United States Department of Transportation

TRANSIT BENEFIT PROGRAM APPLICANT GUIDE

Submitted by

TRANSserve

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1.   OVERVIEW

1.1   Background

The Department of Transportation, Transportation Services Division (TRANServe), administers the Parking and Transit Benefits program. This system will serve as the publicly accessible interface for managing Transit benefits. TRANServe Services include purchasing and distributing transit fare media through the TRANServe Debit Card via Economy Act agreements and the authority of the Administrative Working Capital Fund (49 U.S.C. 327). The office currently supports 276 Agencies and sub-divisions, proving timely and efficient transit benefit service to over 200,000 customers, 60,000 of whom use the online Transit Application.

TRANServe has redesigned the current Transit Web Application into a "new" user friendly, mobile site designed specifically for mobile devices. The mobile version of the Web Application has been optimized for smaller screens found on mobile phones and tablets. This will allow federal government workers to apply for the transit benefit, request information, withdraw from the program and recertify using a mobile device. Further, TRANServe TBMs, Admins, first, second, and third level approvers will be able to view, update, approve, or disapprove applications from a mobile device from anywhere and at any time.

1.2   Purpose

The Transit Benefit Application user guide is designed to provide written instruction on how to use the application effectively and efficiently.

1.3   Document Organization

The following typographical conventions are used in this user guide:

- **`Courier New Bold`**   Indicates a button on a page
- *Underline Italic in blue*   Indicates a link within the system
- Title Case plus page   Indicates a name of a page in the application
- *Italic text*   Indicates a note on a page in the application

1.4   Points of Contact

The table below provides a list of the people you may contact for additional information regarding the Transit Application or for troubleshooting purposes.

Role	Name/Phone	Title	Email
Visit the Agency Participant Page for agency contact information: https://www.transportation.gov/transerve/participants/department-commerce-doc-office-inspector-general			

2.   ACCESSING THE TRANSIT BENEFIT APPLICATION

Follow the below steps to navigate to the Login/Register page

1.   Open an Internet Browser.
2.   Enter the URL: www.transportation.gov/transerve.
3.   Click the *Participants* link and scroll down and select your Agency.
4.   If your Agency requires you to complete the Transit Benefit Integrity Awareness Training; click the *New Employee Orientation* link. (Follow the instructions to complete the Transit Benefit Integrity Awareness Training).
5.   Click the *Participants* link and scroll down to select your Agency.
6.   Select *Transit Benefit Program Application System* link.

2.1   Login and Registration

Use the following steps to access the application:

1.   If registering for the first time, the Login page is displayed after clicking the *Transit Benefit Program Application System* link.

     Returning applicants can enter the URL: https://transitapp.ost.dot.gov to display the Transit Application Login page.

Figure 1: Transit Application Login page

First time users will need to register. Use the following steps to register a username:

2.   Click the **Register** button. The Register Account Information page is displayed.
3.   Enter your government issued email address in the User Name textbox.
4.   Complete the registration form.

Note: * *indicates required field.*

Note: *The agency used in the email for the username will determine the agencies displayed in the Agency/Mode dropdown list.*

Figure 2: Register Account Information page

5. Click the **Register** button.

Figure 3: Completed Registration page

6. The Login page is displayed with the confirmation message at the top of the page.

Figure 4: Registration Confirmation

After the participant has registered, an email will be sent containing a temporary password. Retrieve the password and log into the application using the following steps:

1. Click the **OK** button. The Login page is redisplayed.

2. Enter the username in the User Name textbox.

3. Click the **Continue to Login** button to display the multi-factor authentication login page.

Figure 5: Login page

Note: *Either one or both of the methods will be displayed on the page. These methods are PIV or Login.Gov. Participants using the PIV or Network Login method will need an active PIV card. Participants using the Login.gov method will need to link the Transit Benefit Program Web Application to a Login.gov account. Instructions are provided for both of the login methods and can be accessed by clicking the Help icon for the desired login method.*

Figure 6: Multi-Factor Authentication Login page

2.2   Change Password

After logging into the application for the first time, it is required that you change the password to something that you will easily remember. Use the following steps to change your password:

1. Enter the retrieved password in the Current Password textbox.

2. Enter your new password in the Create New Password textbox.

3. Reenter your new password in the Confirm New Password textbox.

4. Enter a hint, something that will remind you of your password in the Create a Hint textbox.

5. Click the **Submit** button.

Note: ** indicates required field.*

Note: *Ensure that your password meets the system requirements when changing your login credentials. These requirements are displayed at the bottom of the Change Password page.*

Figure 7: Change Password page

The confirmation message is displayed at the top of the Login page.

