

MASS TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS PROGRAM (MTBP)

1. What is the Mass Transportation Benefits Program (MTBP)?

- a. The Mass Transportation Benefit Program provides partial reimbursement for mass transit commuting costs “in order to reduce Federal employees’ contribution to traffic congestion and air pollution and to expand their commuting alternatives” (Executive Order 13150, April 2000).
- b. MTBP is available for all Army employees – military, civilian, and NAF.
- c. The benefit is a non-taxable personnel benefit, funded from the same appropriation or non-appropriated fund that funds the participant's salary.
- d. The benefit is not to be used for any other purpose, and may not be given, sold, or otherwise transferred to any other individual.
- e. Geographically, the MTBP applies only to the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- f. MTBP execution and individual participation is closely monitored by Army, DoD, and Federal oversight agencies (GAO, OMB) for compliance with program requirements.

2. How does the Program Work?

- a. Eligible MTBP participants receive a subsidy for their commuting expenses while using Qualified Means of Transportation.
- b. The subsidy is issued which is used to “pay” the local transit provider.
- c. As of January 2020 the maximum allowable benefit is \$270 per month.
 - (1) If your commuting costs exceed \$270 per month, you are responsible for the amount above \$270.
 - (2) The MTPB is centrally funded by HQDA; there is no cost to the local installation.
- d. You are only authorized to receive the benefit for actual commuting costs. Participants on TDY, leave, or who use other means of transportation for more than

50% of the month for which they receive benefits will be entitled to a prorated benefit amount based on their actual commuting expenses.



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Mass Transportation I

3. Who is eligible to participate?

- a. All Army Active Component (AC) military service members.
- b. Army Reserve Component (RC) military service members (Army Reserve and Army National Guard) who are currently on active duty.
- c. DoD/DA Federal civilian employees, including part-time federal employees and interns.
- d. DA Non-Appropriated Fund (NAF) personnel employed by a duly constituted Army Non-Appropriated Funded Instrumentality (NAFI) under the control of the Secretary of the Army and organized under the provision of AR 215-1 (Military Morale, Welfare, And Recreation Programs And Non-Appropriated Fund Instrumentalities), (e.g., NAFI activities managed by the U.S. Army Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation Command).

4. Who is NOT eligible?

- a. Army RC service members who are drilling or training in an Inactive Duty for Training (IADT) status.
- b. Contractors.
- c. Service members and civilian employees on TDY, or who have been deployed.
- d. NAF personnel whose salary is not funded by a duly constituted Army NAFI under the provisions of AR 215-1
- e. Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) students unless they are enlisted in a military branch and serving on active duty
- f. Army military retirees and Army civilian employee retirees
- g. Dependents.

5. What are qualified means of transportation?

- a. Commuter Bus, Commuter Train, Subway / Light Rail
- b. Van Pools (Van pools must adhere to the guidelines stated in Title 26, United States Code, Section 132(f) (attached).
- c. Ferry.

6. What are NOT qualified means of transportation?

- a. Personally Owned Vehicles (POV), carpools, motorcycles, airplanes, bicyclists, and/or walkers, solely utilizing any of these methods of transportation
- b. Ferries used as a means of shuttling POVs from one point to another where the completion of the journey to the duty station is completed in the POV.

7. How do I apply?

- a. Submit a completed and electronically signed “Mass Transportation Benefit Program Application” to your installation’s MTBP Program POC for processing via email: usarmy.irwin.forscom.mbx.g8-mtb-program@mail.mil.
- b. The approval process takes approximately 30 workdays, from application submission to receipt of funds. The monthly cut-off for application submission is the 25th of the month (unless it is a weekend and then it is the workday prior) to be eligible for participation. For example, applications sent on 25 April will start receiving benefits effective for June.
- d. Participants will receive a debit card that will automatically be loaded with funds to pay for their monthly transportation cost up to \$270. Funds for the next month are loaded on the 10th. Funds unused by the 4th of each month will be swept off the card. For example, funds to purchase June transportation are loaded on 10 May and must be used by 4 June.

8. Commuter Options:

- a. **Enterprise Vanpools**, Contact Joseph Grelock at 1-800-826-4967 or (562) 409-5528, www.vanpool.com, Joseph.Grelock@ehi.com
- b. **Green Commuter** specializes in zero-emission all electric vehicles. Save the planet, save your day from a miserable commute and save your wallet. Email Green Commuter vanpool@greencommute.org and a representative will contact you.

- c. **Airport Van Rental (AVR)** specializes in luxury commuter vans equipped with industry-leading upgrades and amenities. Call Airport Van Rental at (833) 287-7665 or visit www.airportvanrental.com/vanpool.

Note: DoD, the US Army, and NTC and Fort Irwin do not imply endorsement or endorse the specific companies referenced; the information is being provided merely as an indication of commercial companies available within the local area, other companies may also be available.

c. **Other Vanpools:** The vehicle may be owned and operated by either public transit or commercial authorities, or by a private vendor in the business of transporting persons for compensation or hire. The vehicle must have a seating capacity of at least six (6) adults, not including the driver. There are no guidelines that specify the maximum capacity of the vehicle. The minimum number of adult seats occupied for commuting purposes must be at least half (3) of the adult seating capacity (6) of such vehicle in addition to the driver, or 4 total (3 adult passengers + 1 driver). At least 80 percent of the expected mileage use of the vehicle must be for the purpose of transporting personnel in their local commute from residence to their place of employment/duty station.

d. **NTC Commuter Bus:** Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA) operates bus service from Victorville, Silver Lakes and Barstow to and from Fort Irwin called the “NTC Commuter”. The schedule and other information can be found at their website: www.vvta.org under routes/NTC Commuter, or by calling 760-948-4021, x302.

9. **Other Incentives:** Option Rideshare offers two incentives for vanpools. You may only receive one of the two incentives:

a. After riding in a rideshare (carpool, bus, vanpool, etc.), for 3 months, you are eligible to receive \$2.00 per day for a total of \$180.00 in the form of vouchers. Forms must be turned in to the MTBP POC in Building 988. When vouchers arrive, you will be contacted for pick-up.

<https://www.iecommuter.org/rp2/home/CommuterIncentives>

b. As an Enterprise vanpool you are eligible to participate in a subsidy offered by Victor Valley Transit Authority. If you are interested an online Application must be completed.

Once approved for operation by VVTA, and while receiving a VVTA subsidy, vanpools must also maintain a 70% occupancy rate to remain qualified for the program (based on an average per calendar month).

For those vanpools qualified and whose applications are approved, VVTA’s subsidy per vanpool is up to \$500 a month and is based on 50% of total operating costs for the vanpool each month. For information and application, visit the website below:

<http://www.vvta.org/vanpool/>