



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SmartBenefits® Plu\$50 is an incentive program for Loudoun County employers, providing a no-fee system for administering qualified transportation fringe benefits while encouraging employees to try transit.

Q: WHAT IS THE SMARTBENEFITS PLU\$50 INCENTIVE?

A: It is an employer incentive to encourage employees to try riding transit to work. Eligible employees are given promotional SmarTrip cards with \$50 value.



Q: WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAM IS THIS?

A: It is a tax-free transportation benefit. Section 132(f) of the Internal Revenue Code allows qualified transportation fringe benefits for travel between home and work using public buses, rail, and vanpools. Currently, the maximum benefit allowed is \$300 per month per employee.

Q: WHAT MODES OF TRANSPORTATION QUALIFY FOR SMARTBENEFITS PLU\$50?

A: The \$50 SmarTrip cards are accepted on Loudoun County Transit, Metrorail, and most transit systems in the region. SmartBenefits can also be applied to commuter vanpool transportation.



Q: DO EMPLOYERS PAY A FEE TO USE THE SMARTBENEFITS SYSTEM?

A: No. Employers use the SmartBenefits system free of charge to distribute monthly benefits to employees.

Q: MOST OF MY EMPLOYEES DRIVE TO WORK. HOW MANY EMPLOYEES ARE NEEDED FOR A TRANSIT BENEFIT?

A: SmartBenefits accounts can be established to serve any number of employees. If one or two employees would like to try transit, Plu\$50 is an option.



Q: DO AGE RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO SMARTBENEFITS PLU\$50?

A: No. The number "50" has nothing to do with age. It represents the \$50 value pre-loaded to the promotional SmarTrip cards.

Q: HOW CAN I GET PROMOTIONAL SMARTRIP CARDS FOR MY EMPLOYEES?

A: Your workplace first opens a WMATA SmartBenefits account. After the account is established Loudoun County will coordinate delivery of the free cards to your workplace.

Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF EMPLOYEES TRY RIDING TRANSIT BUT DETERMINE IT'S NOT FOR THEM?

A: No problem. The employees may keep their SmarTrip cards for future personal travel on Metrorail or buses. The employer simply removes the employees from the SmartBenefits roster.

Q: HOW DO SMARTBENEFITS DIFFER FROM METRO LIFT?

A: Metro Lift is an income-qualified fare program for residents of Washington, DC, Maryland, or Virginia who are currently enrolled in Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). Unlike SmartBenefits Plu\$50, Metro Lift provides SmarTrip cards programmed for discounted Metro fare to SNAP recipients and their household members.