

*Commuter Connections
Employer Recognition
Awards*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005

*The Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments*



Chairman



The National Capital Region faces a myriad of transportation-related challenges. We have thriving business districts and some of the most rapidly growing suburbs in the nation. Yet without exception, traffic congestion, particularly during commute times, is one of the major issues Washingtonians cope with on a daily basis. Addressing this congestion is a vital aspect of keeping pace with our growth. One solution is efficient use of our existing commuter transportation resources. We can realize this by encouraging shared rides, use of transit, and teleworking. A tangible byproduct of this would be cleaner air.

The business community plays an integral role in shaping the commuting behaviors of their employees. Many employers offer transit subsidies or pre-tax transit benefits. Others encourage teleworking, or reward ridesharing by providing preferred and/or free parking to carpools and vanpools. Commuter Connections and its jurisdictional partners work with employers to provide the needed tools and support that help foster these programs.

The employers we are honoring today have implemented innovative and successful commuter benefit programs. These employers demonstrate concern about the quality of life for their employees. We hope that through their example, other employers will voluntarily embrace these practices, creating more workplaces where increased commuter benefits yield more productive and less stressed employees.

On behalf of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, I congratulate the winners of the 2005 Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards and thank them for their continued commitment to reducing traffic congestion and improving the air we breathe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Mendelson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Phil Mendelson, Chairman

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Chair



I want to first thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule and welcome you to the eighth annual Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards Ceremony. Throughout the region, employers have made great strides in implementing strategies that take-on the challenges of commuting. Today's ceremony recognizes several of those employers for their hard work and commitment in providing commuter benefits to their employees as well as their dedication to conserving the environment.

Within our region, employers are encouraging the use of various alternatives to driving alone such as bicycling, walking, carpooling, vanpooling, taking public transportation and teleworking. Since these options mean fewer cars on the road, less congestion and cleaner air, we all benefit from the actions of these companies. Commuter Connections is a region-wide, transportation information, outreach and service network dedicated to easing the daily commute. Commuter Connections' Employer Outreach Program is passionate about working with all companies willing to help achieve our goal of reducing single occupant vehicles.

On behalf of Commuter Connections and all the residents, employees and visitors to the Nation's Capital, I want to thank those companies recognized today for demonstrating concern for the well being of their employees and the quality of life for all of us. I also want to thank those companies and individuals in the region who are just beginning or are on their way to putting strategies in place in their respective organizations to help make a difference in our daily commute.

With Warm Regards,

Sharon A. Affinito

Sharon A. Affinito, Chair
Commuter Connections Subcommittee

Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards

Commuter Connections helps businesses find transportation solutions vital to not only their own success, but also to the economic development and quality of life for the entire region. Through the eighth annual Employer Recognition Awards, employers of all types are recognized for voluntarily initiating programs that encourage the use of commuting alternatives. By getting commuters out of their single occupant vehicles and into alternatives, such as ridesharing, bicycling, walking, teleworking, or using transit, these actions contribute to the reduction of traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.

Eligible employer programs include those that either marketed alternative commuting options, initiated a successful telework program, or provided incentives that make using alternative transportation modes easier and more attractive than driving alone to work. Applicants were evaluated and winners were chosen for their ability to integrate the criteria of:

- Benefits to the employer and employee, such as improved productivity and morale and the ability to retain and attract qualified employees.
- Economic and financial benefits, such as reducing commuter costs, providing financial incentives, and improving the business climate.
- Reduction of gasoline consumption and emissions, such as making better use of existing transportation alternatives and reducing the number of vehicle miles or vehicle trips.

Incentives

American University, Washington D.C.

American University sees itself as a private university with public responsibilities. Because the university strives to be a good neighbor to area residents and a great employer, it needs an excellent transit program to evade an on-campus parking shortage, while reducing traffic congestion and emissions in the area.

