




News

January 1, 2016 brought with it a new compliance deadline for employers in the Washington, D.C. area with 20 or more employees. The new law requires employers to provide commuter benefits to employees with the aim of encouraging employees to use mass transit to get to work rather than driving alone. The D.C. ordinance (the [Sustainable D.C. Omnibus Amendment Act of 2014, 20-142](#), Title III, Subtitle A) applies to employers with 20 or more full- or part-time employees working in the District of Columbia. A similar ordinance has been in effect in San Francisco since 2009 and another will go into effect in New York City, January 1, 2016. [More...](#)

IRS Issues Employer Guidelines for Adjusting Retroactive Parity of 2015 Commuter Benefits

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has clarified the procedures for

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Congratulations! 2015 Race To Excellence Awards Announced

Best Workplaces for Commuters, a program designed to encourage sustainable transportation innovation singled out 29 employers nationwide on Thursday, December 17, 2015 during the annual “Race to Excellence” Virtual Awards Ceremony. The awards recognize organizations who have taken exemplary steps to offer transportation options such as vanpool and transit benefits or telework and compressed workweek for their employees. “The annual Race to Excellence provides national recognition for employers who offer high level commuter benefits,” said Julie Bond, NCTR’s national program manager for Best Workplaces for Commuters. “Offering commuter benefits is a win-win situation for employees who change their commuting habits to save time, money, and stress and employers who gain a competitive edge in employee recruitment and retention. This year we recognized 29 Race to Excellence winners who have exceptional commute programs.” Best Workplaces for Commuters provides qualified employers with programs and services along with national recognition and an elite designation for offering outstanding commuter benefits, such as free or low cost bus passes. Employers that meet the National Standard of Excellence in commuter benefits, a standard established by the U.S. Environmental Protection

retroactively treating qualified transportation fringe benefits over \$130 per month in 2015. IRS Notice 2016-6, released on January 11, 2016, provides guidance related to the enactment of Section 105 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. Section 105 amended Section 132(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code to create parity, for periods after December 31, 2014. Therefore, the monthly qualified transportation fringe benefit exclusion for any transit pass or a commuter highway vehicle (e.g., vanpool) increased from \$130 to \$250 per participating employee for the period from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015. This notice addresses employers' questions regarding the retroactive application of the increased exclusion amount for 2015. Under the procedure, the retroactively nontaxable transit benefits for all quarters of 2015 would reduce reportable taxable amounts on the fourth-quarter Form 941, including wages, tips and compensation, Social Security wages, and Medicare. [More information.](#)

New and Renewing BWC Members

BWC Best SITE Renewals

- Access Tysons Corner Center Fairfax, VA
- Towers Crescent Fairfax, VA

New BWC Members

- City of Durham Durham, NC
- City of Knoxville Knoxville, TN
- Delaware Transit Corporation Wilmington, DE
- FOX Architects McLean, VA
- Freddie Mac McLean, VA
- Horizon Industries, Limited Vienna, VA
- John Snow, Inc. Arlington, VA
- Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. Reston, VA
- National Student Clearinghouse Herndon, VA
- Offender Aid & Restoration Arlington, VA

Agency (EPA) and maintained by the National Center for Transit Research (NCTR), can become a member of Best Workplaces for Commuters.

Did you miss the Virtual Awards Ceremony? [View the Recording Now!](#)

2015 Race to Excellence Winners

"Best Of" the Race to Excellence:

- Supporting Agency: reThink, Orlando, FL
- University: University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA
- Employer: The MITRE Corporation, McLean, VA



reThink employees show their excitement when they find out they won "Best Of" Supporting Agencies

Race to Excellence Winners - Supporting Agency:

- Commuter Services FDOT District One, Bartow, FL
- Commuter Services of PA, York, PA
- reThink, Orlando, FL
- SLOCOG/iRIDESHARE, San Luis Obispo, CA
- Suburban Transit Network, Inc. (TransNet), Blue Bell, PA
- Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC
- GVF, King of Prussia, PA

Race to Excellence Winners - University:

- Cal State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA
- North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- Stanford University, Stanford, CA

- Pinnacle Property Management Services Maitland, FL
- Pyramid Systems Fairfax, VA

Renewing BWC Members

- Hilton Garden Inn Arlington Shirlington Arlington, VA
- IBM Armonk, NY
- IBM Atlanta, GA
- IBM Austin, TX
- IBM Boca Raton, FL
- IBM Boulder, CO
- IBM Chicago, IL
- IBM Des Moines, IA
- IBM Debuque, IA
- IBM IBM Learning Center, NY
- IBM North Castle, NY
- IBM Oakbrook Terrace, IL
- IBM Pallisades, NY
- IBM Piscataway, NJ
- IBM Pittsburg, PA
- IBM Poughkeepsie, NY
- IBM Research Triangle Park, NC
- IBM San Jose, CA - Almaden
- IBM San Jose, CA - Silicon Valley
- IBM Schaumburg, IL
- IBM Somers, NY
- IBM Southfield, MI
- IBM Tucson, AZ
- IBM White Plains, NY
- Innovative Workflow Engineering, Inc. Fairfax, VA
- Interstate Moving | Relocation | Logistics Fairfax, VA
- Los Angeles World Airport Los Angeles, CA
- Mast General Store Knoxville, TN
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Golden, CO
- San Luis Obispo (SLO) Regional Rideshare San Luis Obispo, CA
- Synaptex Corporation Reston, VA
- The Cadmus Group Bethesda, MD
- The Cadmus Group Boulder, CO

- UC Davis, Davis, CA
- UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
- University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
- University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC
- University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- Virginia Tech Office of Alternative Transportation, Blacksburg, VA

Race to Excellence Winners - Employer:

- ActioNet, Inc., Vienna, VA
- Booz Allen Hamilton, McLean, VA
- Consumer Technology Association (CTA), Arlington, VA
- GoTriangle, Research Triangle Park, NC
- GVF, King of Prussia, PA
- Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- State of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ
- The MITRE Corporation, McLean, VA
- Tindale Oliver, Tampa, FL
- Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT

Race to Excellence Winner - Best SITE:

- Hacienda Pleasanton, CA

BWC Awards Presented at the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority Board Meeting

Best Workplaces for Commuters Project Manager, Julie Bond, presented the BWC awards at the [Greater Orlando Aviation](#)

- The Cadmus Group Portland, OR
- The Cadmus Group Waltham, MA
- Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA
- Volume Integration, Inc. Fairfax, VA
- XLA, Inc. Vienna, VA



[Authority](#) Board Meeting on December 9, 2015. Congratulations to the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority for the designation as a Best Workplace for Commuters. Thank you to [reThink](#) for working to make this happen!



Phil Brown, Executive Director of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA), Judith-Ann Jarrette, Manager, Noise Abatement & Sustainability (GOAA), Julie Bond, BWC Program Manager, Reginald D. Mells, Outreach Specialist, reThink.

Fairfax Honors their "First 50" Employers

Fairfax County and the National Center for Transit Research recognized organizations that have implemented green commuter programs at its Best Workplaces for Commuters event on December 8, 2015. More than 50 businesses, government agencies, associations and non-profits earned this designation, making Fairfax County the top jurisdiction in the country to recruit so many employers! [See all the photos!](#)



Fairfax County Department of Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny thanks Jeanette Phillips of Cornerstones (formerly

Reston Interfaith) for being one of Fairfax's "First 50" Best Workplaces for Commuters. Photo Credit: John Nash

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