

Name: Adam Bresler

Date: April 4, 2019

Reporting: What Matters to Me

What will your news article be about?

Mayor Bowser eliminates the fare to ride DC Circulator

Why did you choose this topic?

Many readers ride the DC Circulator and this change will impact them.

What do you already know about this topic? List facts or ideas below. Continue on another piece of paper if needed.

- In the "State of the District" address, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that the DC Circulator will be free to ride indefinitely
- The Circulator bus network covers downtown DC and is popular with tourists.
- Previously, the Circulator bus cost \$1 to ride

What would you like to know about this topic? List at least three questions you want to answer. (If you have more questions, write them on another piece of paper.)

1. Why is this a priority for the mayor?
2. Who will be impacted the most by this change?
3. How much does this program cost?

What sources might be helpful as you seek out information to write your news article? Consider both people (who) and documents/books/reference materials (what). List at least three possibilities for each.

Possible sources — who?	Possible sources — what?
<u>Mayor Muriel Bowser</u>	<u>Transcript of Mayor Bowser's "State of the District" address</u>
<u>Adam Diaz, a frequent rider of the Circulator</u>	<u>FY 2020 Proposed Budget</u>
<u>District Department of Transportation Director Jeff Marootian</u>	<u>DC Circulator ridership statistics</u>

My deadline: April 23, 2019

Gathering Information

Use this page to organize the information you gather. (Use additional sheets as necessary.)

Question 1 (from page 1): Why is this a priority for the mayor?

Source	Transcript of the "State of the District" address
Answer and/or useful information	"We may not think about it, because it's just \$1 each way, \$2 a day, but for a working person it adds up. So we went back to our budget books to see what else we could do, and I'm proud to say that we will make the DC Circulator free from now on."

Source	DDOT Director Jeff Marootian
Answer and/or useful information	"Keeping the Circulator free is how Mayor Bowser invests in making the district a city where public transportation is an affordable, safe, and efficient way to get around the city."

Question 2 (from page 1): Who will be impacted the most by this change?

Source	Adam Diaz
Answer and/or useful information	"I think there is a lot of economic pressure on people who are just trying to get to their job or pick up their kids. This could be a huge weight lifted off people."

Source	Transcript of the "State of the District" address
Answer and/or useful information	"Over these past few weeks, workers at hotels, restaurants, and shops have stopped me at the checkout counters, at the diners, telling me how much they appreciate the free Circulator."

Question 3 (from page 1): How much does the Program Cost?

Source	FY 2020 Proposed Budget
Answer and/or useful information	In the mayor's Fiscal Year 2020 proposed budget, \$16.1 million is set aside ^{aside} to fund the Circulator and make the zero-fare policy permanent.

Source	
Answer and/or useful information	

Getting Ready to Write

When it's time to write your report, think about using the reporter's questions (the 5 W's and an H) to help structure your article and make sure you convey all of the information you're gathered.

- Introduction — The Basics
 - **What** is this article about?
 - **When** and **where** did the events or issues in question take place or have an impact?
 - **Who** is involved/impacted?
- Body — The Meat
 - **Why** is this topic important?
 - **How** is this topic impacting the reader/the community/the country?
- Conclusion — The Bottom Line
 - **What** should readers take away from this article?

Look back at the answers and useful information you gathered. Begin to organize them for your article using the outline chart below. Write the facts/information in the section where they should appear, then number them to indicate the order in which they will appear. (Use your own paper to add to the chart as needed.)

Introduction — The Basics	
Facts to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the "State of the district" address in March, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser announced Circulator buses will be free to ride, indefinitely. • This announcement comes after the conclusion of "Fairshot February", which piloted the Zero-fare policy. • The Mayor has set aside \$6.1 million to fund the program.
Body — The Meat	
Facts to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Circulator bus network covers downtown DC and is popular with tourists. • The mayor hopes that the program will help the working people of DC, including people employed at hotels, restaurants and shops. • Adam Diaz, a rider on the Circulator, thinks this change could have a "huge" impact on parents facing economic pressure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Original "Fairshot February" was tested from January 28th to February 28th and was declared a success by the Mayor's office. • Previously, the DC Circulator cost \$1 to ride. • Circulator bus routes connect the National Mall, Georgetown, the Wharf and Capital Hill. • The change came right before the annual Cherry Blossom Festival.
Conclusion — The Bottom Line	
Facts to include	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a test run in February, the Mayor is making the DC Circulator free to ride indefinitely. • This aims to provide economic relief to DC's working class. •

D.C. Mayor's New Initiative Indefinitely Removes Bus Fare

BY ADAM BRESSLER

In the annual “State of the District” address in March, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that the DC Circulator buses will be free to ride for the foreseeable future.

In the address delivered at the University of the District of Columbia on March 18, Mayor Bowser spoke about transportation, among other topics facing the city.

The program was originally slated to run from Jan. 28 through Feb. 28, under the name “Fair Shot February.” During the month, riders would have been able to use the Circulator buses without being charged.

