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New Math for the Bonus Value MetroCard®

New fares that started in March for New York City commuters also mean new math for Pay-Per-Ride MetroCard® buyers. However, common sense (along with a few extra cents) can help you make the most of your commuting dollars.

While the MetroCard® bonus changed from 20% to 15% on March 2nd, the minimum purchase to receive the bonus was lowered, from \$10 to \$7 — which means more riders purchasing MetroCard® will now have the opportunity to save.

Although the base fare of \$2 per ride was not affected by the fare change, the change in the bonus value will result in balances left over unless you're careful. For example, adding \$7 to your MetroCard® gets you \$8.05 of total value, or 4 rides plus 5 cents. However, you can reload your MetroCard to reach a multiple of \$2. Here's a handy chart to make it easier to do:

Purchase Amount	Bonus Amount	# of Trips
\$15.65	\$2.35	9
\$24.35	\$3.65	14
\$31.30	\$4.70	18
\$40.00	\$6.00	23
\$55.65	\$8.35	32

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New TransitChek® Products Make Bonus Value MetroCard® Savings Easier

To make sure those employees using the Pay-Per-Ride TransitChek® MetroCard® use the entire amount of their tax-free commuter benefit dollars, we've done the math for you and made new card values available for employers to order.

Participating employees can receive a 14 trip (\$24.35), 18 trip (\$31.30), or 23 trip (\$40.00) TransitChek MetroCard.

The convenience of ordering TransitChek Products doesn't stop there. We've created a Web-based TransitChek Order Form that will automatically calculate your total order of TransitChek MetroCards.

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Pre-March Unlimited MetroCard® Good Until June 30

MTA New York City Transit announced that it is allowing a grace period for the Unlimited Ride MetroCard® products that were purchased prior to the March 2nd fare change, including the \$24 7-Day and \$76 30-Day TransitChek® MetroCard®.

- Any Unlimited Ride TransitChek® MetroCard®, purchased prior to March 2, 2008 will be valid until June 30, 2008. These Cards will expire on June 30, 2008, regardless of their printed expiration date or when they were first used.
- To receive the full value of the Cards, employees must begin using their \$76 30-Day Cards no later than June 1 and their \$24 7-Day Cards no later than June 24.
- Any Bonus Value TransitChek® MetroCard® will remain valid until the expiration date on the back of the Card.
- For any unused or partially used unlimited-ride MetroCard purchased prior to March 2nd, the MTA will issue refunds on a prorated basis. Envelopes to request a refund can be obtained from station agents.

For more information about new MTA fares visit www.mta.info

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Get The Recognition You Deserve for Supporting Commuters!



The Regional Commuter Choice Awards applauds employers in New York City, Long Island, Rockland, Westchester and Putnam Counties for providing outstanding commute alternative programs in the workplace.

Offering just one or more of the following programs qualifies your company to be eligible to become a Regional Commuter Choice Award winner:

- Pre-tax Commuter Benefit Program (transit and/or

- vanpooling)
- Vanpool/rideshare support (subsidies, preferred parking spaces for participants, parking discounts or cash outs, or other incentives)
- Free shuttle service (on- or off- site)
- Bicycling (onsite showers, bike racks, lockers, cycling gear, etc.)
- Transit subsidies (bus and rail fare discounts)
- Telecommuting
- Flextime/compressed work weeks
- Commuter/transportation fairs, orientations and enrollment periods
- Alternate commute marketing promotions, prizes and/or other incentives

If your business offers one or more of these programs — congratulations! Reducing the number of employees who go to work in single occupancy vehicles is an important step in reducing traffic congestion and air pollution in the New York Metro area, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley.

How to Enter

For a chance to have your company recognized at a regional event in June that will be covered by local press, enter the Regional Commuter Choice Awards! Simply fill out the nomination form, which you can download from the following link: www.nymtc.org/project/RCCA/2008_Nomination_Form.pdf. Or you can email tcnews@transitcenter.com for nomination forms.

Forms must be submitted by April 8, 2008.

Join the ranks of the more than 50 companies in this region that have been recognized for their efforts to make New York a better place, one employee at a time. Past winners have included Kraft Foods, Geico, and TransitChek providers such as District Council 37 and Makovsky + Company Public Relations.

