



ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
**TRANSPORTATION
BENEFITS GUIDE**



The background of the page is a photograph of a modern brick building with multiple windows. In the foreground, there is a large rack filled with many bicycles parked on a paved area. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

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LET'S TALK TRANSPORTATION

Since 2014, Arlington Transportation Partners (ATP) has worked with Arlington Public Schools (APS) employees to encourage healthier, safer, and sustainable transportation options. This is part of Arlington County's goal to reduce local congestion.

ATP is a proud partner in supporting and promoting transportation demand management (TDM), to reduce the drive alone rate in Arlington.

Today, more than 40 schools and sites are encouraging their staff and teachers to adopt new transportation options. ATP's programs are tailored to meet the unique needs of each school. They encourage carpooling, riding transit, walking, and biking to work.

ATP has empowered APS employees to embrace change, become more active, and connect with each other.



APS Employee Benefits

TDM Subsidy*

Provided by APS, this subsidy provides a monthly stipend for taking transit, walking, biking, or carpooling. Contact TDM@apsva.us to enroll.

- Carpools: 2-person carpools receive a \$15 subsidy per person; 3-person carpools receive a \$30 subsidy per person. All carpoolers must be APS employees to receive the benefit.
- Walking and biking: \$30 per month
- Transit: \$60 per month

**Employees must commit to an option at least three days per week to receive the stipend.*

Enrollment and Certification Requirements

Each month, employees must certify that they continue to use the form of transportation for which they are receiving a benefit. The TDM Administrator will send a recertification reminder on the fifteenth of each month. Employees must recertify by the first of the next month to continue receiving their benefit.

Transit FSA

Administered by CareFirst, the Transit FSA functions as a pre-tax benefit. Employees elect a certain amount of money—**up to \$300 a month**—to be taken from their checks prior to taxes, which is then put towards their transit costs. You can use the Transit FSA to pay for public transit—including train, subway, bus, or vanpool—as part of your daily commute to and from work. Gas, tolls, and other driving related expenses are not eligible for this benefit.

Capital Bikeshare

APS employees are eligible for a **free annual** Capital Bikeshare corporate membership. It's a simple, low cost, and fun way to travel around.

- Unlimited rides under 45 minutes. Rides longer than 45 minutes and e-bike rentals have additional usage fees.
- Use code **CABI4APS** (cabi4aps) to waive the annual membership fee when joining on [CapitalBikeshare.com](https://www.CapitalBikeshare.com).



ATP, APS, and *Champions*

Schools that promote sustainable transportation options to employees through ATP's *Champions* program have the unique opportunity to earn local and national recognition.

Champions activities are designed to engage and encourage APS employees to try new transportation options, including walking, biking, carpooling, or riding transit.

Through *Champions*, ATP will:

- Support staff by providing resources and safety equipment to those who walk, bike, carpool, or ride transit
- Provide priority carpool parking and form new carpools
- Host bike, walk, transit, or carpool education events for staff

And much more!

Benefits of *Champions*

Schools participating in *Champions* increase their sustainability by:

- Reducing traffic around their school and surrounding neighborhood
- Improving employees' health and productivity
- Making active transportation central to their staff's commute



YOUR COMMUTE OPTIONS



Using Transit Around Arlington

With 11 Metrorail stations and hundreds of Metrobus and Arlington Transit (ART) stops, Arlington is well connected by transit. Every school and administrative site has at least two different bus lines stopping nearby, while a handful are walking distance to a Metrorail station. Be sure to have your SmarTrip card registered online to transfer your balance in case of a lost card. This allows for your card to be stored on your phone; funds are then password protected, and you can utilize the tap to pay function at fare stations.

ART

Arlington Transit operates in Arlington County, supplementing Metrobus with routes across the County, as well as connecting neighborhoods to Metrorail and Virginia Railway Express (VRE).

[ArlingtonTransit.com](https://www.arlingtontransit.com)

Commuter Rail and Bus

VRE, Omniride, and the Loudoun County Commuter Bus are all long-haul options that offer trips/routes into Arlington County for commuters. Buses can be paid for with SmarTrip® cards. VRE requires separate passes.

