# SmartBenefits Commuter Benefits Program

**NEW ADMINISTRATOR TRAINING** 

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# Agenda

Commute for Less with SmartBenefits®

How Does It Work? (includes a demo)

News You Can Use

**Customer Service** 

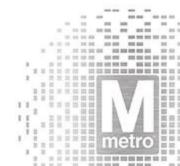
Q&A





## What is SmartBenefits®?

- SmartBenefits is a simple, fee-free way for employers to save thousands in payroll taxes while allowing employees to commute tax-free.
- Federal tax code\* allows employers to offer SmartBenefits as a direct employee benefit, a pre-tax payroll deduction, or a combination of both.
- 2018 IRS Monthly Commuter Benefit Maximums
  - Transit: \$260 per month
  - Parking: \$260 per month



<sup>\*</sup> IRS Qualified Transportation Fringe Benefits: 26 USC Section 132(f)

# Multiply the Savings



		PRIVATE SECTOR, STATE & LOCAL GOVT & NON-PROFITS							
		TRANSIT ONLY		PARKING ONLY		TRANSIT & PARK			
		\$260 / MONTH		\$104 / MONTH		\$364 / MONTH			
Annual Benefit or Payroll Deduction		\$	3,120	\$	1,248	\$	4,368		
FICA: Social Security Match	6.20%		(194)		(77)		(271)		
FICA: Medicare Match	1.45%		(45)		(18)		(63)		
Unemployment FUTA	0.60%		(19)		(7)		(26)		
Unemployment SUTA	2.62%		(82)		(33)		(115)		
EMPLOYER PER EMPLOYEE SAVINGS		\$	(340)	\$	(136)	\$	(476)		

		TRANSIT ONLY \$260 / MONTH		PARKING ONLY \$104 / MONTH		TRANSIT & PARK \$364 / MONTH	
Annual Benefit or Payroll Deduction		\$	3,120	\$	1,248	\$	4,368
Federal Income Tax	22.00%		(686)		(275)		(961)
FICA: Social Security	6.20%		(194)		(77)		(271)
FICA: Medicare	1.45%		(45)		(18)		(63)
State Income Tax	7.00%		(219)		(87)		(306)
EMPLOYEE TAX SAVINGS		\$ (:	1,144)	\$	(457)	\$	(1,601)
Net Cost to Employee		\$	1,976	\$	791	\$	2,767

- The more employees you enroll in SmartBenefits, the more you save
- Your account representative and local TDMs\* can help you and your employees leverage public transit https://www.commuterconnections.org/employers/employ er-resources/
- Commuter Choice MD incentive https://mta.maryland.gov/commuter-programs
- SmartBenefits complies with the DC Commuter Benefits Law



<sup>\*</sup> TDM: Transportation Demand Management

## How does it work?

### Your monthly SmartBenefits® order is automatically sent to:

- Each employee's registered SmarTrip card, and/or...
- Each employees SmarTrip account to purchase passes for any system that accepts SmarTrip cards, and/or...
- Third-parties selected by your employees via the SmartBenefits Passenger Allocation System to purchase passes or fares for VRE; MARC, MTA Commuter Bus; MetroAccess; independent bus service or vanpool rides

Employees tap their SmarTrip card to claim their benefit



# Getting Started with SmartBenefits®

#### ✓ Prepare

- Learn your employees transit and Metrorail parking needs
- Consider how you'll treat unused benefits: Rollover vs. Non-Rollover
- Consider your order payment method: ACH or Credit Card
- Open a SmartBenefits® Account at wmata.com/smartbenefits
- Collect registered SmarTrip® card numbers, name & benefit amount
- Configure your SmartBenefits® account and assign monthly benefit (1st thru 15th)
- ✓ Any prior month credits applied by the 5<sup>th</sup> business day
- ✓ Order placed automatically on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm ET
- ✓ Payment due the first business day after the 15<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Benefits are available on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming month



# The SmartBenefits® Employer Web App Demo



#### Everything's in the User Guide

- Click on Help to View It
- Examples Illustrate Each Key Step

#### Process Walkthrough

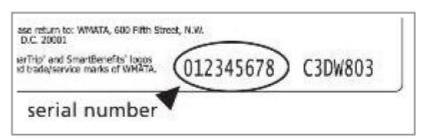
- Set-up Benefit Categories (pg.4)
- Add and Update Employees (pg.7)
- Reassign Benefits for Lost/Damaged Card (pg.11)
- Review Order and Reporting Features (pg.16)

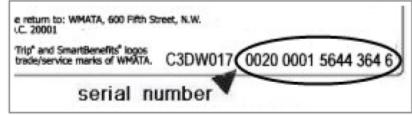


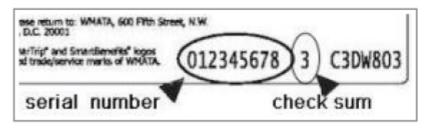
# Anatomy of a SmarTrip® Card (part 1)

#### SmarTrip® Card Serial Number Format

The serial numbers are on the bottom right hand corner on the back of each card. There are four types of SmarTrip® cards. The most common starts with 0167 (highlighted below). You enter card serial numbers without spaces during the Add Employee process.











