



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

TRANSIT BENEFIT PROGRAM

FIELD TRANSIT UPDATE REPORT **MARCH 2016 MAXIMUM SUBSIDY INCREASE**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2016, H.R. 2029, Section 805, permanently increased the Federal exclusion amount for commuter transit benefits and transit passes from **\$130 to \$255 per month**. The CAA enactment requires that all qualified federal employees in the Field be offered a mass transit benefit equal to their commuting costs, but not to exceed \$255 per month beginning on or after January 2, 2016.

In accordance with past VA policy, Secretary McDonald approved the maximum increase to all qualified VA participants nationwide **effective the March 2016** distribution period. The increase will not be retroactive per OMB guidance.

Participants will be offered a mass transit benefit equal to their commuting costs, but not to exceed \$255 per month. If a participant's reported monthly commuting costs are currently over \$130 per month, they will warrant an increase. If the commuting costs are less, they will not qualify for an increase.

The maximum increase will apply to those participants receiving funds on a TranServe Debit Card, those who are distributed fare media or vouchers, and to participants applying for self-certification reimbursement.

Qualified increases will be distributed based on current recertified Applications for Public Transit Fare Benefit (VA Form 0722) on file. No further action is required.

An alphabetical listing confirming participants and reported transit costs will be provided to station Transit Managers for verification purposes.

Employees submitting changes increasing monthly transit costs will not be effective until the April distribution period.

Remember, transit subsidy can only be used to pay for commuting costs to work on mass transportation. Overestimating transit costs, paying for parking, selling, giving to others, or using for local travel is prohibited and can result in disciplinary action up to removal from federal service.

If you should have questions, please contact your organizations Transit Manager.

/S/

Transit Benefit Program Coordinator