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**MORE COMMUTERS FINDING RELIEF FROM RISING MASS TRANSIT FARES,
REPORTS TRANSITCENTER**

**Recent Boost in Tax-Free Commuter Benefits Saving Commuters
Up to \$1,000 Per Year or More**

New York, July 6, 2009 – Thousands of employees are finding a new way to reduce their commuting costs despite a new round of transit fare hikes around the country. Hidden in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act -- enacted on February 17, 2009 -- was a major increase in the amount of tax-free income that employees can use to pay for their transit commutes, from \$120 to \$230 per month. TransitCenter, Inc., a nonprofit that promotes mass transit use in order to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality, reports a 34% percent rise in the number of new companies who have implemented the benefit and a 25% increase in employee enrollments since the monthly amount was increased.

As the economic recession continues to reduce the funds available for transit operations, transit agencies around the country are having to increase fares to make up the shortfalls. Mass transit fares have increased between 10 and 22 percent in at least eight major metropolitan areas since the beginning of the year. Five additional cities are now holding hearings on their own mass transit fare hikes.

“This is a difficult time for many workers who depend on transit to commute to work or who seek an alternative to the high cost of driving. That’s why the increase in the transit benefit could not have come at a better time,” said Larry Filler, president and CEO of TransitCenter, which had advocated for the expansion of the tax-free commuter benefits provision. “With potential savings of \$1,000 a year, employees are able to keep more of their income that they can use to help with the rising cost of other essentials.”

Filler added, “Businesses who haven’t yet enrolled in a commuter benefits program have an opportunity to sign up and help their employees save more of their income despite these fare hikes -- while also reaping tax savings for their companies that make the program cost-neutral to implement.” According to TransitCenter’s research, 67 percent of employees believe that companies should take an active role in easing the emerging difficulties of commuting.

TransitCenter has set up an online calculator to help individuals estimate the savings that can be garnered from taking advantage of a commuter benefits program. The calculator is available at <http://transitcenter.com/Employees/Save.aspx>. Additional tools and resources are available at <http://exercisetheright.com/>, a special site that TransitCenter has set up to help consumers and human resources executives with the expanded benefit.

About Tax-Free Commuter Benefits

Tax-free commuter benefits can be structured as an employee-funded tax-free payroll deduction; as an employer-funded benefit; or the costs can be shared by employer and employee. The benefit can be delivered in the form of transit provider-specific passes, universally accepted vouchers and terminal-restricted debit cards, or through a reimbursement model under specific conditions defined by the IRS.

Previously, employers were allowed under Section 132(f) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code to let their employees use up to \$120 per month of their pretax income to pay for their transit or vanpool commuting expenses and up to \$230 per month for commuter parking. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act amended the IRS Code to set the monthly tax-free contribution limit for transit/vanpool to a maximum of \$230 per month.

About TransitCenter, Inc.

TransitCenter is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advocate for greater use of mass transit in order to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. TransitCenter engages in a wide variety of activities in support of transit. We are the pioneer and leading national provider of tax-free commuter benefits through our TransitChek® programs. We advocate at the federal, state and local levels for the greater use of and support for transit. Through education and awareness activities, we also promote the essential benefits of transit, foremost among them making communities better places – and more sustainable places -- to work and live.

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