

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MASON TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD APPROVING THE TRAVEL AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY (POL-402) AND SUPERSEDING AND REPLACING IN FULL ANY PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED OR APPROVED MASON TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRAVEL AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY (POL-402), INCLUDING RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. 2021-37.**

**WHEREAS**, the Mason Transit Authority ("MTA") Travel and Travel Reimbursement Policy (POL-402) was previously approved by the Mason Transit Authority Board on December 21, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the policy is now being updated to (a) clarify ambiguous sections relating to reimbursements, (b) clarify non-reimbursable expenses, (c) Use of personal vehicles and resulting reimbursement rate; and (d) accommodations; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MASON TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD** that the attached revised MTA Travel and Travel Reimbursement Policy (POL-402) is approved and shall supersede and replace in full any previously adopted or approved MTA Travel and Travel Reimbursement Policy (POL-402), including rescinding Resolution No. 2021-37; and

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

Signed by:



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Randy Neatherlin, Chair

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Wes Martin, Vice Chair

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Cyndy Brehmeyer, Authority Member

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Tom Gilmore, Authority Member

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Richard Lee, Authority Member

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Signed by:



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Pat Tarzwell, Authority Member

Signed by:

*Sharon Trask*

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Sharon Trask, Authority Member

Signed by:

*Amy Asher*

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

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Amy Asher, General Manager

Signed by:

*Robert W. Johnson*

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Robert W. Johnson, Legal Counsel

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*Tracy Becht*

ATTEST:

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Tracy Becht, Clerk of the Board

2/20/2026

DATE:

	<p><b>Title:</b> Travel and Travel Reimbursement Policy</p> <p><b>Number:</b> 402</p> <p><b>Effective:</b> February 17, 2026</p> <p><b>Cancel:</b> Resolution No. 2021-37</p> <p><b>Prepared by:</b> Amy Asher General Manager</p> <p><b>Approved by:</b> Authority Board Resolution No. 2026-09</p>
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**POL-402 TRAVEL AND TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to authorize travel on behalf of Mason Transit Authority (MTA) and to reimburse employees for travel and business expenses that are compliant with state and federal laws ensuring the responsible use of taxpayer dollars. This policy applies to all MTA employees, officially recognized volunteers of MTA and members of the Board (herein after “employee” refers also to officially recognized volunteers and members of the Board.)

**1.0 Travel Authorization and Approval**

An employee is considered to be in a travel status when more than 50 miles from the agency and the employees’ residence, using the most direct route.

The employee’s manager must authorize all travel, related expenses and alternative travel requests in advance. The General Manager must also authorize all out-of-state travel requests. This authorization is obtained by completing a Travel Form prior to making any reservations.


Prudent judgment is expected when incurring travel expenses while conducting official MTA business. Employees should consider methods of travel, total costs of travel modes taken, and times of travel which minimize costs to MTA. Employees who, for personal reasons, extend travel or travel to alternate destinations cannot incur additional expenses for the agency.

MTA intends to reimburse using standard practices such as those set by the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the Federal General Services Administrations (GSA). MTA adheres to IRS Code Section 463, under “An Accountable Plan.”

The team manager and/or general manager is authorized to administer the procedures for reimbursement of travel expenses to allow for full flexibility when necessary, provided that reasons for deviations from the policy are fully documented.

**2.0 Travel Expenses and Allowances**

MTA reimburses employees for allowable expenses incurred while traveling on MTA business. Once approved, travel arrangements may be charged to a MTA credit card or

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personal credit card to be reimbursed to the employee. Non-reimbursable items listed in section 11.0 may not be charged to an MTA credit card.

**3.0 Airfare**

MTA will cover employee cost for actual coach airfare for the approved travel. Reservations should be made as far in advance as possible to take advantage of the most economical rate. The employee must pay additional charges for personal detours, flight upgrades, reservation changes (unless beyond control of the employee), etc. Baggage fee for one checked bag will be reimbursed.

**4.0 Agency and Personal Vehicles**


Agency vehicles are available for business use. If an agency vehicle is unavailable, employees may use personal vehicles and be reimbursed for mileage at the IRS business rate. If an agency vehicle is authorized and available, but the employee chooses to use a personal vehicle, reimbursement will be limited to the GSA rate applicable when a government furnished automobile is authorized and available. **WSTIP provides Auto-Physical Damage and Liability coverage for rental cars acquired and driven for Member approved official business. However, with regard to Liability coverage with an employee’s own personal vehicle, WSTIP is secondary (to the employee’s own insurance coverage) for Member approved official business, and WSTIP does not cover property damage (auto-physical) for personal vehicle use.**

MTA Board Members are reimbursed for use of their personal vehicles at the privately owned vehicle rate and per the MTA bylaws.

