



HUD-OIG Transit Benefit Integrity Awareness Training

Updated February 24, 2016



Topics

- **What is TranServe**
 - Program Overview
 - Benefits of TranServe
 - Background and Objectives
 - TranServe's Role
 - Employee's Role
 - Legal Implications
 - Website Content
 - TranServe Enrollment Process
 - Monthly Funding Guides
- **Knowledge Checks**
- **Understanding the Certification Statement**
- **Knowledge Checks**



What is TranServe?

- **TRANServe is a Debit Card, branded by Visa, which offers electronic fare media provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation. It will provide agency approved federal employees the ability to receive their transit benefit electronically.**

U.S. Department of Transportation

TRANSERVE
Business in motion

Program Overview

- **Transit Benefit Program:**
 - Reduces air pollution
 - Reduces traffic congestion
 - Increases use of mass transit
- **Studies show that congestion wastes:**
 - 3.7 billion hours of travel delays
 - \$63 billion per year, nationally
 - \$850 and \$1,600 in lost time and fuel each year per commuter
- **Tax-free subsidy for *actual* mass transit commuting costs**
 - Up to the maximum statutory limit



The Benefits of TranServe

- **Increase efficiency**
- **Eliminate paper**
- **Better Internal Controls**
- **Easier for Everyone**
- **Prevents Waste**
- **More Secure**

U.S. Department of Transportation

TRAN*SERVE*
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Background



• Program History

- 1991 - Federal Transit Administration pilot program
- 1993 - Clean Air Initiatives Act
- 2000 - Federal Workforce Transportation Fringe Benefit
- 2005 - SAFETEA-LU



Background



- **Eligibility**

- **Participants must be salaried employees (i.e., full-time, part-time, temporaries, stay-in-school, etc.) who use qualified transit facilities or commuter highway vehicles on a monthly basis to commute to and from work, and who do not receive Federal parking and are not named on a worksite parking permit at any Federal agency**



