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FAQ MTA HOLIDAY BONUS FARES FOR TRANSITBENEFIT ACCESS-A-RIDE PARTICIPANTS

Q: I am enrolled in the TransitBenefit Access-A-Ride Program, how will I benefit from the MTA Holiday Reduced Fares?

A: TransitBenefit Access-A-Ride Program participants will be able to pay half fare, \$1.00 per ride, every weekend from 11/24/05 through 01/02/06, and weekdays from 12/26/05 through 12/30/05.

Q: Will I have to use my Access-A-Ride Coupons to pay the fare?

A: No. You must pay the discounted \$1.00 fare in cash.

Q: How will I benefit from paying the discounted fare in cash?

A: By paying half price in cash, \$1.00 per trip, you will be paying less than the pre-tax cost of using your Access-A-Ride coupon per trip, approximately \$1.33 per trip.

For example, if you are already having \$80.00 deducted each month, your approximate monthly pre-tax savings is \$26.72*. This reduces the monthly pre-tax cost of Access-A-Ride trips from \$80.00 to \$53.28. Therefore, the pre-tax cost of 40 trips is \$1.33.

*Actual savings will vary based upon your earnings and tax situation.

Q: What should I do with my extra Access-A-Ride coupons?

A: You can save your extra Access-A-Ride coupons and start using them after the MTA Holiday Bonus Fare Period ends on 01/03/06. If you save your coupons each day of the MTA Holiday Bonus period you will have saved more than \$20.00 worth of coupons.

Q: What happens if I use my Access-A-Ride coupons to pay for my ride during the Bonus period?

A: Drivers of paratransit vehicles are not permitted to give change, therefore if you use your coupons to pay for your ride, you will have to pay full fare.

Q: What should I do if I have accumulated enough Access-A-Ride coupons to cover my rides for 10 days?

A: You can change or cancel your Access-A-Ride payroll deduction amount for one or more pay periods. You will be mailed less coupons giving you the opportunity to use your extra coupons.

For example, if your currently bi-weekly Access-A-Ride deduction is \$40.00 you can temporarily change your deduction plan to deduct \$20.00 bi-weekly.

Q: How do I change my TransitBenefit Access-A-Ride payroll deduction?

A: You must a complete a TransitBenefit Access-A-Ride application. In the ENROLLMENT DEDUCTION section, choose the new deduction amount. Submit the completed form to your agency's TransitBenefit Coordinator for processing. Please remember to submit a new change application when you want to change the deduction amount again.

Q: How do I cancel my TransitBenefit Access-A-Ride payroll deduction for a pay period or more?

A: You must a complete a TransitBenefit Access-A-Ride application. In the ACTION section, choose the CANCELLATION. Submit the completed form to your agency's TransitBenefit Coordinator for processing. Please remember to submit another TransitBenefit Access-A-Ride application to start the deduction again.

Q: If I cancel my Access-A-Ride payroll deduction for a pay period or more, will my MTA NYCT Paratransit Access-A-Ride service be interrupted?

A: No. MTA NYCT Paratransit determines your eligibility and enrollment in the service. You may continue to schedule your Access-A-Ride trips as usual. Only your payroll deductions will be interrupted.

Q: How do I enroll in the TransitBenefit Access-A-Ride program?

A: Submit a completed TransitBenefit Access-A-Ride application, along with a copy of a valid NYC Transit paratransit picture ID or an acceptance letter from the MTA New York City Transit Eligibility Determination Unit to your agency's TransitBenefit Coordinator for processing.

Q: Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

A: Please contact the OPA TransitBenefit Unit by mail at the Office of Payroll Administration, TransitBenefit Unit, 1 Centre Street, Room 200N, New York, NY 10007 or by telephone at the OPA Service Line 212-669-8555.

For enrollments, changes of address, deduction plan changes, or suspensions please contact your agency TransitBenefit Coordinator.