

# Naval Support Activity Bethesda Commuter News

## Important Events

### October 2011

#### October 12

-Transit Benefit Workshop

Building 1 Room 1643

1300

## SmartBenefit Program

Starting Nov 1, paper fare cards will not be available for distribution and SmartBenefits will be the only way to receive transit benefits. Regardless of your transit authority, rail, bus or vanpool, everyone must link a SmarTrip card in order to receive future benefits.

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO NOW? -->LINK YOUR SMARTRIP CARD

1. Obtain a SmarTrip card and Link it to the Mass Transit Benefit Program (MTBP)

<https://mtbp.whs.mil/Participant/Status.aspx>

\* Click 'Link SmarTrip card' and follow the on screen instructions.

\* About a week after you link your card, you will receive an email confirming that your SmartBenefits status is 'enrolled' or if 'not established', you will be provided detailed instructions to troubleshoot your card registration.

2. Your SmarTrip card needs to be registered with WMATA in your CAC First and Last name.

<https://smartrip.wmata.com/Registration/Register.aspx>

### NEED A SMARTRIP CARD?

You can use an existing SmarTrip card or purchase one at multiple locations across the National Capital Region. A listing of vendors is available at

<http://www.wmata.com/fares/purchase/where.cfm#retail>

### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO LATER? -->MAKE A CLAIM

In Oct, all MTBP participants will make their first web based claim for electronic benefits to be provided on Nov 1. Once your SmartBenefits account is established, you will receive monthly claim reminders.

<http://www.whs.mil/DFD/PSD%20Services/ClaimInstructions.cfm>

### WHERE TO FIND COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS, TUTORIAL AND FAQs

An easy to follow tutorial is available by clicking [here](#).

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## Annual Commuter Survey

NSA Bethesda will soon distribute our fifth consecutive Annual Commuter Survey in October. The survey gathers information that will help NSA Bethesda understand how employees commute to the campus and allow you to provide feedback on ways to improve this commute.

The fifth edition of the survey will act as a benchmark for future surveys due to the recent integration. We need your insight and participation to gain the overall picture of current commuting patterns and areas of opportunity.

The survey has a list of standard questions that takes roughly five minutes to complete. The results of the survey help NSA Bethesda to focus its energy on the transportation re-

lated issues that matter to our staff.

As a result of surveys in the past we were able to implement solutions that have benefited those commuting to and from NSA Bethesda to include:

- \* Bus Shelters
- \* Additional bicycle racks
- \* Dedicated bicycle lanes
- \* Numerous planned improvement to the MD 355 South Gate Crossing

The survey will run the week of 3-7 October.

To take the survey type the following link in your web browser:

<http://www.bethesda.med.navy.mil/css>



## In the Spotlight

### MTA Commuter Bus Options. . .

If you are coming from the following counties, the Commuter Bus program, a service provided by the state of Maryland, is available to you:

Anne Arundel  
Charles  
Calvert  
Frederick  
Howard  
Montgomery  
Queen Anne  
Washington

The coach buses provide a comfortable commute to work and can be paid for with funds from the transit benefit program.

To pay for the bus and the metro, you will need to obtain a Transit Link Card. This card provides you with unlimited number of trips on the commuter buses, the Metro and local bus services on a monthly basis.

Drop off points vary from Shady Grove and Silver Spring Metro stations to points in downtown D.C. where you can pick up the Red line for a quick commute to work.

For more information on the buses please click on this link: <http://mta.maryland.gov/commuter-bus>

For detailed information on the transit link card costs please click on this link:

<http://mta.maryland.gov/category/catalog/bus-passes-and-tickets/commuter-bus?page=1>

To apply for the transit benefit please visit this website:

<http://www.whs.mil/DFD/Info/NCRTransitSubsidy.cfm>



## Alternate Parking Locations



As an alternative to parking at Metro stations, staff could park in Downtown Bethesda and catch the red line to Medical Center Metrorail. Active duty military and civilians could apply for the transit benefit to pay for the metrorail costs.

Parking is available at many locations in downtown Bethesda. Many of the sites are within close proximity to mass transit options that will connect you to the NSA Bethesda installation.

The cost for parking is \$140 per month or .75 cents for per hour for long term parking. Parking can be paid for with cash, cell phone, cash key or you can park at a garage with an attendant.

For a complete listing of parking in Bethesda please visit this site:

<http://www.downtownbethesda.com/guide/parking.php>

If parking at Metro stations is more convenient for you, the Grovesnor-Strathmore and White Flint stations have available parking and are located one and two stops up on the Metro Red line.

Payment for parking is accepted on a daily rate at \$4.75. Additional information can be found by clicking on this link:

<http://www.wmata.com/rail/parking/>

Ryan Emery  
Transportation Program Coordinator  
NSA Bethesda  
301-319-3818  
[Ryan.emery@med.navy.mil](mailto:Ryan.emery@med.navy.mil)

**Commuter Questions?** Please email me at [ryan.emery@med.navy.mil](mailto:ryan.emery@med.navy.mil)