MetroAccess

Shared-ride, door-to-door, paratransit service for people with disabilities that prevent them from using bus or rail. Rides must be scheduled in advance and pre-paid.

[MetroAccess Paratransit | WMATA.com](https://www.wmata.com/metroaccess/paratransit/)

Metrobus

WMATA Metrobuses provide more than 400,000 trips each weekday, serving 11,500 bus stops in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

[WMATA.com](https://www.wmata.com)

Metrorail

WMATA Metrorail provides transit service for more than 600,000 customers a day throughout the Washington, DC area. It serves 98 stations in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

[WMATA.com](https://www.wmata.com)

STAR

A paratransit component of Arlington Transit, STAR serves Arlington residents who have difficulty using public fixed route transit due to the effects of age or disability. STAR is a shared ride paratransit service, with riders sharing trips if they are generally headed in the same direction. Trips must be scheduled in advance.

[ArlingtonTransit.com](https://www.arlingtontransit.com)

Get on Your Bikes and Ride

Arlington is a great place to ride your bike. The County has almost 200 miles of shared-use, off-street trails, bike lanes, and on-street bike routes. The County ranks among the most bike friendly jurisdictions in the nation. Arlington is currently designated a Gold Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Bike Amenities for APS Employees

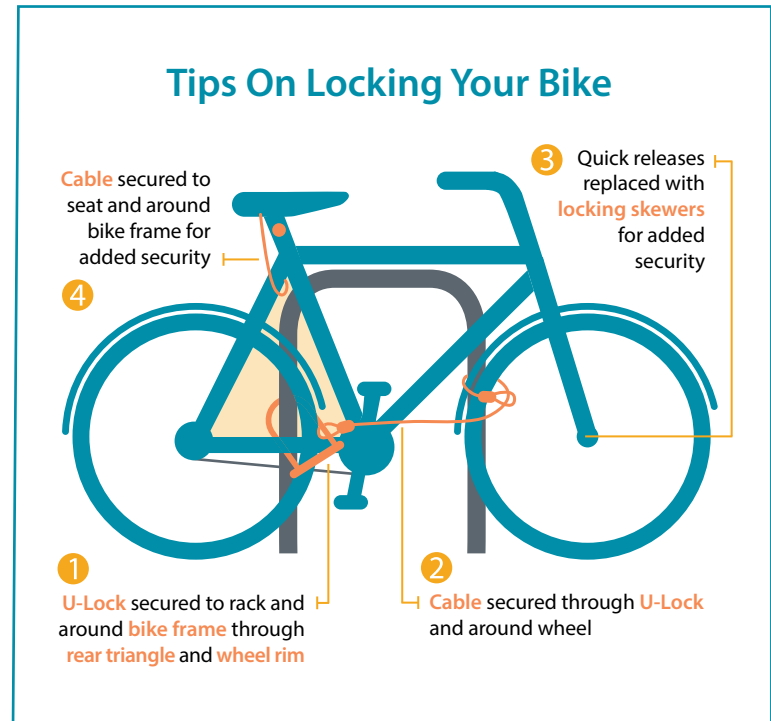
- Bike racks outside the schools for staff, students, and visitors.
- Indoor bike storage rooms, showers, and/or lockers available to staff. Check with your administrator to confirm if your school provides these amenities and learn the process for accessing the bike room.

Bike Maps and Information

- Arlington County Bike Map
- Arlington County's **Bicycle Comfort Level Map**: Research based color-coded markings to help cyclists plan their route based on comfort and stress levels.
- Guaranteed Ride Home information
- Metro System Map

How We Support Biking at APS

- ATP encourages staff to participate in annual **Bike, Walk, and Roll to School Day** festivities.
- ATP supports individual schools interested in applying for national recognition like a **Bicycle Friendly Business** from the League of American Bicyclists.



