



The City of Gainesville Regional Transit System offers two commuter benefit programs to help save on parking and commuting expenses. RTS can provide you with materials for you to distribute to your employees. For more information or to schedule a meeting, please visit [www.GO-RTS.com](http://www.GO-RTS.com) or call Theresa Harrison at (352) 334-3676.



HELP YOUR EMPLOYEES  
 SAVE MONEY...  
 SAVE GAS...  
 RIDE HAPPY!



## EMPLOYEE BUS PASS PROGRAMS

## The City of Gainesville Regional Transit System (RTS)

offers two employer programs to help make a transition to riding public transit easier: The **Federal Commuter Choice Program** or the **RTS Employee Bus Pass Program**. Both provide a no-hassle way for employees to take public transit to and from work while protecting the environment and saving money.

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### Federal Commuter Choice Tax Benefit Program

Federal law\* currently entitles all U.S. employers to a deductible business expense toward the cost of public transportation up to \$230 per employee per month. There are several ways for both employees and employers to take advantage of the program, so anyone can find a way to make the program work for their organization.

### Commuter Choice Eligibility

Private employers, non-profit organizations, public agencies, federal government employees and members of the military services are eligible to receive these transit commuter benefits. However, self-employed individuals, partners, 2-percent shareholders of S corporations, sole proprietors and other independent contractors are not eligible under IRS rules.

### Commuter Choice Options

#### Employer-Paid Transportation Benefits

The most attractive option to employees is for the employer to cover the full cost of the transit benefit up to \$230 per month. The cost for the employer is tax-free and deductible as a business expense.

#### Employee-Paid, Pre-Tax Transportation Benefits

With this option, employers may permit their employees to have up to \$230 per month deducted from their current monthly pay towards the actual cost of public transit before taxes are applied.

#### "Fare Share" Shared Cost Transportation Benefits

Employers share the cost of transit with employees, and everyone receives valuable tax savings.

### Commuter Choice Benefits

- Employers and employees will save in federal taxes.
- Employees will arrive to work relaxed because they have avoided the headache of rush-hour congestion.
- Choosing public transit reduces carbon dioxide emissions, making companies more attractive employers while being socially responsible.

### More Information on Commuter Choice

- Visit [www.CommuterChoice.com](http://www.CommuterChoice.com)
- The American Public Transportation Association: [www.apta.com](http://www.apta.com), click on "Government Affairs" and "Transit Commuter Benefit Program."
- The Federal Transit Administration: [www.fta.dot.gov](http://www.fta.dot.gov)
- The National Transit Benefit Association: [www.ntba.info](http://www.ntba.info)

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### RTS Employee Bus Pass Program

The Employee Bus Pass Program was created to mitigate traffic and parking problems at the University of Florida and Downtown and to encourage employees to use public transit. The goal of this program is to provide unlimited access to the transit system for employees of contracted participants to diminish the cost per trip compared to regular bus fare.

### RTS Employee Bus Pass Program Eligibility

Any employer with 100 employees or more is eligible to enter into an Employee Bus Pass Program contract with RTS.

### How the RTS Employee Bus Pass Program Works

When an employer enters into a one-year contract with RTS, that employer purchases unlimited access bus passes for all employees for one year at the rate of \$6.75 each. Any employee will be able to show an RTS bus driver his or her ID card and enjoy RTS fixed route services for free, with the exception of special services such as Gator Aider, etc. An RTS employee bus pass sticker may be required on employee IDs, depending on the company's identification card policy.

### How is the RTS Employee Bus Pass Program different from Commuter Choice?

The local **RTS Employee Bus Pass Program** has all of the environmental and economic benefits of the **Commuter Choice Program**, but with a few additional perks.

- The **RTS Employee Bus Pass Program** allows employees prepaid, unlimited access to RTS fixed route services.
- **Commuter Choice** requires employers or employees to purchase individual bus passes. With the **RTS Employee Bus Pass Program**, workers simply show their employee IDs and board the bus – it's that simple.
- An annual transaction between the participating employer and RTS ensures unlimited employee transportation for a year, unlike **Commuter Choice**, which requires constant monthly attention and upkeep.
- The **RTS Employee Bus Pass Program** doesn't require time from the employer's personnel to administer the program since an employee ID is all that is needed once a contract is completed.



\*Section 132 in the Internal Revenue Code, Title 26 of the United States Code, as modified by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and the Transportation Equality Act for the 21st Century.