A 2003 commuter transportation survey conducted by DC Partners through the District Department of Transportation helped AU refine its transit program. Today, there's no parking shortage; and with 8,000 to 9,000 people traveling to and from campus every day and a mere 2,500 on-campus parking spaces, that's saying a lot!

AU's Transportation Program: Highlights

- Free shuttle service for visitors, students, faculty, and employees (funded in part by student transportation fees)
- Group vans provided through the Student Confederation
- Bicycle racks, showers, and lockers on campus
- Online course offerings
- Annual transportation fair
- Commuter benefit information presented at new-employee orientations, on the AU portal Web site, and via e-mail updates
- Transit information available on racks throughout campus
- 47 percent of employees live within 9 miles of campus
- 42 percent of employees commute via transit
- Guaranteed Ride Home program was implemented in 2003
- Telework and flextime options for employees in some departments
- 9.1 percent Metrochek or SmartTrip participation among eligible employees through pre-tax deductions.

Results

In 2004, an average of 4,000 people rode the AU shuttle each day. At two trips daily on 244 work days, that equals an estimated 1,952,000 shuttle trips within the year—a 44 percent increase from 2003.



Marketing

CHEVY CHASE® BANK

Chevy Chase Bank, Bethesda, MD

Chevy Chase Bank, a private company employing more than 4,000 employees at 250 work sites around the Washington metro area, initiated its transit benefits program, Commuting Solutions—The Choice Is Yours, in September 2001. Program Manager Jim Landry is the vice chair of the Bethesda Transportation Management District Advisory Committee, sponsored by Bethesda Transportation Solutions (BTS).

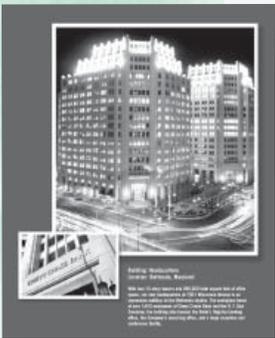
Mr. Landry gives new employees a comprehensive introduction to Commuting Solutions during their orientation. Transportation information is provided to existing employees via the Benefits Department, e-mail blasts, the intranet and annual Commuter Information Days. During this event, employees may receive gift certificates to local merchants, BTS information and promotional items, and free lunch items. The last Commuter Information Day attracted more than 350 Chevy Chase Bank employees as well as employees from other local businesses. In 2004, the bank hosted the EPA's Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWC) press event, where the BWC Fortune 500 list was announced.

The bank also participates in the Super FareShare Program for Metrochek. Approximately 13 percent of eligible employees currently take advantage of the program. Participation has increased by 34 percent since 2002 and continues to grow, increasing by an average of 10 employees per month. In July 2004, the bank increased the subsidy for public transit from \$65 to \$100 per month. After a \$20,000 benefit from Montgomery County, the remainder of the \$456,000 annual cost for this program is borne by the bank.

Many of the bank's locations are convenient to public transportation, including its new headquarters across the street from the Bethesda Metro Station. At Chevy Chase headquarters, the bank provides preferred parking for carpools of three or more and assists with internal matching for carpools. The bank actively promotes Bike to Work Day and provides free bike parking, secure bike racks, and showers for cyclists. The Chevy Chase Bank headquarters also has an on-site cafeteria, so employees need not drive to lunch.

Results:

- By saving 450 participating employees a 30-mile (average) round-trip car commute every workday, the program reduces the number of vehicle miles driven by 13,500 per day, or 3,375,000 per year.
- Chevy Chase Bank has been designated as an EPA Best Workplace for Commuters employer.
- The Chevy Chase Bank transit subsidy program won a Montgomery County Transportation award for Transportation Benefits Coordinators of the Year in 2004.



Telework

National Wildlife Federation - Reston, VA



National Wildlife Federation's mission includes changing the forecast for wildlife by confronting global warming. NWF's telework program is part of the organization's commitment to solutions that reduce global warming pollution. By reducing the number of cars on the road, NWF employees are helping cut carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming.

