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**TRANSITCENTER MARKS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUTER BENEFITS
WITH 20 REASONS FOR EMPLOYERS, COMMUTERS TO PARTICIPATE**

*Tax-Free Commuting Got its Start 20 Years Ago in New York with TransitChek, and is
Now Available to Employers and Commuters Nationwide*

New York, November 1, 2007 – As tax-free commuter benefits celebrate its 20th anniversary this fall, this long-standing employee benefit is emerging from a small “perk” into a central part of employers’ benefits and environmental agendas, according to TransitCenter, Inc., a nonprofit organization that promotes the use of mass transit through commuter benefits and other programs. A leading provider of the benefit to U.S. employers, TransitCenter introduced TransitChek, the nation’s first commuter benefits program in October 1987; today it is offered by 11,000 employers to 500,000 employees nationwide.

More employers are offering commuter benefits amidst growing concern about the impact of traffic congestion, the cost of driving to work, and emissions that cause global warming. TransitCenter’s *2007 Commuter Impact Survey* revealed that commuter benefits grew 57% among those employers surveyed from major U.S. markets since 2006, with 44% now offering the benefit to employees. With 17% of surveyed employers intending to add it next year, commuter benefits are the number-one planned addition to employers’ benefits packages. Commuter benefits have also become the focus of corporate green initiatives: offering a tax-free commuter benefit to encourage use of mass transit was the number-one strategy chosen among the nearly two-thirds of survey respondents whose companies have green efforts underway.

20 Reasons to Participate in a Commuter Benefits Program

For Commuting Employees:

- 1. Spend less on your commute:** With commuter benefits you can reduce your taxable income to save money annually and cut your net out-of-pocket commuting costs by 30-40% on average.

2. **A benefit that benefits you:** What other employee benefit program addresses your unique commuting needs?
3. **This benefit gets around:** Use it for the bus, subway, train, ferry or vanpool – and to pay for commuter parking.
4. **An easy way to be green:** Play your part by choosing mass transit over driving to work.
5. **Enjoy it every day:** Getting to and from work is a necessary cost of employment. This is the one benefit you use every day and provides value to you every time you go to work.
6. **Leave the car at home:** If you've been thinking about taking mass transit to save money on gas, the added savings with commuter benefits can be the right motivation needed to make the switch.
7. **Cut your commuting time:** Mass transit can get you to and from work faster, helping you be more productive both on the job and off.
8. **Ride in peace:** Choosing mass transit can help you avoid the stress and frustration of traffic congestion, so you can enjoy your ride to and from work.
9. **Why wait in line:** With commuter benefits, you can get your transit passes in the office or at home.
10. **Be part of something bigger:** Doesn't it feel good to be part of a program that's helping millions of commuters save time and money, and also the environment?

For Employers:

1. **Join a fast-growing benefits trend:** In the last year alone, TransitCenter's *2007 Commuter Impact Survey* shows the number of employers offering commuter benefits in major metro areas jumped by 57% from the previous year– it is also the most popular planned addition to benefit packages, according to TransitCenter research.
2. **A simple way to support the environment:** TransitCenter's survey finds commuter benefits are #1 on the list of benefits employers plan to add in the coming year to encourage more of their employees to use transit amidst growing concerns about the effects traffic has on global warming.
3. **Get employees out of their cars:** A 2005 report from the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies found that 26.9% of commuter benefits recipients switched to transit and 32% previously drove alone to work.
4. **Lessen your company's contribution to traffic congestion and carbon emissions:** By encouraging employees to use mass transit, you can help reduce traffic congestion and air pollution in the communities you serve.
5. **Enhance employee productivity:** The Texas Transportation Institute *2007 Urban Mobility Report* finds that the average employee in the U.S. spends nearly a full work week per-capita annually sitting in traffic; riding transit can result in a faster and more reliable commute to and from the office.

- 6. Help address rising commuting costs:** Between pain at the pump and increasing transit fares, commuter benefits help reduce the financial burden commuters are facing today.
- 7. You're a commuter, too:** commuter benefits afford every employee the opportunity to save.
- 8. A program that can pay for itself:** Offering a commuter benefits program not only helps commuters save, it can help reduce employer payroll taxes. What other benefit program can create ROI?
- 9. An easy way to enhance your benefits package:** In the face of other rising benefits costs, commuter benefits are affordable and easy to administer, and you can start a program anytime.
- 10. Tap into the minds of employees:** Offering commuter benefits is an easy way to show employees that you listen to their needs – many employers start their program in response to employee interest.

“Each day, more employers are recognizing the value and importance of commuter benefits,” says Larry Filler, president and CEO of TransitCenter. “As concern grows over the environmental impact of traffic congestion, so does the need for solutions that encourage commuters to use public transportation more and drive less. A resurgence in transit across the country, with many metropolitan areas adding and expanding services, is resulting in record ridership. What is clear is that the use of commuter benefits is not only a good fit for most employers, it is one of most cost-effective ways to do good for employees and the communities employers serve.”

Created at a time when communities were beginning to look for ways to address growing traffic congestion around the country, the Internal Revenue Service first allowed employers to offer employees a \$15 tax-free fringe benefit to pay for transit commuting costs in 1987; in 1991, the amount was increased to \$21. In 1992, the late U.S. Sen. Moynihan (D-NY) led the effort to establish Internal Revenue Code Section 132(f), which increased the transit benefit to \$60 and placed limits on the previously unlimited parking benefit which was thought to contribute to traffic congestion. In 1998, a national coalition moved to expand the commuter benefit to give employers the option to allow employees to fund the benefit using their pre-tax salaries; it also raised the transit benefit to \$100 a month, reflecting changing views of commuting in the U.S. Starting in 2002, the IRS has periodically increased the allowable monthly tax-free contribution cap for transit, including \$110 in 2007 and \$115 for 2008.

“Commuter benefits would not be where they are today without the collaboration and support of major transit agencies, the business community and federal government,” Filler says. “We want to commend all of these stakeholders for playing their part in the continued and growing success of this benefits program.”

About TransitCenter

A nonprofit corporation, TransitCenter specializes in tax-free commuter benefits, transit information and assistance for employers and commuters nationwide. TransitCenter introduced the nation's first tax-free

commuter benefits program in 1987 to encourage more people to use mass transit to protect the environment, preserve natural resources and improve the quality of life where people work and live. Today, more than 11,000 employers and 500,000 employees participate in TransitCenter's TransitChek commuter benefits programs as a convenient, money-saving way to pay for commuting.

For 20 years, TransitCenter has worked hand-in-hand with transit providers, communities and employers to make mass transit more accessible. Independent since 2001, TransitCenter was founded in 1986 as a joint alliance of leading public transit providers. A deep heritage in transit drives TransitCenter's continued commitment to bringing new innovations to employers and transit riders that participate in TransitChek tax-free commuter benefits programs. Learn more by visiting www.transitcenter.com.

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