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# Anatomy of a SmarTrip® Card (part 2)



#### Pre-Tax Funds

- Transit Benefit Restrictions
  - Metrorail & Metrobus
  - Regional Bus Partners
- Parking Benefit Restrictions
  - Metrorail Parking Lots Only

#### After-Tax Funds

- Personal Stored Value
  - No Use Restrictions



## Anatomy of a SmarTrip® Card (part 3)





#### **Smartrip Payment Priority**

- 1. Pass
- 2. SmartBenefits
  - a. Monthly Credits
  - b. Monthly Benefit
- 3. Personal Stored Value

#### **Balance Display**

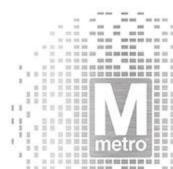
- Faregates/boxes & parking gates show the balance of the purse used
- SmarTrip Online shows all balances
- Fare Vendors only show stored value balance



# Important Dates

- Most Changes Limited to 1<sup>st</sup> thru 15<sup>th</sup> (11:59pm ET)
- Only Actions Allowed After the 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Suspend Benefits
  - Reassign Benefits
  - Distribute SmartBenefits Anytime Funds
- Order Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup>
   (Deadline the same for weekends/holidays. System up 24/7.)
- Payment Due 1<sup>st</sup> Business Day After Your Order Deadline (WMATA-Originated ACH Offers Automatic Payment Processing)





## Maintain Your Account

#### Do

- Use to move between fields.
- Pick the proper benefit category type
- Use the Monthly Checklist
- Remind your employees to:
  - Register their SmarTrip cards (including replacements for lost/damaged cards)
  - Update their Passenger Allocation System account with replacement card numbers
  - Remember the order deadlines

#### Don't

- Change the Kickoff Date for existing employees
- Mark benefit categories in use as 'not eligible'
- Forget to Monitor Your Account
  - · Login at least quarterly to:
    - Learn the latest SmartBenefits news
    - Change your password
  - Keep your email address up-to-date (required for automatic password resets)
  - Review your benefits claimed reports
  - Notify WMATA of changes to payment info



# Pro Tip: Credits and Lower Parking Fees

#### Rush Hour Promise & Grace Period Credit for SmartBenefits®

- All credits for the past month are applied on the 1<sup>st</sup> to properly track tax-advantaged dollars
- Credit balance displayed on rail faregates and bus fareboxes <u>before</u> normal SmartBenefits balance
- Learn more at <u>wmata.com/promise</u> and <u>wmata.com/graceperiod</u>

### Higher Non-Rider Parking Fee

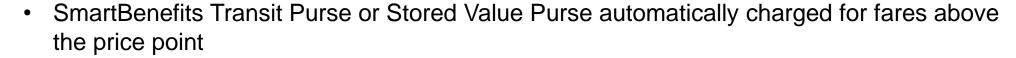
- Popular Metrorail parking garages charge a higher fee to parkers that do not ride Metrorail
- To receive the lower Metrorail rider parking fee, you must use the same SmarTrip card to travel
   Metrorail and pay for your parking
- Remember to set up a Parking Benefit Type for employees that park at Metrorail garages
- Learn more at <u>wmata.com/parking</u>



# Pro Tip: Save up to 20% with SelectPass

#### SelectPass Features

- Monthly Unlimited Metrorail Use
- Makes sense if you commute 18 or more days a month
- Minimum monthly savings if you commute 22 days a month
  - \$2.00 One-Way fare: Save \$16
  - \$6.00 One-Way fare: Save \$48



Learn more at <u>wmata.com/selectpass</u>

## Requires Employers to set-up the 'Transit Pass' Benefit Type



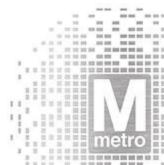
Available at SmarTrip Online



# Pro Tip: SmartBenefits® Anytime

- Option to provide a transit or parking benefit after the normal SmartBenefits deadline to:
  - New or existing employees
  - Interns or other short-term employees
- SmartBenefits AnyTime funds remain available until used (like a bank account)
- Simple to Set-Up
  - Order anywhere from \$1 to \$10M in Anytime funds by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month
  - The funds are available for use on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the next month
  - Assign to employee SmarTrip® cards as either rollover or non-rollover for both transit and parking benefit types
  - Typically takes 2-3 days to load to your employee's SmarTrip card





# We are here to help

#### Online

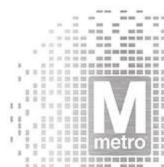
 Customer Support & FAQ <u>https://www.wmata.com/business/smartbenefits/faq.cfm</u>

## SmarTrip Customer Support

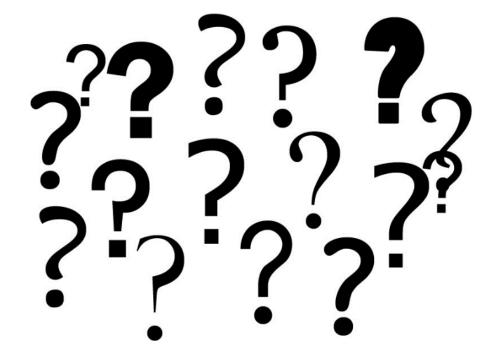
- Employers: 202-962-1326 (have your SB account # ready)
- Employees: 1-888-SMARTRIP (have your ST card # ready)
- email: <u>smartrip@wmata.com</u>
- Hours: 7 AM 8 PM ET Monday Friday

## SmartBenefits Account Representatives





# Questions





# Thank you for your time

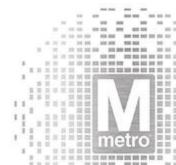
**SmartBenefits**<sup>®</sup>

Smart for Employers. Smart for Employees. Smart for You.

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