



January 6, 2012

### **Congress Reduces Commuter Tax Benefit**

Just before Christmas, Congress eliminated a public transportation commuter benefit of \$230 per month. Effective January 1, 2012, the benefit reverted to \$125 per month per commuter. At the same time, the monthly parking benefit increased to \$240.

“While Willamette Valley commuters will be impacted, the cost of a monthly pass for any of the bus systems in Oregon is well within the allowable amount,” according to Roxanne Daniel, Cherriots Rideshare and Outreach Coordinator. “With the cost of a monthly Cherriots Bus Pass at only \$40.00, most commuters can still take full advantage of the pre-tax benefit. If their employer offers payroll deduction, the cost of the pass is deducted pre-tax, saving both the employer and the employee money.”

Another resource commuters can use to save money is the new free online ride matching tool called Drive Less Connect. People register at [drivelessconnect.com](http://drivelessconnect.com) and create a personal profile that matches them with other commuters looking to carpool or vanpools and even cyclists can find bike buddies.

For more information about regional transit, transportation options or commuter tax benefits visit the Cherriots website ([www.cherriots.org](http://www.cherriots.org)) or contact Cherriots Rideshare at [rideshare@cherriots.org](mailto:rideshare@cherriots.org).