Figure 8: Change Password Confirmation

Note: *You can change your password at any time by using the above steps after clicking the Change Password button on the Home page. The Change Password page can also be accessed from the Utilities dropdown menu located on the Menu bar at the top of the Home page.*

Note: *To access the additional Utilities menu options from a mobile device; click the additional menus button at the top of the page. Click the Utilities dropdown arrow to display the sub-menus.*
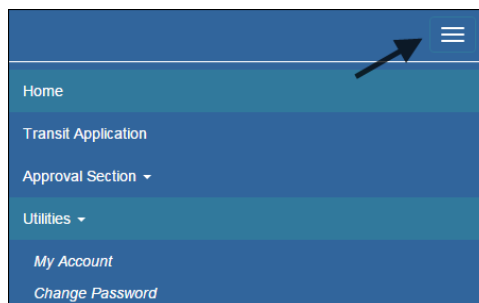

Figure 9: Utilities Menu Options

2.3　　Password Recovery

Use the following steps to recover your password:

1. From the Login page, click the *Forgot Password?* link. The Forgot Password page displays.

2. The Show Hint section allows the user to view the Hint entered when the password was changed. Enter the username and click the **Show Hint** button.

• The Forgot Password page is redisplayed with the Hint and allows the user to log in from this page.

3. The Send It By Email section allows the user to retrieve a temporary password through email. The password will be sent to the email address entered when the account was created. Enter your username and click the **Submit** button.

Note: * *indicates required field.*

Figure 10: Forgot Password page

Figure 11: Show Hint

• The Login page displays. Enter the username and the retrieved password. Follow the instructions in **Section 2.2 Change Password** to change the password.

2.4   My Account

The My Account page allows the user to update personal information and request a temporary password.

Use the following steps to update your personal information:

1. From the Home page, click the **My Account** button. The Update My Account Information page displays.

The information entered when the account was registered is pre-populated in the fields. Update the information as needed.

2. Click the **Update** button. The modified account information is saved and the Home page is displayed with a confirmation message at the top of the page.

Note: *Click the **Send Temporary Password** button to change your password. This request can only be made 3 times in a 24-hour period. Follow the instructions in **Section 2.2 Change Password** to change the password.*

Note: *To access the additional Utilities menu options from a mobile device; click the additional menus button at the top of the page. Click the Utilities dropdown arrow to display the sub-menus.*

Note: *You can update your account information at any time by using the above steps after clicking the My Account button on the Home page. The My Account page can also be accessed from the Utilities dropdown menu located on the Menu bar at the top of the Home page.*

Figure 12: Update My Account page

User william.lett-test@state.gov has been Updated

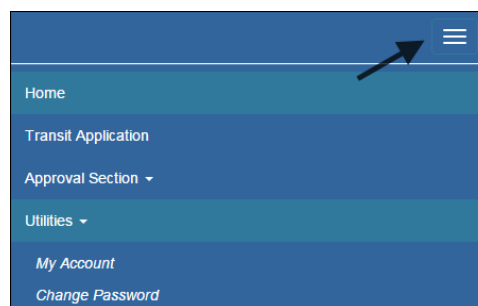*Figure 13: Update My Account Confirmation*

Figure 14: Utilities Menu Options

2.5   Session Time Out

If your session is inactive (i.e., you have not typed data into an existing page, requested a new page, submitted data, etc.) for 45 minutes, you will be automatically logged out.

2.6   Exit

- To exit the system from a desktop, click the **Logout** button on the PTBW home page.

- To exit the system from a mobile device, click the additional menu button [≡] at the top of page. Click the **Logout** button. The Login page is displayed.

