



**UPCOMING ENROLLMENT DEADLINES:**

**Next:**  
**Wednesday, November 19, 2014**  
*(for January benefit)*

**Future:**  
**Wednesday, December 17, 2014**  
**Wednesday, January 21, 2015**



**QUESTION OF THE MONTH:**

**Are user guides available to help navigate TIPS?**

Yes, participants, supervisors and reviewing officials can access detailed user guides under the "Training Materials" section on the "Home" tab in the Transportation Incentive Program System (TIPS).

**RECERTIFICATION REQUIRED BY 15 NOVEMBER**

More than eighty-five percent of active transit benefit participants have successfully recertified their application during the current recertification period. The remaining participants must recertify their record in the Transportation Incentive Program System (TIPS) by 15 November 2014 to prevent a disruption in transit benefits. Participants simply need to log into TIPS (<https://tips.navy.mil>), select recertify, affirm the recertification statements and submit. Their supervisor and reviewing official will not need to take any action as long as no changes were made to the participant's record. Recertify today!

**WILL THERE BE AN INCREASE TO THE MAX BENEFIT?**



This is the time of the year when participants begin to wonder if the maximum benefit will increase next year. And as always it is difficult to say. There are some things that we do know. First, the maximum benefit can be increased in two ways: 1) the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

announces a cost-of-living or an inflation adjustment to the current maximum benefit amount, or 2) Congress increases or decreases the maximum benefit by passing a law. Both types of adjustments have happened several times over the past five years, but neither is easy to predict.

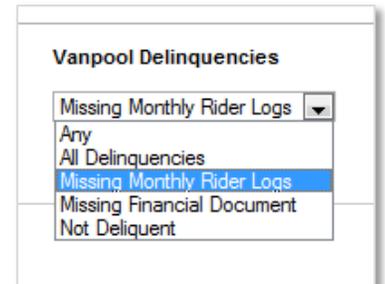
On 30 October 2014, the IRS released Revenue Procedure 2014-61 which confirmed that the IRS would not be applying an inflation adjustment

to the maximum benefit for 2015. The IRS kept the maximum benefit at \$130 per month. So what does that mean? It means that we will not see the typical \$5 inflation bump that we have seen in some years and that unless Congress takes an action to increase the maximum benefit, the max will remain at \$130 for 2015.

Congress could still take action before the end of the year to raise the maximum benefit. In September the Joint Committee on Taxation responded to a request from two Congressmen on the potential budget impact of different adjustments to the maximum benefit. The three maximum benefit levels discussed in the letter were \$205, \$235 and \$255. That doesn't mean that any of those amounts will make it into a bill that becomes law, but it does demonstrate that Congress is collecting information and considering different options. So when will we find out if Congress will change the maximum benefit? It is widely expected that Congress may take up a tax-extender bill after the election. This bill would be the most natural place for any changes to the mass transit fringe benefit. The Office of Financial Operations will continue to monitor any legislation that moves forward on the Hill and will announce any changes to the maximum benefit in the newsletter. Keep in mind that any changes to the maximum benefit will take place at the next regularly scheduled distribution of transit benefits and that the Department of Defense does not provide retroactive reimbursement of transit benefits for previous periods.

**NEW TOOL IN TIPS TO MONITOR VANPOOL LOGS**

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Financial Operations memorandum dated 6 February 2012 requires all vanpools to maintain a vanpool log to document, on a daily basis, which participants are using the vanpool to commute to and from work. All transit benefit participants must sign the vanpool log at the end of the month to certify that the vanpool log accurately reflects the participant's actual riding history. Signed logs must then be provided to the local reviewing official by the fifth calendar day of the following month. The simplest way to submit and track these logs is by uploading a scanned log to the vanpool record in the Transportation Incentive Program System (TIPS). Six hundred vanpools successfully uploaded their vanpool log for September 2014. Reviewing officials can now track and easily monitor which vans have successfully uploaded their vanpool log for the previous month by using the new "Vanpool Delinquencies" filter in the "Vanpool Manager" tab. Reviewing officials can select "Missing Monthly Rider Logs" from the dropdown list in the filter to return any vanpool that has not yet uploaded their vanpool log for the previous month. Reviewing officials can use this filter and the email function in TIPS to easily communicate to vanpool participants who still need to submit a vanpool log for their van.



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