Capital Bikeshare Corporate Memberships

How To Sign Up

- Visit **CapitalBikeshare.com** and select 'Join'
- Verify your cell phone number and use your APS email address to create an account
- Select "Join and save" under annual memberships
- Enter payment information for any usage fees incurred (rides longer than 45 minutes, e-bike rentals)
- Select 'Enter promo code' at the bottom of the page
- Use the program code "CABI4APS" (cabi4aps) and verify your APS email address using the link sent to your email
- The total cost will update to \$0.00. Select "Purchase" to complete your registration

How It Works

- Download the Capital Bikeshare or Lyft app to locate available docks or bikes near you
- Use the app, credit card used during registration, or the key to unlock bikes
- The first 45 minutes of each ride are free; usage fees apply to rides longer than 45 minutes and e-bike rentals



Walk the APS Way

Many staff and students enjoy walking to school. It's a great way to include some exercise in your daily routine, wake up, and clear your head before a day of learning.

Arlington is a Platinum Level Walk Friendly Community, one of only five around the country that have received this rating by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center. The benefits of living in a walkable community are numerous including wellness, mobility, economic, environmental, and social.

How ATP Supports Walking at APS

- Encourages staff to participate in annual **Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day** festivities
- Host, along with WalkArlington, Neighborhood Walking Tours for interested staff to explore the streets around their school, learn about transportation, and discuss Smart Growth and Complete Streets.

Walkabout Maps

WalkArlington's **Walkabout Maps** are a valuable resource to help you establish or grow your walking routine. Use these maps to figure out the best walking route to the Metro, bus stop, or BikeShare station nearest you.





Share the Ride

Carpooling

Sharing the ride to work is one of the best ways for APS employees to commute. Buddy up with a colleague or two (or more!) to carpool on your way to school and discover the benefits of 'pooling.

Perks of carpooling

- Carpoolers can take advantage of HOV-3 lanes to avoid certain tolls or speed up their commute.
- Carpools using HOV lanes can shave off **up to 30 minutes** of commute time, meaning less time in traffic, less gas wasted idling, and lower stress.

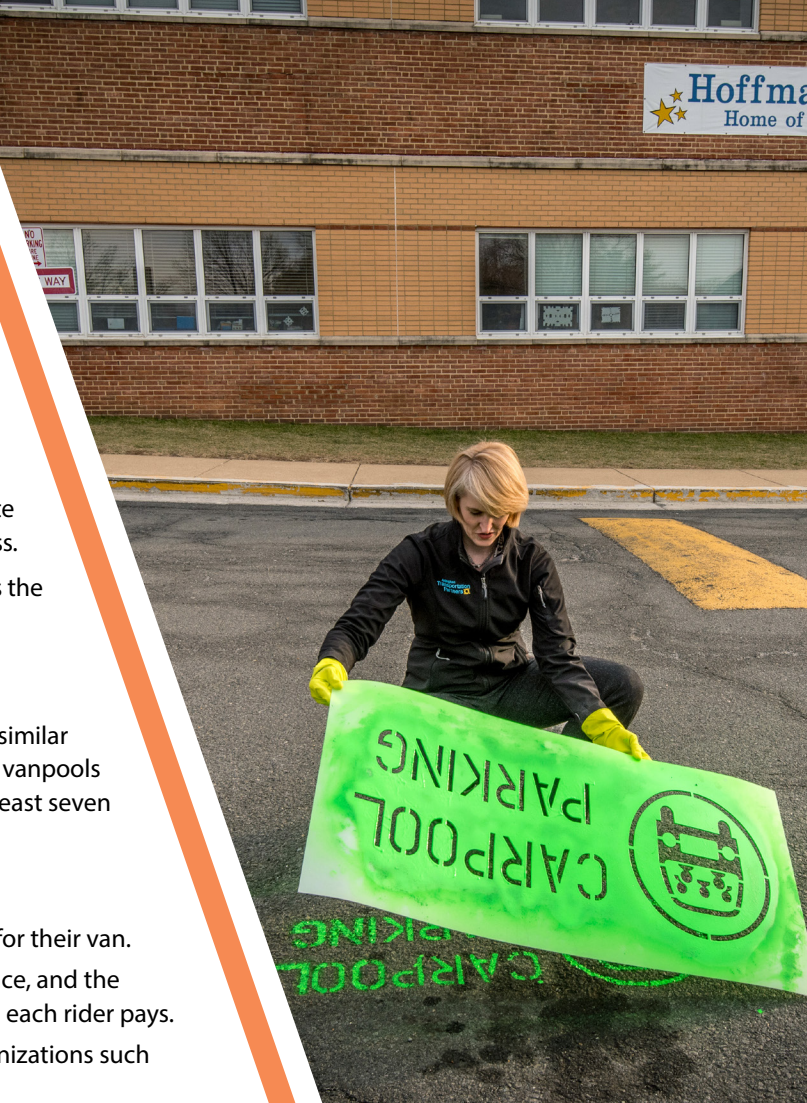
Many APS schools have dedicated carpool parking for staff, which reduces the time you spend looking for a parking spot.

