Paper voucher (e.g. Commuter Check, Tranben, TransitChek)

Employer Perspective

Pros

- Easy to administer: Vouchers not tied to employee names so easy to deal with employee turnover
- Low cost. Typically less than half the payroll tax saving since both fees and payroll taxes are percentage based.
- No cost if participation drops to zero for employers who are required to have a program.
- Can be started quickly (one week with expedited delivery).

Cons

- Cannot be used at ticket vending machines.
- Employer must set up distribution system. Easy for a smaller office but more difficult with multiple locations or large staff.
- Employees must communicate changes to employer.

Employee Perspective

Pros

■ Employees have an extended period of time to use voucher and can use it for any fare media. After that period it be can exchanged through employer for a new voucher.

Cons

- Cannot be used directly on transit—requires redemption. Rated somewhat more difficult compared with receiving tickets directly on BART rider survey.
- Per IRS regulation, change cannot be given, since money not taxed.
- If lost or stolen, refunds cannot be given.
- Cannot be used with EZ Rider; cumbersome with TransLink since vouchers still need to be taken to redemption location.

Tip

Vouchers are available in almost any denomination. Employers are advised to purchase vouchers in denominations that match the transit tickets/passes that their employees buy.

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