



**For Immediate Release:**

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Source: TransitCenter, Inc.

**Ads Offer Unique Savings Solutions To High Cost of Gas**

New York, NY (October 4, 2005) – TransitCenter, Inc. is asking employers to help their employees who are experiencing serious financial strain due to the historically high gasoline prices that they are paying in order to drive to work each day. In advertisements being placed tomorrow in the *New York Times Metro Section* and *The Wall Street Journal*, employers are being asked to encourage and support their employees' use of transit and other commuting alternatives which are less costly. TransitCenter is also calling employers' attention to the availability of transit tax benefits which would reduce commuting costs further.

TransitCenter is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the use and value of mass transit to improve the quality of life for the commuting public. They are also the originators of TransitChek, the most widely used commuter benefit program in the New York Metro area.

“The New York metropolitan area is served by the most extensive mass transit system in the country. By letting employees know of the many commuting options that are available to them, employers can help them save a considerable amount of money,” says Larry Filler, President and CEO, TransitCenter, Inc. “Businesses can help even more by implementing a commuter benefits program which offers employees significant tax savings.”

Federal law allows employees to use their pretax salaries to pay for transit, vanpools and park-&-ride expenses. Employees can save up to \$1,300\* a year and companies save as well, since pretax commuting dollars are not subjected to payroll taxes.

TransitCenter's TransitChek Programs make it easy for businesses to administer the benefits quickly and conveniently.

**Leave the Car At Home—Comparing the Costs of a 37-Mile Commute**

The average cost of a 37-mile, round-trip commute by car from Montclair, New Jersey to New York Penn Station\*\*, with gas costing \$3.00 per gallon and factoring in maintenance, insurance, taxes and other ownership costs can add up to \$589 a month\*\*\*.

A monthly pass from New Jersey TRANSIT for the same distance costs \$140, saving the commuter \$449 a month.\*\*\*\*\*

Should the commuter join a transit benefit program offered by his or her employer, the savings increase to \$505\* a month or over \$6,000 a year.

“Transit is clearly the more cost-effective alternative to commuting by car,” says Mr. Filler. “It’s also the more efficient and convenient. However, where transit is not an option, employees should consider vanpooling and carpooling.”

### **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 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 500,000 employees participate in TransitCenter’s TransitChek commuter benefits. 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 and the business community. A heritage in transit drives TransitCenter’s continued commitment to bringing new innovations to employers and commuters that participate in TransitChek tax-free commuter benefits programs. Learn more by visiting [www.transitcenter.com](http://www.transitcenter.com).