



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240



Memorandum

JUL 26 2000

To: Bureau Directors

From: John Berry
Assistant Secretary- Policy, Management and Budget

Subject: Implementation of the Department's Transportation Subsidy Program; Action Required

As you may know, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13150, titled Federal Workforce Transportation, on April 22, 2000. The Executive Order requires that Federal agencies implement a transportation fringe benefit program by October 1, 2000, and that agencies in the National Capital Region implement a "transit pass" program for all qualifying employees in the same time frame.

The Executive Order builds upon the previous base of legislation aimed at encouraging agencies to promote the use of mass transit for commuting to work. This includes the Federal Employees Clean Air Incentives Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-72), and the more recent Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (P.L. 105-178).

On May 28, 1999, the Department launched its Transportation Fringe Benefit Program, which provides tax incentives to employees who use public transit in commuting to work. This program has been successfully implemented on a nationwide basis, and thus brings the Department into compliance with the first of the two major provisions contained in the Executive Order.

To implement the remaining requirement for a transit pass program in the Capital Region by October 1, 2000, a Departmental team, representing the Offices of the Solicitor, Budget, Financial Management, Personnel Policy, and the National Business Center, has been formed to carry out this program. The Departmental team has concluded that administration of the "transit pass" program in both Washington and elsewhere-- should be contracted out to the Department of Transportation-- which has successfully implemented programs of this type for other Federal agencies in 30 major metropolitan areas.

I am sure that you recognize the important "quality of life" improvements associated with a transportation pass program. For this reason, I want to make sure that the program is made available to all qualifying DOI employees nationwide. By Friday, July 28, please designate a person who will represent your bureau on the DOI team to work through the arrangements and schedule for implementing this program nationally. This information should be provided to Rita Merritt-Owens, Office of Financial Management, (Rm. 5412) at (202) 208-4701.