Vanpooling

Vanpools are like carpools—they consist of a driver and passengers with similar commute origins and destinations. However, the similarities end there as vanpools accommodate four to 15 passengers and must use a vehicle that has at least seven available seats.

Perks of vanpooling

- Each vanpool rider can use their transit FSA of up to \$300 per month for their van.
- Vanpool members pay a fee that covers van costs such as gas, insurance, and the monthly lease on the van. The more members in the vanpool, the less each rider pays.
- Enjoy additional financial incentives for vanpooling provided by organizations such as Vanpool Alliance or Commuter Connections.



Guaranteed Ride Home

What is Guaranteed Ride Home and How Does It Work?

The Guaranteed Ride Home program provides commuters who walk, bike, vanpool, carpool, or take transit to work at least twice a week with a free ride in the case of unexpected interruptions to your commute. Once registered, the program offers six free rides a year. This can be helpful in the case of unexpected emergencies, like bad weather, personal illness, or needing to pick up a child, as well as unscheduled overtime.

The program is completely free and is meant to offer commuters peace of mind when they choose alternatives to driving alone. Taking advantage of this service is easy too; just visit:

CommuterConnections.org/Guaranteed-Ride-Home



Apps for an Easier Commute

Navigation and Transit

Citymapper | Google Maps | Moovit | Transit

These apps will help you navigate from point A to B by displaying all possible route options, including the metro and various bus systems throughout the DC region.

They offer real-time arrival information to avoid delays and display micro-mobility and active transportation options, like e-bikes, e-scooters, and bikeshare. This combination enables users to see all their options before picking their preferred mode.

Active Transportation and Micromobility

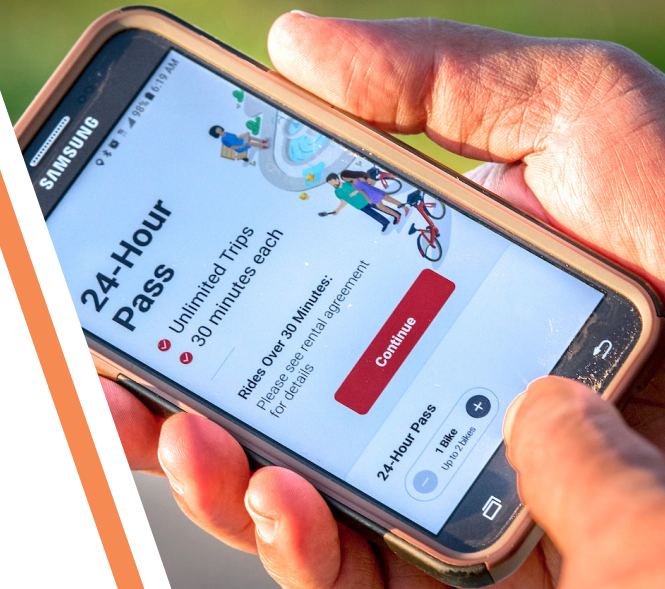
Capital Bikeshare

The Capital Bikeshare app allows users to easily locate stations and view how many bikes and e-bikes are available. You can also reserve a bike ahead of time and unlock it once you arrive at the station. Don't forget to bring a helmet.

Bird | Lime | Spin

Dockless options in Arlington help you reach your final destination, especially when other modes don't allow direct access. Each system requires the user to download a separate app to activate and find devices.

Visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Transportation/Scooters-and-Dockless-Bikeshare> for more information.



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