

ARTICLE 53

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDIES

SECTION 1

The parties support the objectives of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and the Federal Employees Clean Air Incentives Act of 1993 and encourage bargaining unit employees' usage of alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle commuting.

SECTION 2

The Employer understands the value of providing a public transit subsidy benefit for employees and will continue to provide such benefit, consistent with applicable law, rule, and regulation, within the context of mission requirements, limited budget resources, and the impact such subsidies would have on other budget items. The Employer will offer a monthly benefit to employees equal to their actual qualifying monthly commuting costs, but not to exceed the maximum amount authorized by applicable laws, Executive Orders and regulations governing public transportation benefits for federal employees. The Employer agrees that it will notify the Union should budgetary issues adversely affect the monthly benefit.

SECTION 3

The transit subsidies will be made available in the form of commuter passes or vouchers for mass/public transportation. A subsidy cannot exceed the actual commuting cost incurred by the employee and cannot be used to subsidize transportation costs of individuals other than the employee. All employees are eligible to participate in this program based on the following criteria:

- A. The employee must submit an application form provided by the Employer.
- B. The employee must relinquish any government supplied or subsidized parking space, except for spaces designated for transit agency sponsored vehicles used for car/van pooling.
- C. The employee certifies that the use of public transportation constitutes a minimum of 80% of their commuting costs.

The Employer shall have discretion to utilize the most efficient method of administering this program, including (but not limited to) the use of SmartCard or other similar public transportation payment programs.

SECTION 4

It is incumbent upon Employees who receive a transit subsidy paid by the Employer to reduce the transit subsidy amount which they claim or accepts each month to account for days of leave, travel, work at an alternate duty station, etc. Federal law requires that transit subsidy funds be paid only for days on which the employee uses public transit between her/his residence and the official duty station.

SECTION 5

The Employer will make available through the intranet information on transit alternatives. This information may include:

- A. Public Transit and fare information.
- B. Van/Shuttle information.
- C. Other relevant information locally available and applicable.
- D. Local telephone numbers of public transportation offices where additional information can be obtained.