Overview
The Commuter Benefit Program, a voluntary benefit for eligible employees, offers you the ability to pay for eligible transit or vanpooling expenses with pre-tax dollars. If you enroll in the program, the monthly deduction that you specify (up to $255.00 for transit or vanpooling) is deducted from your pay before federal, state and FICA taxes are calculated. Your taxable income is reduced, and consequently, your taxable income reflected on your annual W-2 statement is reduced.

Enrollment is based on the calendar year from January 1 – December 31. The annual open enrollment period for all employees is September 1 – October 31 of each year.

Eligible Employees
You are eligible to enroll in the Commuter Benefit Program if you are in an Executive, Management Personnel Plan (MPP), Confidential, or other nonrepresented State employee position, or are covered by a collective bargaining agreement that provides the benefit. Rehired annuitants and employees under the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) are not eligible to participate.

Enrollment and Effective Date
Employees may enroll in the program within 60 days of hire, or due to a subsequent change in commute status (see explanation under the “Change in Commute Status” section below), or during open enrollment.

For new employees that are enrolled after the program year begins, participation in the Commuter Benefit Program will be for the remainder of the program year and deductions will become effective with the payroll period in the month following enrollment (subject to campus and State Controller’s Office processing timelines; see table below).

Once deductions begin, you will not be able to change your deduction amount unless you have had a change in commute status as explained in the “Change in Commute Status” section below. If you have not had an eligible change in commute status, you will only be able to cancel your participation in the program (and will not be eligible to reenroll until the next annual open enrollment period).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Employee Enrollment</th>
<th>Payroll deduction will begin during pay period:</th>
<th>Commuter Benefit Option will be available for use starting:</th>
<th>Payroll Periods remaining this year:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For completed applications received by this date:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 1</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to Enroll

*Enrollment is by appointment only.* Please contact Claudia Martinez via e-mail at claudia.martinez@sjsu.edu or phone at 408-924-6567 to make an enrollment appointment, where Parking Services staff will assist you with completing the enrollment process.

Your Commuter Benefit Program

Each month, the Commuter Benefit Program provides you with either transit passes from Parking Services or transit credit (loaded on a Commuter Check Debit MasterCard) redeemable for transit passes, tickets, and/or cash value at transit vending machines, transit agency offices, Clipper customer service centers (and clippercard.com), and vanpool providers. The “Commuter Benefit Options” section below will determine whether you will receive transit passes or transit credit (loaded on a Commuter Check Debit MasterCard).

Pre-tax commuter benefits are governed by Internal Revenue Code Section 132(f)(2)(A), which is subject to Congressional action and/or IRS cost-of-living adjustments.

Amount You Can Deduct

You can deduct a minimum of $30.00 to a maximum of $255.00 each month, which must be made by payroll deduction. Your payroll deductions are exempt from federal, state, and FICA taxes; however, they are not exempt from CalPERS retirement contributions. Your commuter benefit deductions have no impact on any other employer-provided benefits that are based on your salary, such as the Health Care Reimbursement Account (HCRA).

Depending on your salary, your Social Security deductions may also be reduced by your commuter benefit deductions. This means your Social Security benefits at retirement also may be reduced, because you have paid Social Security taxes on a lower wage amount. You should take this into consideration as you make your decision about enrolling in the Commuter Benefit Program. (For more information, you may wish to consult your tax advisor or financial planner.)

How to Plan Your Deductions

If you are already paying for transit expenses, you probably know your monthly expenditures. By looking at your records for the past year, you can estimate the monthly deductions you want to make. You must estimate your eligible expenses very carefully, as your deduction amount is irrevocable during the program year unless you have a change in commute status event. IRS regulations prohibit the return or refund of unused transit passes or Commuter Check Debit MasterCard transit credit.

Change in Commute Status

Once the program year has begun, you cannot make changes in your deduction amount unless there has been a change in your commute status. Please note that your election must be on account of and consistent with one of the following events:

- Change in transit fare.
- Change in transit service route or provider.
- Change in home or work location resulting in a change in transit service route or provider.
- Change in age resulting in a change in transit fare (such as a senior fare, depending on agency)
- Disability resulting in a change in transit fare (such as a disabled fare) or service route or provider.

If you have not had an eligible change in commute status, you will only be able to cancel your participation in the program (and will not be eligible to reenroll until the next annual open enrollment period).
Termination of Your Participation
Your participation in the Commuter Benefit Program will end as a result of one of the following events:
- The end of the current plan year if you fail to re-enroll during the annual open enrollment period.
- You voluntarily cancel your participation, in which case you will not be eligible to reenroll until the next annual open enrollment period.
- Change in employee status to one that is ineligible for the Commuter Benefit Program, such as Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP).
- Termination of your employment.
- Termination of the Commuter Benefit Program by San Jose State University or by Congressional action.