3.   OVERVIEW OF THE PTB PUBLIC WEBSITE HOME PAGE

The tabs and links available to you on the PTB Public Website home page are determined by your assigned user role. User roles are assigned by the system administrator.

The Parking and Transit Benefit Public Website home page is divided into two sections:

- The menu bar displays at the top of the page and displays the following:
    - Home – Click this tab to display the home page.
    - Transit Application – Click this tab to display the Select An Action To Continue page.
    - Utilities – Click this tab to display My Account and Change Password sub-menu options. If you have access to agency reports the Agency Reports option will display here.
    - Logout – Click this tab to logout of the application.
- The main section of the home page displays buttons representing functions you can execute within the application.
    - Transit Benefit Application – Click this button to display the Select An Action To Continue page.
    - My Account – Click this button to display the Update My Account Information page.
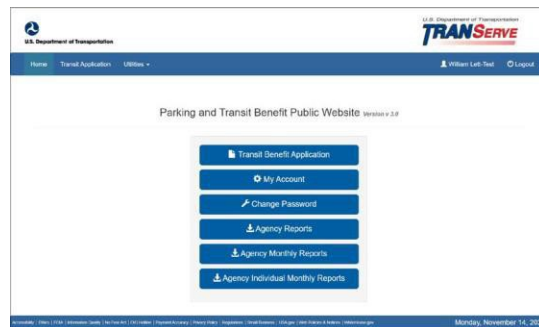   - Change Password – Click this button to display the Change Password page.

Figure 15: PTB Public Website Home page

Note: *To access the additional menu options from a mobile device; click the additional menus button at the top of the page. The additional menu options are displayed.*
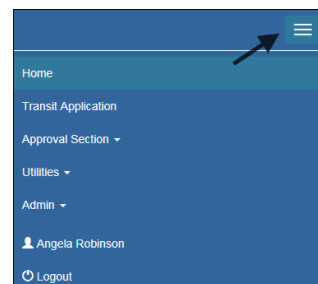

Figure 16: Additional Menu Options

3.1   Transit Benefit Application

The Transit Benefit Application option allows the applicant to request information, withdraw from the program, make SmarTrip ® changes, certify/enroll in the transit benefit program, and submit monthly certifications.

1. From the Home page, click the **Transit Benefit Application** button. The Select an Action to Continue page displays.

Note: *The Certify/Enroll/Change radio button is selected by default.*

Figure 17: Select an Action to Continue page

3.1.1   Certify/Enroll/Change

The Certify/Enroll/Change option allows the applicant to enroll in the transit benefit program by submitting an application. Use the following steps to certify/enroll in the Transit Benefit Program:

1. From the Select an Action to Continue page; click the **Continue** button, the Warning page is displayed.
2. After reading the message, click the **I Agree** button. The Transit Benefit Application Worksheet is displayed.

Note: *If the applicant does not agree, click the I Do Not Agree button to display the Select an Action to Continue page.*

Figure 18: Warning page

3. Select the reason for certification.
   - ♦ Annual Certification/Recertification
   - ♦ Update
   - ♦ New Transit Benefit Participant – This is the only available reason for newly registered participants.
4. Selection defaults to **Civilian**. Select your Employment Type.
5. Selection defaults to **Full Time**. Select your work status.

Note: *Some agencies require the applicants to complete integrity training. If this is required; a checkbox will be displayed when the Annual Certification/Recertification or New Transit Benefit Participant reasons are selected.*

Note: ** indicates required field.*

Note: *Your Name, Email Address, Work Phone, and Agency/Mode are pre-populated with the information you entered when you registered. Verify that the information is correct.*

Figure 19: Transit Benefit Application Worksheet

Commuting Distance

- If the Agency is tracking the commuting distance, the **Is your commute greater than 2hrs?** field will be displayed.
- If the commuting distance is greater than two hours, select Yes. The **Is your primary address the same as your commuting address?** field is displayed.
- If the primary address is different from the commuting address, select No. The Commute Address section is displayed. Enter the address where the commute starts, for instance a commuter bus pick-up location.