Mass Public Transportation

- **Rail**

- **Subway**
- **Commuter**
- **Light**

- **Bus**

- **Transit authority**
- **Commuter**

- **Ferries**

- **Pedestrian or bicycle**

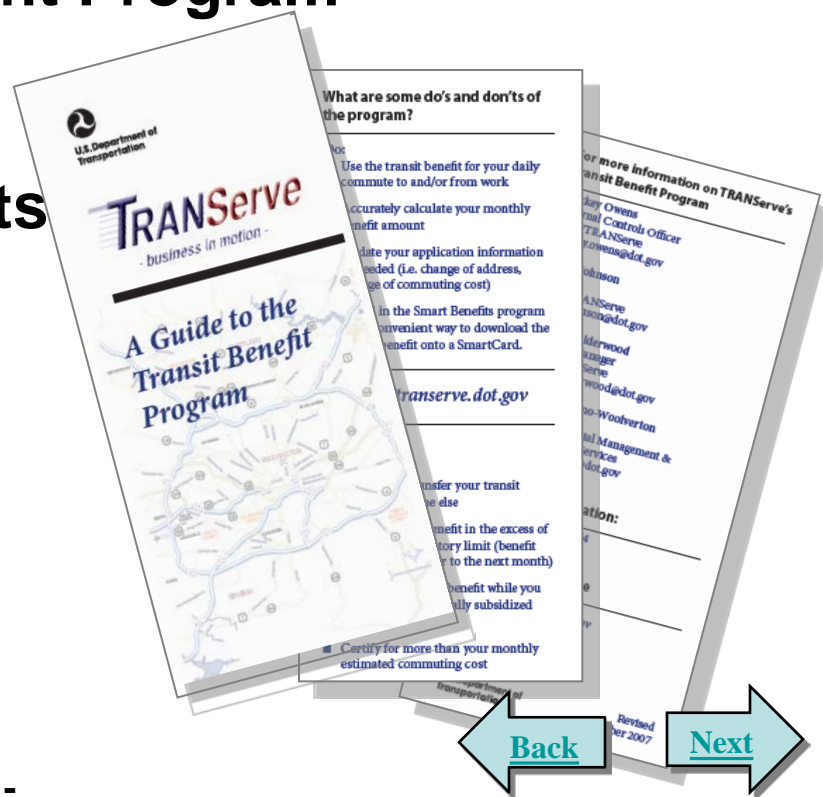
- **Qualified vanpools**

- **Commercial/private vehicle**
- **At least 6 adults, excluding the driver**



TRANServe's Role

- Service Provider to Federal Agencies
- Distributes the transit benefit to qualified employees
- Administers the Transit Benefit Program
- Establishes best practices
- Supports program participants



Employee Roles and Responsibilities

- **Understand the scope and limitations of the Transit Benefit Program**
- **Do not sell, transfer the benefit, or make false claims**
- **Understand the penalties involved in misuse or false claims**

It is a violation of law to provide false or fraudulent information to obtain the transit benefit, to transfer, or to sell the transit benefit.



Employee Roles and Responsibilities

- **Not named on a worksite parking permit at any Federal agency, nor otherwise participate in a carpool**
- **Use transit benefit for home to work and work to home transportation, *only***
- **Ensure the amount of transit benefit received does not exceed actual monthly commuting cost using public transportation**
- **Responsible to update commuting costs upon changes to commuting method, work schedule, or address**



Employee Roles and Responsibilities

Once paper fare media is distributed, you are responsible for its safekeeping. Lost, stolen or damaged paper fare media will not be replaced.

- Contact Metro via a sales office or online at www.wmata.com. To replace lost, stolen or damaged SmarTrip® cards. [Applies only in the National Capital Region (NCR)]
- For lost, stolen or damaged TRANServe Cards, contact JP Morgan Chase at UCARD Center (<https://ucard.chase.com>)



Legal Implications

Employees who misuse the transit benefit are subject to appropriate administrative action including discipline and/or disqualification from future participation in the USCIS Transit Benefit Program. Disciplinary penalties could range from a letter of admonishment to removal from Federal Service, depending on the severity of the abuse.



TRANServe Website

TRANServe.dot.gov

Website Pages:

- Home
- Participants
- F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions)
- Debit Card
- Resources
- Return of Excess Benefit
- Contact Us

The screenshot shows the TRANServe website homepage. At the top left is the U.S. Department of Transportation logo with the slogan "Business in motion". To the right is the United States Department of Transportation logo. Below the logos is a search bar with a "Go" button. A navigation menu contains links for HOME, DEBIT CARD, RETURN OF EXCESS TRANSIT BENEFIT, RESOURCES, PARTICIPANTS, CONTACT US, and F.A.Q. The main content area features a "News" section with a background image of a transit station. Below this is a "DOT News Flash" section with a link to a Federal Register notice. To the right of the news flash is a "Contact Us" section with a "Contact Us" button, "Normal Hours" (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.), a date (Wednesday February 20, 2013), and a link for "[Office address and info]". Below the contact section is a "Recent Bulletins" section with three items: "TSB 2013-07 Bicycle Benefit Claim Submission Deadline", "TSB 2013-06 DOT ATRA 2012 Implementation Guidance - increase up to \$245", and "TSB 2013-05R Elimination of all WMATA 3rd Party Allocations for TRANServe Federal Agencies". At the bottom of the page, there are two buttons: "Back" and "Next".

