improved.

The transit system in it's current form is only useful for going from suburbs to downtown and the reverse. And even then it's not great for even that. It doesn't make sense to use it for any other travel unless it's your only choice.

The transit system is brutal and the headache of using it and risking something going wrong is not worth the money saved.

The transit system is still the same failure, it's hard to get one side of the city to another with the busing system. Most days consist of running just two errands the others saving them for another day due to the buses not having correct timing and scheduling.

The transit system is unreliable and expensive. It's common for buses to not show up at their scheduled time. Stations are cold and dangerous, there is nothing inviting about the transit system. Prior to buying a car I paid for a taxi any time I needed transportation as this was the only reliable method of transportation. Ottawa's transit system is broken and even if it's free, I can't afford to take the risk of not getting where I need to be on time.

The whole system is awful. Why can every other major city do this right except Ottawa?

There are no busses where I live and nothing in the city that I want to go to in December.

There continues to be a pandemic and im working from home/ still not meant to be out. I also hear the transit system has really gone downhill since covid and i have no interest in waiting indefinitely for busses that end up over crowded or a train that might get stuck between stations for any amount of time.

There is still a pandemic going on, routes have been cut, and it's still quite hard to get around the city - even more now that there are no more cross-town bus routes to supplement the train. I now rely more on my Communauto membership than I do public transit, which is not what I want but what I have to do in order to get to where I need to go.

There's a pandemic happening. I don't take the bus for the sake of joyrides.

This a car based city/transit region, I have a car because it's the best and easiest way to get around. Our transit system is always a compromise, often times impossible.

The most valuable measure of my day is my time. The investment required to take so much of my time using transit, simply isn't worth it.

this does not apply to me as I take transit for everything

This was the worst month for us to be free. Any other month we'd have taken the bus more. We're not busing at all this month.

Too many issues. Bought a car because of this.

Too much of a Covid risk.

too much trouble waiting for connections

Too scared. If I got trapped in a broken down train in an underground tunnel it would not go well.

Too unreliable in working and transfers

Transit doesn't currently meet very many of my travel needs. My family tends to use a mix of walking, biking and driving, depending on distance. I do hope to use the next phase of LRT to commute to the west end once it's completed.
Transit in Ottawa is just completely unreliable. I took it for years as a student, and to get to work, and it was never good. I just can't waste my time anymore, which is sad because of how much better public transit is for traffic and environmental issues. I lament the lack of vision of the city of Ottawa.
Transit in Ottawa us unpleasant, inefficient and unreliable.
Transit in this city is inconvenient and I don't depend on it
Transit is an essential service. I use it when required/convenient. Cost isn't the primary reason.
Transit is my only option anyways, but I take as few trips as possible and try to combine multiple chores and outings on single trips. It's just unbelievably unreliable. As a daily user of the LRT, the end to end time between Tunneys and Blair has gotten longer, and it's frustrating knowing the train I'm own might stall anytime. The buses aren't any better, GPS tracking on the app isn't great, and with colder weather coming in, it makes for an uncomfortable wait. So I'll still use transit as it's my only option, but only the bare minimum.
Transit is no longer reliable. Timing transfers with the LRT creates problems getting home at a predictable time. LRT is not reliable and I am constantly worried about getting stuck and not being able to get home for my kids.
Transit is not a reliable way to get around. I only use it when it is my only option, but walking/cycling is more reliable and also free.
Transit is notoriously unreliable. Can't stick to their own schedule. Harder to get downtown with LRT transfer.
Transit is simply too unreliable in Ottawa to ever use. We actually had a bus stop in front of our house and my wife took the bus from Orleans to downtown. After 3 weeks of missed buses and long waits in the Ottawa winter we ditched the bus and bought a car. We have never looked back and never will.
Transit is too slow and not reliable enough
Transit is too unreliable to justify taking more trips than I need to even if it is free.
Transit is unreliable, I will just take my car.
Transit is unreliable. Free or not, time and reliability matter.