Employees should carpool to the extent practicable when two or more employees are traveling to the same destination for the same period of time. A vehicle may be taken home for travel the following day.

Please note that family members may not travel in agency vehicles, due to insurance liability issues.

Employees should use airport shuttles, taxis, rideshare services or public transportation onto their destination whenever possible. If a rental car is necessary, reimbursement is limited to the cost of a compact car, unless three or more employees are traveling together.

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**5.0 Parking, Taxi, Rideshare, and Tolls**

MTA will reimburse employees for business-related parking fees. Airport parking costs will be reimbursed for more than one day only in off-premise parking lots (park and shuttle). The airport parking garage should only be used to park for one day or less.

Bridge and road tolls, shuttle, rideshare and taxi expenses are reimbursable.

**6.0 Per Diem**

Per diem is available for meals and will be reimbursed using federal per diem rate published by the Department of General Service Administration (GSA).

[www.gsa.gov/perdiem](http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem)

When a meal is provided by an organization or included in a registration fee, the per diem rate will be reduced for each meal provided. Complimentary meals such as continental breakfasts, hotel socials, or airline snacks do not affect per diem allowance.

Excess travel advances, if requested and received, must be reimbursed to MTA upon return.


**7.0 Accommodations**

Accommodation expenses will be reimbursed at the designated rate published by GSA. Ask for the government rate or discount when making reservations.

When lodging is part of the official business package (meetings held in a hotel or if arrangements have been made to reserve a block of rooms for participants) an employee may use accommodations provided regardless of GSA rates. Any other deviation from the designated rates must be pre-approved by the employee’s team manager and documented with an explanation.

Employees may stay over the night before if the conference starts before 9:00 AM the following day. Documented extenuating circumstances may also qualify for payment of lodging in instances when an overnight stay may preclude the traveler making trips for back-to-back, late night/early morning meetings or conference sessions will best protect the health and safety of the traveler, and/or is more economical for the Agency.

When lodging expense is increased because it includes family members traveling with the employee, the employee shall pay the difference in cost directly to the lodging facility.

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Itemized receipts for hotel accommodations are required to be submitted upon return.

**8.0 Travel and Work Time**

Travel that keeps an employee away from home overnight is travel away from home. Travel away from home is clearly worktime when it cuts across the employee’s workday. The employee is simply substituting travel for other duties. Time spent traveling away from home includes travel time to and from the mode of transportation location, time spent waiting for and in traveling, travel to and from lodging to business locations, and business-related duties. Regular meal period time is not counted. Non-exempt employees whose time while traveling away from home will result in overtime in a pay period may be required to flex (reduce) their working time in the pay-period to avoid additional costs.

**9.0 Incidental Expenses**

Incidental expenses for fees and tips given to porters, baggage carriers, hotel and restaurant staff, flight attendants and others for personal services performed are expenses and will be reimbursed according to GSA guidelines.


**10.0 Miscellaneous**

Other business-related expenses may be reimbursed with the approval of the employee’s manager. Receipts must be submitted for reimbursable costs incurred during travel. Examples of business-related expenses include, but not limited to, business phone calls, fax machine charges, computer or business center charges and business meals.

**11.0 Non-Reimbursable Expenses**

Employees will not be reimbursed for the cost of:

- Movies, video rentals, and/or airplane earphones;
- Alcoholic Beverages;
- Childcare;
- Upgrades (flight upgrades, upgraded car rentals, larger hotel rooms, etc.);
- Laundry services (Unless incurring a minimum of four (4) consecutive nights lodging on official travel. Receipts required.)
- Travel insurance
- Repair or replacement of personal items
- Repairs, towing, or service of a personal automobile.

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**12.0 Travel Advance**

A travel advance may be requested when completing the Travel Form. Any travel advance is only an estimate of expenses and is for meal per diem only. The cost of airline tickets, rental cars and hotel accommodations are paid by company credit card or personal credit card, rather than a cash advance.

**13.0 Responsibility and Accountability**

It is the employee’s responsibility to submit receipts for expenses not included within the per diem and to account for advances made within a reasonable time. Excess travel advances not returned will be treated as W-2 wages per IRS Code Section 463, under “An Accountable Plan.”

If applicable receipts are not submitted, the employee’s travel reimbursement will not be processed. A detailed receipt must be submitted when a receipt is required for reimbursement. An affidavit will be required for a missing receipt.

All guidelines for using a MTA credit card must be adhered to when travel expenses are paid with such card. (See Credit Card Usage Policy #POL 401)