Enrollment Process

1. Log in to the TRANServe Electronic Transit Benefit Application System (<https://transitapp.ost.dot.gov>)
2. First time Users click the “Register” button to create a profile and get your temporary password.
3. Login using government email address and password
4. Click on “Home”, then “Transit Benefit Application System”
5. Choose what to do:
 - Request information
 - Withdraw from the program
 - Certify/Enroll



Monthly Debit Card Funding Schedule

Benefit Month	Cards Funded	Card Usage
October	September 10th	September 10- October 9
November	October 10th	October 10 - November 9
December	November 10th	November 10 - December 9
January	December 10th	December 10 - January 9
February	January 10th	January 10 - February 9
March	February 10th	February 10 - March 9
April	March 10th	March 10 - April 9
May	April 10th	April 10 - May 9
June	May 10th	May 10 - June 9
July	June 10th	June 10 - July 9
August	July 10th	July 10 - August 9
September	August 10th	August 10 - September 9



Unauthorized Transaction Notification

"It has come to our attention that a transit benefit participant may be involved in the misuse of transit subsidies."



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Office of the Secretary
of Transportation**



Dear _____

It has come to our attention that a _____ transit benefit participant may be involved in the possible misuse of transit subsidies. The participant's name is _____ Utilizing the transit benefit debit card, the participant made a purchase of \$12.45 at _____ on July 6, 2012.

Attached is a copy of the participant's July 6, 2012 activity for the transit benefit debit card. _____ previous transit benefit debit card transactions were checked as well, and no anomaly was found.

Should you require additional documentation or if I may assist you in any way, please let me know.

In addition, I would appreciate your acknowledging below your receipt of this memorandum. Please sign and return to me via email at your earliest convenience.

Received by: _____
Signature

Printed Name

Date: _____

U.S. Department of Transportation



Knowledge Check 1

The Transit Benefit Program objective is to:

- A. Increase compensation of federal employees per month.**
- B. Provide incentive to federal employees to use public transportation to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion.**
- C. Reward the employees for their hard work.**



Knowledge Check 1 - Answer

The Transit Benefit Program objective is to:

- A. Increase compensation of federal employees per month.
- B. Provide incentive to federal employees to use public transportation to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion.
- C. Reward the employees for their hard work.

The Federal Workforce Transportation Fringe Benefit Program under Executive Order 13150 was put in place to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion.



Knowledge Check 2

- **If I misuse my transit benefit, for example, selling my benefit or over estimating my need for the benefit, I could be removed from service to the federal government.**

True

False



Knowledge Check 2 - Answer

- If I misuse my transit benefit, for example, selling my benefit or over estimating my need for the benefit, I could be removed from service to the federal government.

True

False

Disciplinary penalties could range from a letter of admonishment to removal from Federal service depending on the severity of the abuse.



Knowledge Check 3

TRANServe's Role is to:

- A. Distribute the transit benefit to USCIS employees.
- B. Administer the Transit Benefit Program.
- C. Establish Best Practices.
- D. All of the above.



Knowledge Check 3 - Answer

TRANServe's Role is to:

- A. Distribute transit benefits to USCIS employees.
- B. Administer the Transit Benefit Program.
- C. Establish Best Practices.
- D. All of the above.

TRANServe administers the Transit Benefit and establishes Best Practices for those Agencies serviced by DOT/TRANServe.



Knowledge Check 4

- **Carol plans on teleworking. The correct course of action based on this is:**
 - A. Inform her supervisor.**
 - B. Continue claiming the transit benefit without change.**
 - C. Update her application on <https://transerve.dot.gov> .**



Knowledge Check 4 - Answer

- **Carol plans on teleworking. The correct course of action based on this is:**
 - A. Inform her supervisor.
 - B. Continue claiming her transit benefit without change.
 - C. Update her application on <https://transerve.dot.gov> .

You are responsible to update whenever commuting costs, commuting method, work schedule, or your home or work address changes.



Transit Benefit Certification



Certification Required



- Anyone who enrolls in the Transit Benefit Program must certify that certain conditions are true.

Certify:

“To formally and legally attest a specific statement to be true”

Certification Statement

WARNING !