Due to the positive reception of the decision, the



The DC Circulator connects areas of the nation's capital that are otherwise tough to access via Metro. Photo by Adam Bressler

mayor extended the program for another month, re-branding it as “Fair Shot Free Ride.” The mayor’s announcement made this program permanent.

In the “State of the District” address, Mayor Bowser claimed that the change

came in response to the feedback that she received from residents.

“Over these past few weeks, workers at hotels, restaurants, and shops have stopped me at the checkout counters, at the diners, telling me how much they ap-

preciate the free Circulator. We may not think about it, because it’s just \$1 each way, \$2 a day, but for a working person it adds up,” Bowser said. “And so we went back to our budget books to see what else we could do, and I’m proud to say that we will make the DC Circulator free from now on.”

Adam Diaz, head of the 10th grade, is familiar with the DC Circulator system.

“I used to live in Mount Pleasant so I used to take the circulator home when I would get off the Woodley shuttle from Field,” Adam said.

Adam supports the mayor’s initiative to eliminate fares because of the economic relief that it would provide to low-income riders.

“I think there is a lot of

economic pressure on people who are just trying to get to their job or pick up their kids. This could be a huge weight lifted off people.”

Prior to the changes, each ride on the Circulator cost \$1 per person. As of April 2019, the Circulator network contains six routes within the District.

They connect a handful of points of interests within downtown D.C., including the National Mall, Capitol Hill, the National Zoo, Georgetown and Nationals Park. The buses are popular with tourists, especially during the region’s many events and festivals. The announcement came just in time for the National Cherry Blossom Festival, an annual event that draws an estimated 1.5 million tourists each year.

Nakamura, Yu Earn Titles in U.S. Chess Championships

BY JOSHUA ALTMAN

The United States Chess Championships are an annual invitational event that features the 12 strongest players in the country.

These top players compete for \$194,000 and the U.S. championship title over the course of two weeks.

After a fortnight of deep thinking and attentiveness, the United States has its pair of 2019 Champions: Hikaru Nakamura and Jennifer Yu.

Nakamura earned the championship title when he defeated Jeffery Xiong. And Yu was crowned champion after the 10th round, when no one else could catch the 17-year-old.

Going into the final



Jennifer Yu won in Round 10. Photo by Lennart Ootes

round, three players (Round 3 players) – Caruana, Dominguez, and Nakamura – were tied with 7/10.

Looking at each of their pairings, the odds were in favor of Dominguez, who had white against Timur Gareyev.

Caruana had Black against last year’s U.S. champion, Sam Shankland, while Nakamura also took the black pieces against Xiong, one of the strongest juniors in the world.

Caruana’s game was the first to finish.

The game was completely equal right out of the gate, and after the game reached the endgame, both players agreed to a draw.

After the contest, Shankland’s disappointment was clear, as he told U.S. Chess News, “he’d be taking a bit of a break from competition.”

The match between Nakamura and Xiong was next to finish.

Nakamura was able to trick Xiong out of the opening and took that advantage into the endgame, where he defeated Xiong after 58 moves. And with that, all of the pressure fell to Dominguez.

Dominguez was able to get a promising position out of the opening, but he was not able to convert it, and after a hard fought 77 moves, the game ended in a draw.

The draw left all of Dominguez’s championship hopes behind him.

However, Dominguez was satisfied with his performance.

Dominguez told U.S. Chess that he was “eager to play some more chess.”

After the last game finished, Nakamura stated the reason for his success was

that he forgot about the rating and the prize money, which enabled him to play more freely.

Other results did not affect the final standings, but there were some notable upsets.

Awonder Liang, 16, defeated Wesley So, breaking So’s 45-game unbeaten streak.

Var Akobian defeated Ray Robson to end his tournament on a high note.

Alexander Lenderman and Sam Sevian had a solid draw.

Going into the final round of the women’s championship, Yu had al-



Hikaru Nakamura (right) started fast and defeated Jeffery Xiong (left) to win the men’s title. Photo by Austin Fuller

ready clinched the title.

However, people still wondered if Yu could win her last game and finish with the near-perfect score of 10/11.

The only thing standing in her way of doing that was her friend, Carissa Yip.

The game was equal up until the endgame, where Yu was able to outplay Yip and seal the tournament off with a win.

In the fight for second place, Anna Zatonskih had the opportunity to clinch it with a win over former champion, Sabrina Foiser.

But unfortunately for Zatonskih, Foiser started a monstrous attack out of the opening and defeated her in

impressive fashion.

This meant that if Tatev Abrahamyan could defeat teen master Akshita Gorti, she would finish solely in second place.

But Gorti held the position equal the entire game, and the game finished in a draw.

Thus, Zatonskih and Abrahamyan both finished in second place.

In the remaining games, Annie Wang drew to Anna Sharevich to have a strong finish in fourth place.

Ashritha Eswaran had a solid win against Emily Nguyen, and Irina Krush also had a strong win against Maggie Feng to secure a finish in fifth place.