

## **INCREASE IN TRANSIT BENEFITS PROVIDED IN STIMULUS PACKAGE**

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009, available benefits under § 132(f) of the Internal Revenue Code in relation to transit benefits will be increased.

Specifically, the provisions of ARRA provide parity for transit benefits in relation to the benefits allowed for parking. As a result, effective with "months beginning on or after the date of enactment" of ARRA, the maximum monthly benefit for transit (currently \$120) will be increased to \$230 to equal the maximum monthly amount allowed for parking for 2009. As the bill was enacted on February 17, 2009, the effective date for the increased transit limit is March 1, 2009.

In addition, ARRA provides that the parity between transit and parking will remain in place for the 2010 tax year as well. Therefore the maximum limits for transit and parking benefits will be the same next year. HOWEVER, the parity provision does not extend past December 31, 2010. Absent any legislation to the contrary, the transit benefit limits beginning January 1, 2011 may again be less than those provided for parking benefits.

For a copy of the ARRA legislation impacting transit benefits, please click the link provided below and proceed to Part VI titled Parity for Transportation Fringe Benefits:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

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