This certification concerns a matter within the jurisdiction of an agency of the United States. Making a false, fictitious, or fraudulent certification may constitute criminal violations punishable under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, by imprisonment up to five years and fines up to \$10,000 for each offense, and/or agency disciplinary actions up to and including dismissal.

- I certify that I am employed by the U.S. Federal Government.
- I certify that I am not named on a federally subsidized parking permit with any other federal agency.
- I certify that I am eligible for a public transportation fare benefit, will use it for my daily commute to and from work by public transit or vanpool, and will not give, sell, or transfer it to anyone else.
- I certify that in any given month, I will not use the Government-provided transit benefit in excess of the statutory limit. If my commuting costs per month on public transit exceed the month statutory limit, then I will supplement those additional costs with my own funds rather than use a Government-provided transit benefit designated for use in a future month.
- I certify that I will not claim the transit benefit in excess of my actual monthly commuting expense. If at anytime during a given month I am out of work due to sickness, vacation or any other reason, on official travel, or use a private vehicle for commuting, I will claim less and adjust the amount of my transit benefit the following month if appropriate.
- I certify that my parking fees are not included in the computation of the daily, weekly or monthly commuting costs for my transit benefit.

I Agree

I Do Not Agree

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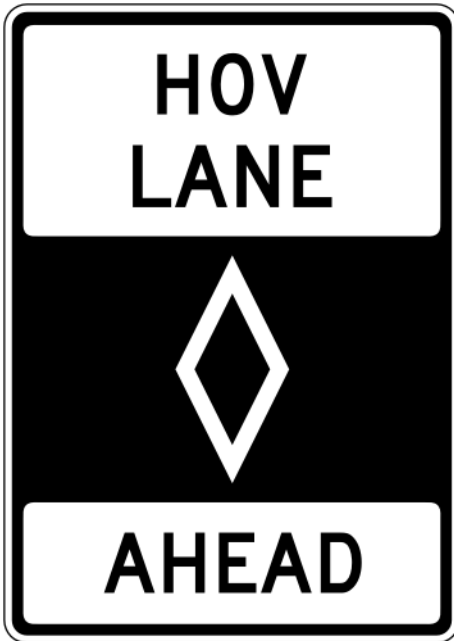
Certification

What did I just agree to?

- I am employed by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
- I am eligible for a public transportation fare benefit
- I will only use the transit benefit for my daily commute between home and work
- I will not give, sell, or transfer my transit benefit to anyone else
- I will not use the Government-provided transit benefit in excess of the statutory limit
- I will not claim the transit benefit in excess of my actual monthly commuting expense
- I will not include parking fees in the calculation of my daily, weekly or monthly commuting cost.

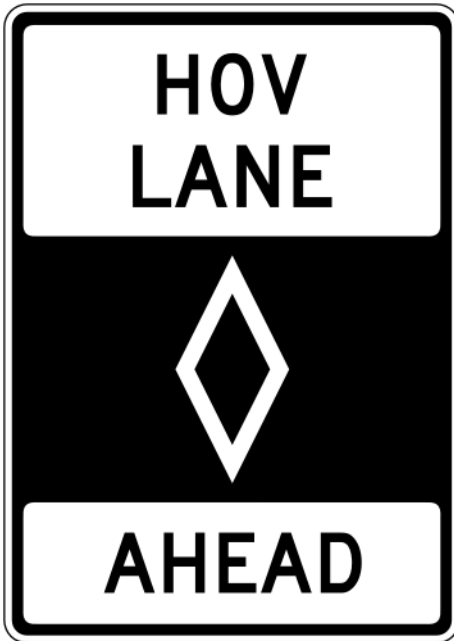


Knowledge Check 5



- Lynne joined a carpool after commuting by train for 5 years. She always received the maximum benefit per month for her commute. Now she sells her benefit since she believes the benefit belongs to her. Is this the correct course of action?
 - Yes
 - No

Knowledge Check 5 - Answer



- Lynne joined a carpool after commuting by train for 5 years. She always received the maximum benefit per month for her commute. Now she sells her benefit since she believes the benefit belongs to her. Is this the correct course of action?

