

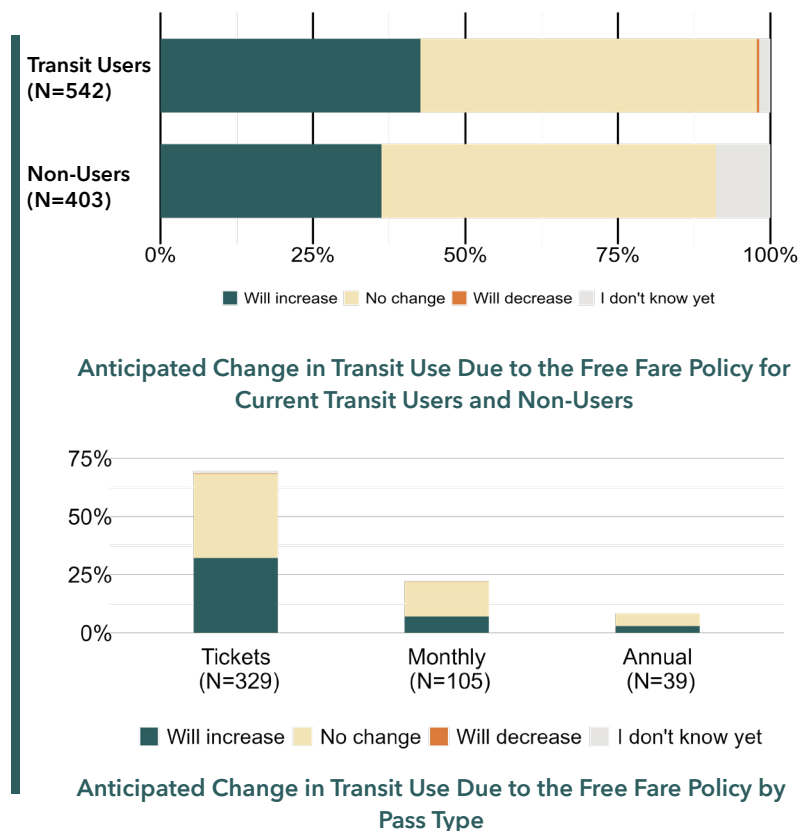
# Anticipated Impacts of the 65+ Free Fare in Montreal

## The Issue

The City of Montréal announced that, as of July 1, 2023, public transport will be free on the Island for people aged 65 and older. As the population ages, providing older people with adequate and affordable travel options, such as public transport, is essential in ensuring their independent mobility on the long-term. To understand the anticipated impacts of the free fare on this group's public transit use, we analyzed responses of the Aging in Place survey, which polled older adults (65+) residing on the Island of Montréal about their daily travel.

## Findings

- 55% of older Montrealers do not anticipate changing how frequently they use public transit once their fare becomes free.
- Transit users are more likely to expect an increase in transit use compared to non-users following the implementation of the free fare (43% vs 36% respectively).
- Non-users remain more unsure of the free fare's anticipated impact on their public transit use compared to current users (9% vs 2% respectively).
- Single-use ticket users are the most likely current riders to intend to use public transport more (46%) compared to monthly (33%) and annual pass holders (35%).



## Conclusions

- » Most older adults do not anticipate changing the frequency at which they use public transit. However, current public transit users are intending to increase their use compared to non-users.
- » More research will be needed upon implementation of the free fare to examine if the anticipated impacts discussed above will be reflected in future ridership.