Figure 20: Commuting Distance

6. Select your transportation method(s).

   ♦ Bus

Figure 21: Bus Method

   ♦ Other Bus

Figure 22: Other Bus Method

   ♦ Rail

Figure 23: Rail Method

   ♦ Other Method

Figure 24: Other Method

   ♦ Vanpool

Figure 25: Vanpool Method

Note: *The Agency must be set up to track parking costs. The Parking cost is separate from the Transit cost and is not calculated together.*

Note: *If all of the methods of transportation are selected, all of the methods will display in one table.*

Note: *When filling out the method of transportation table, be sure to follow your Agency's work schedule policies.*

Always follow your Agency work schedule policy for specific guidance on the Days per Month entry.

Defined work schedule examples:

- If you work a Basic schedule of 8-hours per day, the average amount of 20 Days can be entered into the Days per Month column
- If you work a Flex Schedule of 9-hours per day, the average amount of 18 Days can be entered into the Days per Month column
- If you work a Compressed schedule of 10-hour days, the average amount of 16 Days can be entered into the Days per Month column
- If you telecommute or work part time, enter the number of days you actually commute to/from work.

Figure 26: Sample Agency Work Schedule Policies

7. Fill out the selected method of transportation table for every selected method (i.e., Bus and Rail)

Figure 27: Method of Transportation Table

Note: *Some agencies require additional transportation information. If this is required; a textbox will be displayed below the Name of Company field. The additional info label can be renamed by the Agency TBM.*

Note: *The Monthly Expense and the Total Monthly Expense is automatically calculated when you enter the Daily Expense and the Days per Month.*

Note: *The common identifier label can be renamed by the Agency TBM.*

8. Select your Region.

9. Select your Admin.

10. Depending on the Agency, three optional fields may be displayed (i.e., Accounting Code, Routing Symbol, and Location/Building). Click the **Select** link to display the available list for your agency.

Note: *The optional field labels can be renamed or hidden by the Agency TBM.*

11. Enter your Work Information.

12. Enter your Residence Information.

Note: *Work and Residence addresses are verified via the USPS database. Enter the street address and then the zip code. The City and State are auto populated.*

Agency Optional Display Fields

16. Click the **Select** button to display the list for your agency's approving officials (1st Approver).

17. Select your Approving Official (1st Approver).

Note: *If your agency is set-up for Single Approver – First Approve, this will be the only available option.*

Figure 28: Approving Official

18. Click the **Select** button to display the list for your agency's manager/fund certifiers (2nd Approver).

19. Select your Manager/Fund Certifier (2nd Approver).

Figure 29: Manager/Fund Certifier

20. Click the **Select** button to display the list for your agency's point of contacts.

21. Select your Point of Contact.

Note: *If your agency is set-up for Single Approver – Program Admin (3rd Approve), only a selected POC is required.*

Note: *The approver and POC field labels can be renamed by the Agency TBM.*

Figure 30: Point of Contact

22. Enter your SmarTrip® card information. If you have not purchased or do not use a SmarTrip® card, enter NA. See [Appendix A – SmarTrip® Card Instructions](#).

Note: *This field is only valid for DC, MD, and VA participants.*

23. Enter any information that will assist your Agency Approver with processing your application in the Comment for Agency Approvers textbox. Examples: if you use one mode of transportation on some days and a second mode on the remaining days every week, or if you travel using one mode of transportation in the morning and a different mode in the evening on specific days every week.

24. Click the **Continue** button.

Note: *If a SmarTrip card number was entered in the SmarTrip Card Number field, the SmartBenefits® Program page is displayed.*

Figure 31: Completed Transit Benefit Application

Figure 32: Smart Benefits Program page

25. Click the **YES I would like to enroll** button to join the SmartBenefits® program. By clicking yes, you agree to have your transit benefits downloaded to your SmarTrip® card the first of every month.

26. Click the **NO Thank You** button if you do not want to join the SmartBenefits® program.

27. After clicking the **YES** or **NO** button, the application is submitted and redisplayed with a confirmation message at the top of the page.

Figure 33: Transit Benefit Program Confirmation

Note: *The informational message is only displayed when the applicant enrolls in the SmartBenefits® program.*

3.1.2   Annual Recertification

Participants are required to recertify their transit benefits needs once per year. When participants are added to the program, notifications are sent via email. This email will contain the status of the online account. If the account is current the email will display the date the current recertification will expire. If the account is in suspended status the email will instruct the participant to submit an application.

