

Subject: HRD- Transit Subsidy

**FY 2019 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

4/17/2018

The following information is provided in response to a request made by John Vihstadt via email on 3/18/2018, regarding the following question:

TRANSIT SUBSIDY: In FY 2018, we increased the transit subsidy by \$50 per month. Do we have data to show that this increase has encouraged anyone to move from car to transit, or is this benefit merely being utilized by employees who already use transit as their commuting mode of choice? If mostly the latter, doesn't this undercut the rationale of encouraging people to convert to transit? Despite the increased subsidy, how many previous transit riders have fallen away due to concerns about Metro reliance and safety?

The increased subsidy was largely in response to Metro's numerous fare increases in recent years. By increasing our subsidy, we were trying to maintain Metro ridership, not increase it. We do not track transit riders that have fallen away due to Metro concerns.

As a related data point, exit interviews from the FY 2017 and year-to-date FY 2018 survey reported that of all the County benefits, the commuting benefits (parking/metro subsidy) received the highest dissatisfaction ranking by departing employees.

We continue to have approximately 500 employees receiving SmartTrip benefits.