Yes

No

It is against the law to sell or give away your transit benefit.

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Knowledge Check 6

- **Ellery commutes from Virginia to get to work. His commuting costs are \$284 per month. He is eligible to receive additional transit benefit since his commute is so costly.**

True

False



Knowledge Check 6 - Answer

- Ellery commutes from Virginia to get to work. His commuting costs are \$284 per month. He is eligible to receive additional transit benefit since his commute is so costly.

True

False

The federal government will provide employees up to the statutory limit for the cost of commuting by mass transportation. The employee must cover the additional amount, “out of pocket”.



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Knowledge Check 7

- Tina rides in a carpool. She is eligible to receive the transit benefit.
 - True
 - False



Knowledge Check 7 - Answer

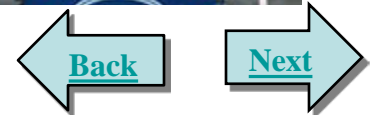
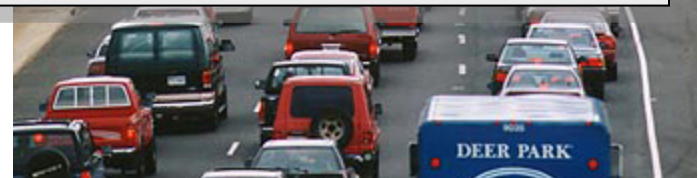
- Tina rides in a carpool. She is eligible to receive the transit benefit.

True

False



The Federal Transit Benefit is for federal employees who choose to commute using mass transit in a commuter highway vehicle. This includes bus, rail, light rail or an authorized vanpool.



Knowledge Check 8

- **Michael rides mass transit and parks in the lot near the station. He includes his parking fees when he calculates his monthly commuting expense. He is right to do this.**

True

False



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Knowledge Check 8 - Answer

- Michael rides mass transit and parks in the lot near the station. He includes his parking fees when he calculates his monthly commuting expense. He is right to do this.

True

False

The Federal Transit Benefit is provided solely for your home-to-work-to-home commute via mass transportation. Any other use of these funds is actionable as fraud, waste, or abuse of federal funds.

Knowledge Check 9

- **Melanie has come to an agreement with HR and her supervisor to work in the office 3 days and telework 2 days each week, indefinitely. She currently receives \$25 per week in transit benefit. The correct course of action based on her schedule change is to:**
 - A. Thank her supervisors' for his/her understanding.**
 - B. Continue claiming her transit benefit without change.**
 - C. Update her transit benefit to \$15 per week or \$60 per month.**



Knowledge Check 9 - Answer

- **Melanie has come to an agreement with HR and her supervisor to work in the office 3 days and telework 2 days each week, indefinitely. She currently receives \$25 per week in transit benefit. The correct course of action based on her schedule change is to:**
 - A. Thank her supervisors' for his/her understanding.
 - B. Continue claiming her transit benefit without change.
 - C. Update her transit benefit to \$15 per week or \$60 per month.

You must change your benefit amount whenever your routine commuting expense changes.

Knowledge Check 10

- **Wendy is going to an off-site meeting. She uses mass transportation to and from the meeting, and decides to use her transit benefit, since she has “extra” this month. This is the correct action.**

True

False



Knowledge Check 10 - Answer

- **Wendy is going to an off-site meeting. She uses mass transportation to and from the meeting, and decides to use her transit benefit, since she has “extra” this month. This is the correct action.**
 - True
 - False

Travel to an off-site meeting or training class is an office expense. The Transit Benefit is provided solely for your home-to-work-to-home commute via mass transportation.





Congratulations!

**You have successfully completed the
TRANSIT BENEFIT PROGRAM
INTEGRITY AWARENESS
TRAINING.**

Thank you!!! Questions???

