

## **Tax Package Includes Increase of Commuter Benefit Monthly Commuter Benefit Set to Rise to \$255/month in 2016**

**Washington, DC December 18, 2015**– An end of year tax deal has been struck in the last legislative hours of the year, this package includes a provision making permanent commuter benefit parity. With passage of this important legislation, parity is retroactively set to \$250/month for 2015 and increases to \$255/month in 2016 for transit, vanpool, and parking.

ACT President Rob Henry had the following to say about the inclusion of the commuter benefit: “Inclusion of commuter benefit parity is a major victory for ACT. ACT has been working to establish permanent parity for over a decade. But more importantly, this provision is a victory for commuters. ACT and commuters across the nation celebrate the inclusion of parity. This provision will eliminate the financial incentive to drive alone and will increase transit and vanpool usage. Further, this will help both transit riders as well as drivers who will benefit from less congested roads.” Rob Henry added, “I want to thank Senator Schumer, Congressman King, Congressman McGovern, Congressman Blumenauer, and the many, many bi-partisan Members of Congress who have helped support and advance the transit benefit.”

### **What Others are Saying:**

#### ***Meltem Korkmazel, Edenred COO***

*“This is such important legislation to the millions of transit riders who have been impacted by the lack of parity. These are commuters who have the longest and most expensive commutes and who without parity, likely will be forced back into a car and add to our already congested roads”, adding “The legislation passed today will right this wrong and steer American commuters in the right direction.”*

#### ***Larry Hanley, ATU International President:***

*“We applaud Congress for permanently increasing this commuter tax benefit that will provide much needed financial assistance to working families,” said ATU International President Larry Hanley. “The average American family already devotes nearly 20 percent of its income to transportation – second only to housing and this means Americans have one less expense to worry about. This tax benefit also encourages more people to use public transportation, which means fewer cars stuck in traffic, decreased pollution, less dependence on foreign oil, healthier communities, and a stronger economy.”*

#### ***Valarie J. McCall, American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Chair and board member of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority:***

*‘This is a terrific moment for the millions of Americans who use public transportation and for the public transportation industry,’*

#### ***Michael Melaniphy, APTA President and CEO:***

*‘Permanent parity with the parking benefit has been a long time coming.....federal tax law will no longer favor driving and parking over public transportation. It is sound policy that will promote greater usage of public transit.’*

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Jason Pavluchuk at 202-285-6414 or email at [Pavluchuk@actwb.org](mailto:Pavluchuk@actwb.org)

***About ACT: The Association for Commuter Transportation is a national organization dedicated to providing commuters with options such as carpooling, vanpooling, transit, and telework. ACT members include public and private transit providers, local governments, transportation organizations, universities, and employers who all work together to expand transportation options for commuters.***