



**UPCOMING ENROLLMENT DEADLINES:**

**Next:**  
**Friday, May 18, 2012**

**Future:**  
**Monday, June 18, 2012**  
**Wednesday, July 18, 2012**



**QUESTION OF THE MONTH:**

**Can government contractors receive the Transportation Incentive Program transit benefit?**

*No, contractors are not eligible to receive the benefit from the Federal government. DoDI 1000.27 pg. 13*

**HOW MASS TRANSIT CAN SAVE AMERICA**

Election season is upon us and politicians vying for your vote will undoubtedly bemoan rising gas prices, decry foreign influences resulting from imported oil, renounce lengthy commutes, fret over increased obesity, and argue about the environmental impact of fossil fuel emissions. However, if politicians follow predictable campaign scripts on both sides of the aisle, absent from these discussions will be how an increased use of mass transportation could ameliorate the problems presented in all of the aforementioned issues.

*Mass transit can save America.*

The solutions offered to rising gas prices and the undue influence of importing foreign oil: either, produce more oil domestically or promote alternative energy sources. However, there is another option – focus on the demand side of the equation! Let’s recall a simple lesson from Econ 101; you can lower prices by increasing supply or by decreasing demand. Fewer drivers and increased mass transit use leads to less demand for gasoline and, consequently, lower prices. In addition to lowering demand for gasoline, replacing driving commuters with riding commuters reduces the number of cars on our roads, eases traffic congestion, and lowers potentially harmful carbon emissions.



There’s another, less reported reason to take mass transit as well... it’s healthier! “The American Heart Association’s 2007 exercise guidelines recommend 30 minutes of moderately intense exercise, such as brisk walking, five days a week. An earlier study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine found that every additional 30 minutes a person

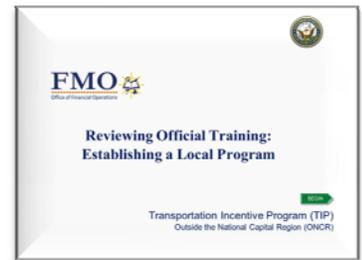
spends in a car translates into a 3% greater chance of obesity; each kilometer walked per day brings a 4.8% reduction.”<sup>1</sup> That short walk to the subway, bus, or vanpool pick-up can help keep you fit and healthy – and with summer beach season fast approaching a trim waistline is a must!

So, what can you do to help? Promote the Transportation Incentive Program! In addition to all of the benefits mentioned above, eligible participants can receive up to \$125 a month in transit benefits! You’d be crazy not to hop on your nearest mass transit option to work.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-01-31-masstransit\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-01-31-masstransit_N.htm)

**TRAINING MODULE FOR NEW POINTS OF CONTACT**

One challenge with the Transportation Incentive Program (TIP) is the frequent turnover of local program points of contact (POC). While the DoD Instruction 1000.27 and the Department of the Navy TIP POC Program Guidelines can be helpful guides to orienting a new POC, the Office of Financial Operations (FMO) recognizes that these documents can sometimes be a bit difficult to digest. While these documents remain important and central, FMO has set out to develop some training modules to help get new program POCs up and running. You can find the first training module – “Establishing a Local Program” on the document links page of the TIP website: [http://www.fmo.navy.mil/Divisions/FMO3/establishing\\_a\\_program.html](http://www.fmo.navy.mil/Divisions/FMO3/establishing_a_program.html).



This new training module is designed for Commands who are looking to establish a local program at their Installation. However, the module can also serve as an excellent refresher course for current POCs and should be used to train new POCs when there is a turnover in personnel. Whether old or new, every POC should take a look at this brief training module to reinforce their current understanding of program policy. FMO intends this to be one of many tools that local POCs can use to ensure a smooth transition from one POC to the next. A smooth transition will mean better service for participants and a more stable internal control environment.

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS:**

1. Participants who do not use fare media in the month for which it was intended must return that fare media to their local Point of Contact.
2. All unused fare media MUST be returned with a completed Fare Media Return Form within 30 days of receiving the media.
3. Money orders and certified checks should be processed and submitted to the appropriate office (either the Office of Financial Operations or the Navy Exchange Command) within three business days of receipt.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS CONTACT INFORMATION**

**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Joshua Coover  
*joshua.coover@navy.mil*  
202-685-0399

**PROGRAM ASSISTANT:** Lance Burlison  
*lance.burlison.ctr@navy.mil*  
202-685-0374

**MAILING ADDRESS FOR MONEY ORDERS:**  
Director, Office of Financial Operations  
720 Kennon St., SE, Bldg 36, Rm 115  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5025  
ATTN: Transportation Incentive Program

**FAX:** 202-685-6765  
**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** [M\\_WNYD\\_TIP@navy.mil](mailto:M_WNYD_TIP@navy.mil)  
**WEBSITE:** <http://www.fmo.navy.mil/services/tip/tip.htm>

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
TRANSSERVE CONTACT INFORMATION**

**DoT AGENT:** Jamie Chatarsa  
*jamie.chatarsa@dot.gov*  
202-366-1641

**DoT ALTERNATE AGENT:** Tina MacAulay  
*tina.m.macaulay.ctr@dot.gov*  
202-366-6491

**MAILING ADDRESS FOR RETURNING VOUCHERS:**  
DOT/TRANSServe  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Room W12-190  
Washington, DC 20590  
ATTN: Budget & Finance Office  
**FAX:** 202-493-2436

