



## **RideECO Covers SEPTA Permit Parking Costs!**

SEPTA commuters using RideECO can receive an additional \$25 RideECO voucher each month to pay for the cost of permit parking at 37 SEPTA Regional Rail stations (listed on page 3). This is \$25 in addition to the \$265 per month benefit for transit costs!

Section 132(f) the tax code that authorizes RideECO commuter benefits also allows for transit users to pay for their transit-related parking with pre-tax dollars. It is important to note that because strict verification requirements apply for the use of pre-tax dollars for parking, commuters who drop \$1.00 in the box each day to park do not qualify for this benefit because it is not a verifiable process. However, anyone at any time may initiate the Permit-Buy-Mail parking service and therefore become eligible for the additional \$25 RideECO parking benefit when it's combined with a monthly Trail Pass purchase.

Many commuters already use SEPTA's Permit-Buy-Mail program each month to purchase their parking permit and their monthly TrailPass. And because they are purchasing their parking permit directly from SEPTA, which is a verifiable process, from a provider that already accepts RideECO vouchers, we can offer the additional \$25 RideECO voucher to cover that purchase when it's combined with a monthly TrailPass purchase.

If you administer the RideECO program at your workplace, talk with your payroll department about setting up a separate deduction for parking. Qualifying employees can take \$25 each month for parking in addition to \$265 for transit fares. Then all you have to do is simply order more \$25 RideECO vouchers to accommodate them.\* Your employees will send all \$290 of their RideECO vouchers to SEPTA's vendor Edens Corporation to purchase their monthly parking permit and their monthly pass. More tax savings for everyone!

If you have any questions about adding this benefit for your employees, please contact a RideECO professional at 215-592-1800.

\*Remember, only SEPTA Permit-Buy-Mail commuters can take advantage of the additional parking benefit.

Employees interested in this additional benefit to cover monthly parking costs should call SEPTA's Parking Permit Program at 215-580-6576 to obtain an application.



## Answering Your Questions About RideECO & SEPTA's Permit Parking...

### *Q: Who is eligible for the extra \$25 benefit?*

A: Permit-Buy-Mail commuters ONLY! Ask your employees if they participate in Permit-Buy-Mail. If so, they can qualify for an extra \$25 benefit. However, they MUST also purchase their monthly TrailPass along with the monthly parking permit via mail to be eligible for the additional \$25 benefit, which is a transit-related parking expense.

### *Q: Why is it limited?*

A: The tax law that authorizes the RideECO program has provisions for both transit costs and transit-related parking expenses. Because there are strict guidelines in the tax code about the substantiation of transit-related parking expenses, only employees purchasing parking permits directly from SEPTA (a substantiated process), using RideECO vouchers, meet the guidelines to receive the extra \$25 RideECO voucher when it's combined with a monthly TrailPass purchase via mail.

### *Q: Is it possible for an employee to start the Permit-Buy-Mail service, if they haven't already?*

A: Yes. Participation in SEPTA's Permit-Buy-Mail can begin at anytime by calling 215-580-6576. However, they must purchase their parking permit AND monthly TrailPass via mail to receive the extra \$25 benefit.

### *Q: Do we have to offer this additional benefit?*

A: No. You are under no obligation to extend the additional \$25 deduction. It's your decision based on your employees and their commuting habits.

### *Q: We would like to offer the additional benefit. What do we do?*

A: First, talk with your payroll department or provider about setting up a separate deduction code for parking. (You'll want to make sure that the additional \$25 deduction for transit-related parking is separate from the money deducted for transit expenses.) Then order an extra \$25 RideECO voucher for those employees, in addition to the \$265 each month.

The employee will have to submit (via mail) the entire \$285 in RideECO vouchers to SEPTA for their parking permit AND monthly TrailPass purchase. (Also note that the employee must make up the difference if it costs more than \$290.)

**NOTE:** If you have employees who currently purchase their monthly pass and parking permit through the Permit-Buy-Mail program, you may immediately begin to offer these employees the additional \$25 per month to pay for their \$25 SEPTA parking permit. If you still have questions, please give us a call at 215-592-1800.



### **SEPTA Regional Rail Stations for Which Permit-Buy-Mail is Available:**

Ambler*	Media*
Ardmore*	Merion*
Berwyn	Morton*
Berwyn Church	Norristown Transportation Center
Bethayres	North Wales
Bethayres Church	Oreland
Bryn Mawr*	Overbrook
Chalfont	Paoli
Chestnut Hill West	Philmont
Clifton-Aldan	Primos
Devon	Radnor*
Elkins Park	Rosemont
Exton*	Secane*
Fort Washington	Strafford*
Glenside*	Strafford Church
Haverford	Villanova
Jenkintown*	Wayne*
Langhorne	Willow Grove
Lansdowne	Wynnewood
Marcus Hook	

\* These stations have waiting lists.

The cost of a parking permit at Fern Rock Transportation Center,\* if available, is \$32.00.