

# WELCOME TO **PSC's Smart Benefits** featuring **WMATA Smartrip**

The U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) participates in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) SmartBenefits<sup>®\*</sup> Commuter Benefits Program which automatically loads transit benefits onto participating federal employees' WMATA SmarTrip<sup>®</sup> card.

A SmarTrip card is a permanent, reloadable farecard issued by WMATA and used to pay for work commute costs at various mass transit vendors in the National Capital Region. SmarTrip cards are accepted at all D.C., Maryland, and Virginia Metrorail stations Metrobus, and most partnering regional bus vendors\*\*.

#### **SmarTrip Card Purchase Options**

- 1. In person at fare vending machines, commuter stores, and retail outlets.
- 2. Online via your WMATA SmarTrip account\*\*\*.
- 3. Mobile pay via your SmarTrip mobile app.

Visit WMATA's Buy SmartTrip webpage\*\*\*\* for purchase details.

#### SmarTrip Card Registration Methods

- 1. In-person purchases must be registered with WMATA by logging into or creating a WMATA SmarTrip account\*\*\*.
- SmarTrip mobile app purchases or via your WMATA SmarTrip account will be automatically registered with WMATA.

Unregistered SmarTrip cards may result in benefits delays.

#### Check SmarTrip Card Balance

- 1. Log into your WMATA SmarTrip account\*\*\*.
- 2. Tap your card at a Metrorail station fare vending machine.
- 3. Look at the fare gate at any Metrorail station.
- 4. Log into Apple Wallet or Google Pay on your mobile device.

### Transit Benefits on Your SmarTrip Card

•Benefits are automatically loaded on the first of each month.

- •Unused benefits do not roll over to the next month.
- •Benefits must be used ONLY for commuting to/from your residence and your work site.
- •Used at SmarTrip accepting vendors\*\*.

## How to Use Your SmarTrip Card

Benefits are loaded onto your SmarTrip card on the first of each month and available through the last day of the month.

Do not use your SmarTrip card to pay for non-SmarTrip accepting vendors\*\*\*\*\*.

If you use SmarTrip accepting vendor(s)\*\* AND non-SmarTrip accepting vendor(s)\*\*\*\*\*:

- •Use your SmarTrip card to pay for SmarTrip vendors.
- •Use your GO!*card*<sup>SM</sup> to pay for non-SmarTrip vendors.
- •Your approved transit benefit application will display the benefit amount loaded on your GO!*card* and SmarTrip card.

Do not use your GO!*card* to pay for SmarTrip vendors. The funds on your GO!*card* will be reduced, and your card may decline due to insufficient funds. Any missed benefits will not be reimbursed.

#### If Your Commute Costs Exceeds Benefits

If your commute costs exceed the amount of your transit benefit, you are responsible for paying the difference using your personal funds.

#### Benefits Didn't Load Onto Your SmarTrip Card

If funds did not load onto your SmarTrip card, it's generally because:

- •The card was not registered with WMATA.
- •A new plastic or digital SmarTrip card was purchased and was not successfully reassigned on your SmarTrip account.
- •The card needs a "refresh" due to infrequent use. Contact WMATA SmarTrip Customer Support. Card refreshes are typically delivered to Metrorail SmarTrip targets within four hours and to Metrobus SmarTrip targets the next day. Tap your SmarTrip card within 30 days of the adjustment date to load the adjustment to your card. In the meantime, add personal funds to your card's stored value purse to commute.

# SmarTrip Card Personal Funds Separated From Transit Benefits

Transit Benefit Purse is loaded on the first of the month with your approved monthly transit benefits. Funds from this purse are spent first, before personal funds, until the entire transit benefit allowed amount has been depleted. Funds cannot be used for parking expenses, nor can it be transferred into the personal purse.

Personal Stored Value Purse contains your own funds which can be used for parking or transit and holds up \$300 at a time. Funds may be added at Metrorail station kiosks or via the SmarTrip mobile app. Funds in this purse do roll over from month to month.

# Lost, Damaged, or Stolen SmarTrip Cards and Balance Transfers

Log in to your WMATA SmarTrip account\*\*\* click the Report Card as Lost/Stolen/Damaged link or contact WMATA SmarTrip Customer Support.

If you did not register your SmarTrip card, it is lost, stolen, or damaged, then balance transfers will not be available.

#### WMATA SmarTrip Customer Support

Contact WMATA SmarTrip Customer Support Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. E.T. at <u>smartrip@wmata.com</u> or 1-888-762-7874



#### DO's

- •Do lower your monthly purchase amount during months you take leave
- •Do update your transit benefits account if your name, address, and/or commuting costs change
- •Do recertify on an annual basis

### DON'TS

- •Don't use your transit benefits for anything other than commuting to/from your residence and your work site
- •Don't allow anyone else to use your transit benefits
- Don't apply for parking benefits (if your employer provides this benefit option) in addition to transit benefits
- •Don't use your commuter benefits to pay for parking at public transportation locations

For more information about the program including FAQs and Job Aids visit the Program Support Center Transportation Services website at <u>https://www.hhs.</u> gov/about/agencies/asa/psc/transportation-services/ transit-benefit-program-management

\*\*\*WMATA SmarTrip account website is https://www.wmata.com/fares/Register-SmarTrip.cfm, \*\*\*\*WMATA Buy SmarTrip webage is https://www.wmata.com/fares/Buy-SmarTrip.cfm, \*\*\*\*\*Amtrak, MARC, Metro Access, MTA Commuter Bus, VRE,

Notes

<sup>\*</sup> WMATA SmartBenefits Commuter Benefits Program website is https://www.wmata.com/business/smartbenefits/

<sup>\*\*</sup>WMATA affiliated vendors include WMATA Metrorail and Metrobus, ART, DASH, Fairfax Connector, FLASH Bus, Cue, RideON, TheBus, DC Circulator, Loudon Country Transit, as well as Potomac and Rappahannock Transit/PRTC.