Transit may be free but that doesn't address the underlying issue of reliability of the transit, it just takes some of the sting out of being charged for the 'privilege'. In the past I have tried to make regular use of OCTranspo but after the sheer volume of no-shows & late-buses it is a better use of my time (and more economical when considering time is not free) to not rely on it, free or not.

Transit near me is not reliable. It is much faster to get places by car or bike. It is more pleasant to go short distances walking.

Transit service has been reduced severely in my neighbourhood over the years. There are fewer busses and a nearly 1km walk to the nearest regular stop. Since adding the LRT, regular commuting times have increased significantly for my commute, and the service is less reliable. I have been forced into a private vehicle.

Transit system is inconvenient and often not operating correctly

Transit within Orleans is bad

Trying to limit travel anywhere due to covid19

Unfortunately transit is not convenient to bring me where I want to go. (Aka anywhere but to downtown) and the frequency makes it inconvenient for anything time sensitive.

Unfortunately, I find driving to be more reliable and flexible.

Unreliable and inconvenient. Scheduled buses will never show up. I can drive to my destination and get back before a bus actually shows up.

Unreliable service

Unreliable service in my neighbourhood to get anywhere else, commute time is too long, and covid makes me weary to be on public transit with people who may not wear mask properly/sit close to me/etc. It also gets dark very early and I don't always feel safe as a young woman taking transit alone, especially when it's not busy.

Unreliable service. I have appointments in different areas of the city this month. However I can't depend on the transit service to get me where I need to go by the scheduled time.

Unreliable, not fast, pandemic

Unreliable.

Unreliable. And Covid safety

Unreliable. Long transit time. Unknown if the train will actually be running or if I'll get stuck on it. Train and station cleanliness

Unsafe in pandemic, plus unreliability. I don't have anywhere that I NEED to go that I cannot get to by walking or driving. If there were a guarantee--or even a likelihood--that busses would not be overcrowded, or that they would show up anywhere near their scheduled time, I might consider it. But given all the reports of how transit is doing lately, I will continue using my rule of thumb that if my destination is less than a 45-60min walk, it's faster to walk than to take the bus--especially given that increased unreliability = overcrowded buses/trains when they do come. Normally, that would just be annoying, but right now, it's potentially deadly.

Until I moved in with my common law partner a few years ago, I exclusively relied on public transit. I have considered taking it for some quick Christmas shopping as it would be convenient to not rely on my partner's car but I don't think the train is reliable

Used to take transit to work, but now wfh. Reliability and access are key issues with transit. Once rail is put to Kanata(Moodie is ok) then heading to out to the mall will be easier if we want to go shopping in the east end. But with the trains not reliable, when busses don't show up its not feasible to waste hours of my day to go shopping when I can drive and do what I need quicker. I stopped buying my bus pass when I was sent home to work.

Very Unreliable

Very unreliable

We have 2 vehicles

We work from home and do many of our errands on foot.

We're in a pandemic. I'm not going anywhere I don't need to go. Please stop increasing bus fare for a service that is not improving.

We're still in the middle of a pandemic with new variants popping up. Still social distancing as much as possible as I'm immunocompromised.

We're still in the middle of a pandemic

We're in a pandemic still so what's important is work then going back home . Also the trains still break down and busses still run late 7/10 times a DAY so it doesn't really matter . Free transit doesn't make the LRT or busses more reliable , it's just free .

WFH and new variant. Once pandemic subsides and I start hybrid work will go back to transit.

Wfh so no need

When I took transit it was to go to school or I was working downtown and it was an alternative to paying for parking. Now I live and work in the outskirts of the city and it's much easier to drive

While incrementally rising transit cost is annoying, it still remains the cheapest form of transport- so it isn't the cost of transit that is a deterrent, it is the convenience of taking transit, which we all know has deteriorated quickly in recent months. I would also say that Vanier seems to be one of the more poorly served OC Transpo areas, despite demographics suggesting it would be one of the areas of the city where transit would be more heavily relied upon. The OTrain of course takes a hard south turn after Rideau to Hurdman and then follow the 417, literally bypassing the populated areas like Vanier and Gloucester. The Montreal Rd reconstruction adds an understandable, temporary, inconvenience. But when complete, will seemingly narrow the road to the detriment of busses.. they'll be packed in amongst even more traffic- and we know Ottawa's busses already have serious scheduling issues- staying on schedule, and too-infrequent routes. I expect the quality of transit in this area to get even worse.

