



Greetings San Mateo County commuters,

Welcome to the first edition of the **Shift** quarterly newsletter! **Shift** is the County's Commuter Benefit Program and our goal is to support you in commuting in ways which are better for your wallet, your mental and physical health, and the environment.

Our program is flexible! There is no deadline for you to sign up, and you do not need to use the benefits every day to be eligible for them. We know your commuting needs can change from day to day, so **Shift** provides a suite of options to help you get to work.

There are over 1,200 employees already benefitting from **Shift**, whether they commute by transit, vanpool, bike, walk, carpool or telework. Join them and make your commute easier, greener and cheaper. [Click here for an overview of our programs](#) or [visit our website](#).

And keep reading.... We have some exciting news to share with you about:

- Increased Transit subsidies to \$150 month and Commute Cash \$500 per year
- Free Caltrain Go Pass pilot program for County Center employees
- Vanpool appreciation and information session today!
- LyftLine, Uber Pool and Paratransit now eligible Transit Subsidy expenses
- Our new name and look!

We love hearing from you – don't hesitate to reach out with questions or comments!

Thank you,

Shift Staff

(650) 363-1933

commute@smcgov.org

Increased Commute Subsidies!

We know this might be old news to some of you, but this being our first newsletter we thought we'd take the opportunity to brag about it one last time! We are so proud to announce, that on July 23rd, the Board of Supervisors approved several improvements to the **Shift** program, including:



Doubling the Transit subsidy from \$75 to \$150 per month!

- You might use this money to buy a bus pass, pay for BART tickets, ride CalTrain, or to pay for a vanpool, or some other mass transit.
- [Click here](#) for information on how to sign up for the Transit Subsidy.

Increasing the Commute Cash limit to almost \$500 per employee per year!

- These are cash rewards sent to employees who telework, or carpool, bike, or walk to work.
- [Click here](#) for information on how to sign up for Commute Cash.

If have any questions or need assistance figuring out which subsidy might be right for you, please reach out to the **Shift** staff at commute@smcgov.org or (650) 363-1933.

County Center employees can ride Caltrain Free!



Another very exciting upgrade to our program offerings is the launch of a pilot program to allow County employees of 400, 455, and 555 County Center, Maguire Jail, and the new ROC building in Redwood City to apply for a free Caltrain Go Pass for 2019 and 2020! These Go Passes allow commuters to travel anywhere along the Caltrain line, any day of the week, for an unlimited number of rides!

Interested in applying? It's easy! [Click here](#) for instructions.

Please note, you *can* get a Go Pass *and also* get the Transit Subsidy or Commute Cash. The Go Pass is an entirely separate benefit from those other two programs.

Vanpool Appreciation + Information Session

Today!
Wednesday, December 4, 2019
Room 101, 1st floor
455 County Center
Redwood City

Appreciation from 1:00 – 2:00pm
Information from 2:00 – 2:30pm
Snacks provided!

Vanpools are groups of 5 to 14 employees who collectively rent a van which they drive in to work together. So if you don't live on a transit line, but you still don't want to drive yourself, a vanpool might be right for you! Join us in celebrating the County's trailblazing vanpool groups, hear about what it's like to ride in a vanpool from your colleagues, and learn about how you can join one, or start your own.

If you can't make the meeting, but would like some information on vanpools, check out [our intranet page](#), or reach out to us as commute@smcgov.org.



Using your \$150 for paratransit, LyftLine, Uber Pool

Did you know you can now use your \$150/month Transit subsidy to pay for trips you take to and from work on Paratransit, or using LyftLine or UberPool? Per IRS guidelines, these shared modes of travel are eligible expenses!



[Click here](#) for information on how to get your Commuter Credit Card and access these benefits. The instructions are on the final page of the linked document.

Our Rebrand!

Some of you may have noticed that all of these program offerings are being advertised under a name you do not recognize, and that's because we've re-branded! This program, formerly known as the Commute Alternatives Program, or CAP, has been renamed to **Shift**.



We wanted to give a sincere thank you to everyone who provided us with feedback, including the Wellness Champions, those who engaged with us at the Benefits Fairs!

A graphic featuring the text "Employee Spotlight" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered and flanked by two yellow spotlights with black handles, pointing towards the text from the left and right sides.

Employee Spotlight

We want to hear from you! How long have you been commuting? How do you get to/from work? What do you like about your commute? Who have you met?

Tell us your story, send in a photo with a funny caption, turn your commute experience into a meme... we'd love to share it here!

Shift

Employee Commute Program

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