For more information on the Regional Commuter Choice Awards, visit www.nymtc.org or call Jan Khan, New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, (212) 383-7251

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New PATH Fares and Fare Options

PATH introduced new fares for its riders on March 2. The base fare increased from \$1.50 to \$1.75 for each ride. In addition, new multi-trip fares and unlimited passes were introduced. Multi-trip cards are available either using the PATH QuickCard or their new SmartLink card. Unlimited passes are only available with SmartLink.

PATH continues to accept the pay-per-ride MetroCard® and TransitChek® MetroCard®. TransitChek Vouchers are accepted to purchase PATH QuickCards at authorized retail locations. For more information, visit the New Fares New Options Page on their website at www.panynj.gov/CommutingTravel/path/html/fares.html.

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PATH Celebrates its 100th Year!



New York and New Jersey were linked for the first time on February 25, 1908 with the completion of the Hudson & Manhattan Railroad. The railroad, which became PATH (Port Authority Trans-Hudson), is celebrating an historic 100 years of service.

It was the world's first interstate, underwater passenger rail service tunnel, which took over 25 years to build. The opening ceremony marked the first ride through the tunnel, which began when President Theodore Roosevelt, from his office in the White House, gave the tunnel its electric power with the press of a button. This launched an eight-car train that departed from 19th Street and Sixth Avenue in Manhattan and arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey carrying a host of dignitaries including the governors of New Jersey and New York.

Today, PATH carries over 220,000 passengers each day. Recently, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the parent of PATH, announced a \$3.3 billion capital program to prepare PATH for its second century of service. The investments in new rail cars, a new signal system, and electronic information displays at all stations, among other enhancements, will help modernize the system and increase its capacity.

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Red Cross Offers Safety Tips for Transit Commuters

The mission of the Red Cross of Greater New York is to provide relief to victims of disasters through the leadership and support of volunteers and to help others prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. To that end, the Red Cross of Greater New York offers a series of Safety Guides, including one for commuters.

“We try to become involved in every inch in the lives of the average New Yorker, and that includes commuting,” says Mike Virgintino, Director of Public Relations. “Knowing what to do in an emergency situation can help place less strain on the overall response system.”

General Tips Include:

- Become familiar with the emergency procedures for your local transit system.
- Carry a flashlight, dust mask and protective gloves with you.
- Report suspicious activities to your local law enforcement. If you see bags or packages left unattended in or around transit locations, inform authorities.

On a Subway or Commuter Train:

- Stand behind the yellow protective strip, away from the platform edge while waiting for a train.
- Never board a subway between cars.
- Stay calm during an emergency and do not attempt to leave the train unless directed by train crew or emergency workers. Tracks may be electrified, and other cars may still be in motion.

On a Station Platform:

- Familiarize yourself with all the exits at the stations that you use in case you ever have to take a different exit.
- Avoid standing at the end of a subway platform or an empty platform. Instead, wait in the Off-Hours Waiting Area, especially at night.
- Listen for station announcements and follow instructions quickly and calmly.

On a Bus:

- Don't run for the bus — that's when most accidents happen. Slips, trips and falls are the most common causes of injuries.
- Avoid crossing the bus after you disembark.
- Follow the operator's instructions during an emergency.

For a complete list of Commuter Safety tips and other Safety Guides for families, seniors, people with disabilities, and even pets, go to www.nyredcross.org/page.php/prmID/486

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New York City Subway Ridership Highest Since 1951

MTA New York City Transit reported the highest annual ridership since 1969 — 2.3 billion riders last year. Over the past five years, annual ridership increased 6.1 percent, according to New York City Transit.

“The continued investment in new subway cars and buses is not going unnoticed by our customers who are responding by increased usage of our system,” said MTA NYC Transit President Howard H. Roberts, Jr. “These historic ridership gains do, however, point out the increasing need for additional funding for continued infrastructure upgrades.”

A strong economy, record tourism and MetroCard® discounts helped fuel the growth. The 30-Day Unlimited MetroCard® held a 31.3% market share among riders, the highest ever for the product, while the total discounted unlimited ride and bonus MetroCard reached a record 85.8% in 2007.

Subway ridership of 1.56 billion for the year was the highest annual total reported since 1951. Overall bus ridership remained almost level since the year before, with an annual ridership of 738 million.

“There is more and more pressure on our streets and roadways from the use of private automobiles,” adds Roberts. “Increased utilization of mass transit helps to relieve some of that pressure by reducing automobile traffic. Of course, the reduction in traffic also helps reduce pollution around the region.”

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