To reiterate, while even cheaper transit is nice, the reason I have shifted away from using it is the deteriorating quality and convenience, not the cost. It is already the most cost-effective means of transportation. So making it free for a month doesn't address an actual barrier to using it- even when it is free it will be a pain to rely on.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is still active, I feel safer driving, so I limit my transit use regardless of cost.

why go on a useless system, in the middle of a pandemic when there are other people. also they smell - the buses, not the people.

Will take it the same amount. I have a U-Pass and even though I pay for it in tuition, it's already unlimited

With small kids at home, the only place I am regularly going is to work. My commute is a ten minute drive, and there is no reasonably direct bus route. I drop off my kids at daycare on the way. I would love to reduce my carbon footprint, but there are only so many hours in the day and I would prefer not to spend them waiting for a bus that does not arrive, at a stop that is not near my house, with impatient children and all of their belongings, only to arrive late to work, late to daycare for pick up at the end of the day when the bus does not arrive on time (or at all).

With the new variant it just doesn't seem safe. While the LRT is usually pretty chill during off peak hours, I've never been on it where everyone is wearing a mask properly and with the unmasked also presumably less likely to be double vaxxed, seems like way too much of a risk for someone immunocompromised like me - but then again Uber/Lyft drivers haven't really been wearing masks properly lately either.

With the present pandemic, the price of transit does not incentivize me to take transit, to gather in malls with larger groups of people than I'm comfortable with. I'm generally price inelastic where transit is concerned, and do not regularly need it for work, with work from home.

With the UPass I already had unlimited transit so already there was no cost disincentive from riding as much as needed.

Without car expenses, I can afford to take transit whenever I want already.

Working from home has removed my primary purpose for taking the bus. When I lived downtown I would also take the bus to the local library, grocery store and recreation/entertainment, but now living in suburbs, it takes too long to take the bus for these things - minimum one hour in transit each way, living ~5km from each. Who has time for that if you also have a car? Going to the local pool is a 3+hour ordeal by bus, including swim time, but I can do it in half that by car.

Working from home so less need for travel. Stopped using transit regularly when kids were born - too hard to make transit work for both kid pickup / drop off and commuting.

You don't discourage poor past performance by sweeping it under the ol' "free transit for a month" rug.

Survey

Free transit survey

I'm curious to hear how free transit in the month of December might mean for you

1. How old are you? *Mark only one oval.*
0-18 19-39 40-59 59+
2. What are the first three numbers/letters of your postal code?
3. Do you identify as: *Mark only one oval.*
Non-binary Female Male
4. Do you have kids at home? *Mark only one oval.*
Yes No
5. Do you own a car? *Mark only one oval.*
Yes No
6. Are you a regular transit rider? *Mark only one oval.*
I don't regularly take transit I sometimes take transit
I take transit often
7. How do you pay for transit? *Mark only one oval.*
I buy a ticket or pay cash for each ride

I pay for each ride with a balance on my Presto card I have a bus pass

8. Do you normally take transit for... (check all that apply) *Check all that apply.*

Work

School

Shopping

Socializing

Fitness and recreation

Other:

9. Do you intend to take transit more often when it's free? *Mark only one oval.*

Yes No

10. What trips will you make with free transit that you wouldn't ordinarily? (check all that apply)

Check all that apply.

Work

School

Shopping

Socializing

Fitness and recreation

Other:

11. If you intend to take more trips because transit is free, how come?

12. If you don't plan on taking more transit trips just because it's free, how come?