Upon the termination of your participation in the program, any unused Commuter Check Debit MasterCard transit credit not spent by the end of the month following the month of termination will be forfeited. For example, if you terminate your participation anytime during the month of January, you will have until the end of February to spend any remaining funds.

Final Note
Through the Commuter Benefit Program, it is possible to pay for transit and vanpooling expenses on a tax-advantaged basis easily and automatically. If you carefully consider your decision to participate, you will find it a worthwhile addition to your benefits package.

Reference
Discounted fares are available to SJSU staff, faculty, and students on ACE (Altamont Corridor Express) trains and Highway 17 Express buses:

### ACE (Altamont Corridor Express) Fares
**Effective October 3, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>San Jose Diridon Station to</th>
<th>Monthly Passes</th>
<th>20-Ride Tickets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regular Fare</td>
<td>SJSU Discounted Fare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fremont/Centerville (FMT)</td>
<td>$152.00</td>
<td>$76.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasanton (PLD)</td>
<td>$218.00</td>
<td>$109.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livermore (LVA)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasco Road (VAR)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracy (TRC)</td>
<td>$282.75</td>
<td>$141.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lathrop/Manteca (LAT)</td>
<td>$349.00</td>
<td>$174.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockton (SKT)</td>
<td>$364.00</td>
<td>$182.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Highway 17 Express Fares
**Effective September 10, 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular Fare</th>
<th>SJSU Discounted Fare</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31-Day Pass</td>
<td>$145.00</td>
<td>$134.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-Ride Pass</td>
<td>$94.50</td>
<td>$89.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Commuter Benefit Options

The table below will determine whether you will receive transit passes or transit credit (on a Commuter Check Debit MasterCard).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commute Region and Transportation Agency</th>
<th>Available Benefit Option, Where to Use Benefit Option (and Notes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Jose and South Bay</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Santa Clara VTA (Valley Transportation Authority) vta.org | Benefit: VTA Eco Pass Clipper Card (valid for semester).  
Where: Purchase from Transportation Solutions for $25.00 (a $3.00 Clipper Card fee applies for first-time purchases); renew by March 31 for Fall Semester and October 31 for Spring Semester. Not eligible for participation in the Commuter Benefit Program because there is no recurring monthly transit expense. |
| **San Francisco and Peninsula**          |                                                               |
| Caltrain caltrain.com | Benefit: Commuter Check Debit MasterCard up to $255.00 monthly.  
Where: Obtain Clipper card and load passes or Clipper Cash at Clipper Add Value ticket vending machines, Clipper website (clippercard.com), or BART ticket vending machines (Clipper Cash only).  
Notes: Free and discounted transfers available with SF Municipal Railway (Muni), SamTrans, and VTA (caltrain.com/Fares/faresmisc/Inter-Agency_Transfers.html). |
| SamTrans samtrans.com | Benefit: Commuter Check Debit MasterCard up to $255.00 monthly.  
Where: Obtain Clipper card and load passes or Clipper Cash at Clipper Add Value ticket vending machines or Clipper website (clippercard.com).  
Notes: Purchase VTA Eco Pass (above) for transfers with VTA at Palo Alto Transit Center. |
| **East Bay**                             |                                                               |
| ACE (Altamont Corridor Express) acerail.com | Benefit: Monthly pass or 20-ride ticket.  
Where: Pick up from Parking Services in the University Police Building.  
Notes: Free transfers available with VTA (acerail.com/Getting-You-There/Transfers-Shuttles/ACE-VTA-Better-Together) and Wheels (see below). |
| Amtrak (Capitol Corridor) capitolcorridor.org | Benefit: Commuter Check Debit MasterCard up to $255.00 monthly.  
Where: Purchase 10-ride or monthly ticket from Quik-Trak self-service kiosks or combine with additional payment at Amtrak Stations in San Jose, Oakland, Emeryville, Martinez, Davis, and Sacramento.  
Note: Free transfers available with VTA, AC Transit, County Connection, Wheels, and other transit agencies (capitolcorridor.org/connections/transfer_transfers.php). |
| BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) bart.gov | Benefit: Commuter Check Debit MasterCard up to $255.00 monthly.  
Where: Obtain Clipper card and load Clipper Cash at BART ticket vending machines, Clipper Add Value ticket vending machines, or Clipper website (clippercard.com).  
Note: Purchase VTA Eco Pass (above) for transfers with VTA at Fremont BART station. Discounted transfers available with AC Transit, County Connection, Wheels, and Union City Transit (see below). |
| AC Transit actransit.org | Benefit: Commuter Check Debit MasterCard up to $255.00 monthly.  
Where: Obtain Clipper card and load passes or Clipper Cash at Clipper Add Value ticket vending machines, Clipper website (clippercard.com), or BART ticket vending machines (Clipper Cash only).  
Note: Discounted transfers available with BART (actransit.org/bus-fares-eligibility-as-of-july-1-2014). |
| County Connection countyconnection.com | Benefit: Commuter Check Debit MasterCard up to $255.00 monthly.  
Where: Obtain Clipper card and load passes or Clipper Cash at Clipper Add Value ticket vending machines, Clipper website (clippercard.com), or BART ticket vending machines (Clipper Cash only).  
Note: Discounted transfers available with BART (countyconnection.com/fares/transfer-policy). |
| Wheels wheelsbus.com | Benefit: Commuter Check Debit MasterCard up to $255.00 monthly.  
Where: Obtain Clipper card and load passes or Clipper Cash at Clipper Add Value ticket vending machines, Clipper website (clippercard.com), or BART ticket vending machines (Clipper Cash only).  
Note: Free and discounted transfers available with BART and ACE (wheelsbus.com/fares/fare-information). |
| Union City Transit unioncity.org/transport | Benefit: Commuter Check Debit MasterCard up to $255.00 monthly.  
Where: Obtain Clipper card and load passes or Clipper Cash at Clipper Add Value ticket vending machines, Clipper website (clippercard.com), or BART ticket vending machines (Clipper Cash only).  
Note: Discounted transfers available with BART (unioncity.org/departments/transit/fares/fares-information). |
| **South**                                |                                                               |
| Highway 17 Express and Santa Cruz METRO scmtd.com | Benefit: Monthly pass or 15-ride pass.  
Where: Pick-up from Parking Services in the University Police Building.  
Notes: Free transfers available with VTA for monthly pass customers (scmtd.com/en/fares/fares). |
| MST (Monterey-Salinas Transit) mst.org | Benefit: Commuter Check Debit MasterCard up to $255.00 monthly.  
Where: Purchase passes from MST website (mst.org/shop) or by calling 1-888-678-2871.  
Note: Free and discounted transfers available with VTA (mst.org/riders-guide/transit-connections). |
Please review the Program Information prior to completing this application to ensure your eligibility for enrollment (or modification of an existing enrollment) in the Commuter Benefit Program.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**Enrollment is by appointment only.** Please contact Parking Services (using the contact provided in the Commuter Benefit Program Information document) to make an enrollment appointment, where Parking Services staff will assist you with completing the enrollment process. **When completed applications are received by the 1st day of the current month, deductions will become effective that month and commuter benefits will be available for use in the following month.**