> Your current transit benefit certification has expired.
> Please submit a recertification application in order to re-activate your Transit Benefits.

Suspended Transit Benefit Account

> Your Current Application Status: **Change Request Completed (01/29/2021)**
>
> Your current transit benefit certification will expire on Feb 28, 2021.
> Failure to recertify by the expiration date will result in the suspension of your transit benefits.

Reminder emails will be sent to the participant leading up to the expiration date. If the participant does not submit an application on or before the expiration date the account will be put in suspended status. If the submitted application has been disapproved and sent back to the participant, the online account will remain in suspended status until the application is resubmitted. If the account is suspended the participant will need to submit via the Certify/Enroll/Change page. The available reasons for certification are Annual Certification/Recertification and New Transit Benefit Participant. Selecting Annual Certification/Recertification and submitting an application will reactive the online account. The application will need to be fully processed to finalize the reactivation. An email will be sent to the participant with the next recertification date.

Use the following steps to submit an Annual Recertification application:

1. From the Select an Action to Continue page; select the **Annual Recertification** radio button.
2. Click the **Continue** button. The Warning page is displayed.
3. After reading the message, click the **I Agree** button. The Transit Benefit Application Worksheet is displayed.

Note: *If the applicant does not agree, click the I Do Not Agree button to display the Select an Action to Continue page.*

Note: *The applicant must be enrolled in the Annual Recertification Program to submit an annual recertification application.*

Note: *If your agency has disabled the Annual Recertification option on the Select an Action to Continue page, recertify via the Certify/Enroll/Change page.*

Figure 34: Warning page

4. The application displayed is the current application on file. Verify that all pre-populated information is correct and valid.

Note: *The applicant can ONLY update the method of transportation and rates when submitting via the annual recertification page.*

Note: *If the address entered when the application was initially submitted is invalid; the annual recertification will not be able to be submitted. The applicant will need to submit an application via Certify/Enroll/Change to update the address.*

Note: *If the Manager, Supervisor, or POC selected when the application was initially submitted is no longer available for selection; the annual recertification will not be able to be submitted. The applicant will need to submit an application via Certify/Enroll/Change to update the Manager, Supervisor, or POC selections.*

Figure 35: Transit Benefit Program Application for Annual Recertification

5. Click the **Continue** button. The application is submitted and redisplayed with a confirmation message.

Thank you, your Monthly Certification application has been submitted.

Figure 36: Annual Recertification Confirmation

3.1.3 SmarTrip® Change

The SmarTrip® Change option allows the applicant to submit a request to update a SmarTrip® card number associated with the account. Use the following steps to submit a request for a SmarTrip® number change:

1. From the Select an Action to Continue page; click the **SmarTrip® Change** radio button.

2. Click the **Continue** button. The SmarTrip® Change page is displayed.

3. Update the SmarTrip® card number.

Note: *The applicant must be enrolled in the Transit Benefit Program to change the SmarTrip information. Registering a username does not mean that the applicant has enrolled in the program.*

Figure 37: SmarTrip® Change page

4. Click the **Submit** button. The request is sent to TRANServe for processing and a confirmation message is displayed at the top of the page.

Thank you, your Address/Smartrip Change Request has been submitted.

Figure 38: SmarTrip® Confirmation

3.1.4 Withdraw from the Program

The Withdraw from the Program option allows the applicant to submit a request to withdraw from the program at any time. Use the following steps to withdraw from the program:

1. From the Select an Action to Continue page; click the **Withdraw from the Program** radio button.

2. Click the **Continue** button. The Withdraw from the Program page is displayed.

3. Click the pop-up calendar to select a withdrawal date.

Figure 39: Withdraw from the Program page

4.   Click the `Select` button to display the list for your agency's approving officials (1st Approvers).

5.   Select your Approving Official (1st Approvers).

Figure 40: Approving Official (1st Approver)

6.   Click the `Select` button to display the list for your agency's manager/fund certifiers (2nd Approvers).

7.   Select your Manager/Fund Certifier (2nd Approver).

Figure 41: Manager Fund/Certifier (2nd Approver)

8.   Enter any information that will assist your Agency Approver with processing your application in the Comment for Agency Approvers textbox.

