

**For Immediate Release  
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**UT Earns Latest Best Workplaces for Commuters Designation**

KNOXVILLE, TN. – The University of Tennessee has just earned EPA's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> designation. The Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> program recognizes employers whose commuter benefits reach the *National Standard of Excellence*. Participating companies earn the designation "Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>"—a mark of excellence for environmentally and employee-friendly organizations. To earn the designation, employers must provide at least a \$30 per month transit or vanpool benefit in addition to participating in a commuter program such as the Knoxville Regional Smart Trips program. The University of Tennessee provides their employees, both faculty and staff, with the opportunity to purchase semester KAT bus passes for only \$35 for spring and fall semesters and \$20 for the summer semester. UT students are also eligible for the same inexpensive semester bus passes as faculty and staff.

The University of Tennessee is one of two area employers with the Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> designation. The Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission has also recently received the Best Workplaces for Commuters designation as well.

Smart Trips has been working with the University over the past year to provide an employee commuter program that focuses on the over 6,200 faculty and staff that work at the Knoxville area. The Smart Trips program is offered in conjunction with the KAT services already provided throughout the UT campus and the Knoxville area.

Smart Trips works with employers throughout the East Tennessee non-attainment region to help develop commuter programs for employees. These programs encourage employees to use alternative transportation to get to work, such as carpool, vanpool, taking the KAT bus, bicycling or walking. By using alternative transportation, commuters can help to reduce the number of drive-alone miles, which saves them money and helps to lessen air pollution.

Area employers that currently provide Smart Trips programs to their employees include: Alcoa, City of Alcoa, City of Knoxville, Community Shares, Covenant Health, Crown Plaza, Denso, the Duncan Federal Building, Edison Schools, First Tennessee Bank, Goody's Corporate Offices, Home Federal Bank, ImagePoint, Kimberly-Clark, Knox County, KUB, Lakeshore Mental Health Institute, Metropolitan Planning Commission, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, SAIC, TVA, and Y-12. For general information or if you are interested in becoming a Smart Trips employer, visit <http://smartrips.knoxtrans.org> or call 215-2916. For more information on Best Workplaces for Commuters, visit [www.bwc.gov](http://www.bwc.gov).

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