### SECTION 1: EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>SJSU ID Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SECTION 2: TO BE COMPLETED BY EMPLOYEE DURING ENROLLMENT APPOINTMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Type</th>
<th>Benefit Option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] New or Renewal Enrollment</td>
<td>ACE, Monthly Pass, 20-Ride Ticket, FMT, PLS, LVA, VAR, TRC, LAT, SKT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Cancel Enrollment</td>
<td>Highway 17 Express/Santa Cruz METRO, Monthly Pass, 15-Ride Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] Change Enrollment (specify reason below):</td>
<td>Commuter Check Debit MasterCard, Monthly Load Amount: $__________ (255.00 maximum per month)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Frequency**: Indicate months during which selected Benefit Option will be requested:
- [ ] Jan
- [ ] Feb
- [ ] Mar
- [ ] Apr
- [ ] May
- [ ] Jun
- [ ] Jul
- [ ] Aug
- [ ] Sep
- [ ] Oct
- [ ] Nov
- [ ] Dec

**Frequency**: ________ x Benefit Option: $__________ ÷ Payroll Periods: ________ = Monthly Deduction: $__________

(number of months selected above) (pay periods remaining this year) (255.00 maximum per month)

### SECTION 3: EMPLOYEE CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have reviewed the Program Information prior to completing this application, have consulted with Parking Services staff, and accept the terms and conditions of the Commuter Benefit Program. I understand that my monthly deduction amount is irrevocable during the program year except in the case of a change in commute status, and that if I cancel my participation, I will not be eligible to reenroll until the next annual open enrollment period. In the event a monthly deduction is rejected for any reason, I agree to pay Parking Services the full amount of the deduction immediately upon request.

I hereby authorize the California State Controller’s Office to deduct from my salaries and wages the amount specified now or in the future for the specific purpose of commuting to San José State University. This authorization will remain in effect until the end of the program year (unless I re-enroll during the annual open enrollment period) or until cancelled by me or by San José State University. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to notify SJSU Parking Services of any changes in my employment as deductions may continue to occur after termination of employment from San José State University.

Employee Signature ___________________________ Date ___________________________

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date Received ___________________ Effective Month _______________ Commute Method ___________________________

Date Contacted _______________ Revised 4/12/17