9.   Click the `Withdraw` button. The request is sent to TRANServe for processing and a confirmation message is displayed at the top of the page.

Note: *The applicant must be enrolled in the Transit Benefit Program to withdraw. Registering a username does not mean that the applicant has enrolled in the program.*

Thank you, your application to Withdraw from the Program has been submitted.

Figure 42: Withdraw Confirmation

3.1.5   Request Information

The Request Information option allows the applicant to request information from the Agency Program Office by submitting questions regarding the transit benefit program or a submitted application through the Point of Contact (POC). Use the following steps to request information:

1. From the Select an Action to Continue page; click the **Request Information** radio button.

2. Click the **Continue** button. The Request Information page is displayed.

3. Click the **Select** button to display the list for your agency's point of contacts.

4. Select a POC from the list.

5. Enter the question or concern in the Question textbox and click the **Send Request** button.

Note: *The POC selected on a submitted application will pre-populate in the Point of Contact textbox.*

Figure 43: Request Information page

Figure 44: Point of Contact

6. An email is sent to the selected TRANServe POC. The Home page is displayed with a confirmation message at the top of the page.

Thank you, your request has been sent.

Figure 45: Request Information Confirmation

3.1.6   Disapproved Applications

Applications that have been Disapproved are sent back to the applicant. If corrections are needed the applicant can make those corrections and resubmit the application.

1. From the Home page, click the **Transit Benefit Application** button. The Select an Action to Continue page displays. The reason the application was disapproved is displayed at the top of the page.

2. Select the **Update Disapproved Application Certification** radio button.

Figure 46: Select An Action To Continue page

- The reason the application was disapproved is displayed at the top of the Transit Benefit Application Worksheet and the Transit Benefit Program Application.
- The applicant's information entered when the application was submitted is displayed in the fields. Make the noted corrections and resubmit the application by clicking the Continue button.
- Click the **Delete Application and Start Over** button to delete the existing application. Doing this will require the applicant to complete and resubmit a new application.

Note: *If an Annual Recertification was disapproved, the applicant will need to click the Delete Application and Start Over button to resubmit the application via Certify/Enroll/Change to make the necessary corrections.*

Figure 47: Disapproved Transit Benefit Application Worksheet

APPENDIX A: SMARTRIP CARD INSTRUCTIONS

For Smart Benefit Participants: Purchase and Register a SmarTrip® card

SmarTrip® card usage is mandatory for all participants in the National Capital Region.

1. Purchase a SmarTrip® Card – This is a reloadable electronic fare card. Using a reloadable card supports the government's initiatives to support and improve the environment.

    ♦ You can do this at a Metro Sales Store, Station Kiosk (these are located in Stations where parking is available, a Commuter Store and many retail establishments.

Note: *Look here for more information on locations: http://www.wmata.com/fares/purchase/where.cfm*

    ♦ You can also purchase a SmarTrip® Card online: http://www.wmata.com/fares/purchase/

    ♦ You can also purchase a SmarTrip card on an Apple or Android smartphone through WMATA's phone applications. Please note that these cards will be digitized to your smartphone's wallet application.

Note: *An online order will require you to provide a shipping address which must match the billing address online with your credit card provider.*

2. Create a Personal Account to Register your SmarTrip® Card – You must register your SmarTrip® card with WMATA in order to receive your transit benefit electronically. Registration may take up to 48 hours to be reflected in the WMATA system. An additional benefit of registering your card is to protect the funds on the card. If lost or stolen, you may cancel the card. After you replace your SmarTrip® card, you can transfer the funds to the new card.

    ♦ Register your SmarTrip® card here: https://smartrip.wmata.com/Registration/Register.aspx

    ♦ You must indicate the type of card by matching the serial number on the back with the pattern that is circled below:

TIP 1: Enlarge the number on a Xerox machine and attach to your application

TIP 2: If your SmarTrip® serial number is nine (9) digits, you need a new (20) digit card.