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## Metro to Increase Employee Subsidy for Monthly Transit Passes

(Jan. 3, 2008) Beginning January 1, some Metro employees will pay \$5 less toward the cost of the monthly transit passes they use to commute to work each day.

That's because the agency will increase its contributions to the transit subsidy program from \$110 to \$115 per participating employee. More than 1,300 Metro employees currently participate in the agency's transit subsidy program.

For those whose transit passes cost more than \$115, the amount deducted from their paychecks will drop by \$5, effective with the Dec. 21 paychecks. An employee who purchases a \$150 Metrolink pass for example, will have \$35 deducted from his or her paycheck, while Metro will pay \$115.

The payroll adjustment will take effect automatically, without the need to submit a change form. Employees whose transit passes cost less than \$115 will not be affected by the adjustment in the subsidy.

Metro recently rewrote its policies to automatically link the transit subsidy to the maximum allowed under the federal IRS code, according to Stefan Chasnov, deputy executive officer of Human Resources.

Of the 1,315 employees enrolled in the Metro Rideshare Program, more than half – 53 percent – ride Metrolink, 328 vanpool, 116 use a Metrocard, while others ride municipal transit buses, purchase the EZ Pass or have a city subsidy.

Employees can enroll in Metro's Rideshare Program by calling the Rideshare Hotline at 922-4863 or by completing the Transportation Subsidy Application found on myMetro.net under Human Resources forms.

Enrollments must be completed by the fifth weekday of a month to be effective the following month, says Employee Transportation Coordinator Terree Holman. "We try to make it user-friendly."