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18% OF EMPLOYEES LEAVE CARS AT HOME AND TAKE MASS TRANSIT AFTER ENROLLING IN COMMUTER BENEFITS PROGRAMS AT WORK, FINDS NEW STUDY FROM TRANSITCENTER

More than Half of Employees Would Sign Up for Commuter Benefits Given the Chance

New York, April 28, 2008 – Nearly one in five employees signing up for tax-free commuter benefits switches from driving a car to commuting by mass transit to get to work, finds a study conducted by *BusinessWeek* Research Services (BWRS) and commissioned by TransitCenter, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides tax-free transit benefits as a means to promote mass transit use. The study also found that 53 percent of employees whose companies don't currently offer tax-free commuter benefits would participate in a program if it was offered.

Switching from driving to riding mass transit reduces CO2 emissions by 20 pounds per person per day – or more than 4,800 pounds per year, according to the American Public Transportation Association.

“While commuter benefits have often been seen as a ‘nice to have’ for encouraging mass transit, we increasingly see it as a ‘necessary to have’ if we want to see an immediate and long-lasting impact on CO2 levels,” said Larry Filler, president and CEO of TransitCenter. “If every company offered commuter benefits, the positive impact on CO2 levels would be a major contribution by corporate America in the effort to preserve the environment and in supporting the needs of commuters.”

Among the study's findings:

- Four in 10 employees surveyed report that their employers offer tax-free commuter benefits programs
- Among those who reported working at a company offering commuter benefits, 62 percent say they participate in the program
- Among employees who signed up for commuter benefits, 41 percent increased their use of mass transit, and 46 percent increased their mass transit usage during weekends

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The study covered 1,048 respondents in Chicago, New York and San Francisco in October 2007. These cities were chosen due to their geographically dispersed markets and high concentration of commuters as identified by the U.S. Census' 2005 American Community Survey. The survey has a 95 percent confidence level with a margin of error of +/- 3 percent.

A copy of the *BusinessWeek* Research Services survey report is available by contacting Charles Kim at ckim@transitcenter.com.

About Tax-Free Commuter Benefits

Since 1993, employers have been able to offer employees a tax-free benefit for commuting by transit and eligible vanpools or to pay for commuter parking primarily at transit or ridesharing locations under IRS tax code section 132(f). 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. Current IRS limits allow for participants to set aside up to \$115 a month tax-free to pay for transit and vanpool commuting costs, and up to \$220 for commuter parking.

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 tax-free 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 11,000 employers and 500,000 employees participate in TransitCenter's TransitChek commuter benefits programs as a convenient, money-saving way to pay for commuting.

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. A deep heritage in transit drives TransitCenter's continued commitment to bringing new innovations to employers and transit riders that participate in TransitChek tax-free commuter benefits programs. Learn more by visiting www.transitcenter.com.