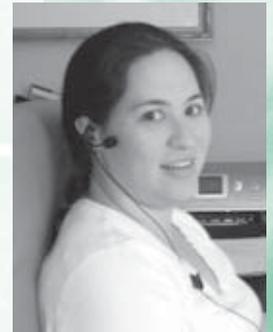
NWF's culture fosters a high degree of commitment and passion by its employees; therefore, NWF was proud to be able to "walk its talk" telework by institutionalizing telework in 2001. The telework program was made possible with the assistance of the TeleworkVA! program. Today, 91 of the 250 headquarters employees (36 percent) telework regularly. Starting with just 28 teleworkers in 2002, the program has more than tripled in size in just two years.

National Wildlife Federation designed its facilities in its new Reston, VA location with an open floor plan to allow for more collaboration and shared workspaces for all staff. Telework supports the design by enabling uninterrupted work at remote locations.

Commitment from the top down was essential to the program's success. Integral elements included training of teleworkers and their managers along with investment in technological tools such as call-forwarding and off-site access to the Citrix network. The telework option has helped recruit and retain top talent at the National Wildlife Federation. Distance learning and a company-wide rollout of telework benefits to its field offices are expected in 2005.

Results:

- Reduction of 193,300 Vehicle Miles Traveled (estimated)
- \$72,487 annual savings in commuting costs
- Elimination of 95 parking spaces at headquarters



2005 Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award

District Department of Transportation Employer Outreach Services

d.

District Department of Transportation

There are ten Commuter Connections teams with eighteen sales representatives in the Washington metropolitan region that partner with employers to implement commuter programs. These voluntarily programs ultimately benefit the region, as they help to lessen demand on our roadways and its resulting levels of pollution. Employees maintain better morale, lower stress, and less costly commutes. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is pleased to honor the District Department of Transportation with the Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award. The Employer Outreach Services program is administered by Strategic Transportation Initiatives (STI) through the DC Partners initiative. During the past year, with a sales team of one and a half staff members, STI made over 1,100 employer sales contacts to District of Columbia employees. Contacts are defined as telephone calls, e-mails, voicemails, and faxes. Outreach efforts include meetings and presentations at employer sites, including participation at events such as transportation fairs and new-hire orientations. Due to the efforts of the DC Partners program, over 100 companies within the District of Columbia have committed to and implemented significant traffic reduction programs for their employees.

This selection was based on information provided by all Employer Services sales teams within the Washington Metropolitan region, as part of their required monthly reports to COG.

2005 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award

Arlington County, CommuterDirect.com® Corporate Services



ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

CommuterDirect.com® Corporate Services (CDCS) is an online transit benefit management program that was pioneered by Arlington County in 2001 to better serve their clients. The service was developed based on the need for a third party transit benefit administration system that offered more fare media options beyond simply Metrochek. The system is one of the only services within the nation that sells passes from every transit provider within its region and also prides itself on being cheaper than other similar programs. When using CDCS, employers are able to set up their orders and revise them as often as needed. Program management is turn key, due to the unique reporting features available on the system. Employers have access to benefit summaries, detailed orders, and corporate invoices every month. A convenient feature of the system, also allows reports to be exported into a spreadsheet format.

Employees receive tickets, tokens, and transit passes they rely on to get to work, by the first of every month. For a small fee, some employees even choose the option of having their fare media sent directly to their homes. Additionally, employees who use Metrorail and Metrobus are able to reload their SmarTrip cards each month with CDCS.

As of May 2005, CDCS has 80 active corporate accounts serving 1,130 employees.

2005 Selection Committee

Chairperson: **Mike Knapp**, Montgomery County Council Member

Linda Stewart-Byrd, Maryland Department of Transportation

Janet McNichol, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
and 2004 Incentives Award Recipient

Wendy Mock, QRC Division of Macro International Inc. and 2004
Telework Award Recipient

Valerie Pardo, Virginia Department of Transportation

Michael Pellegrino, Hagerstown Telework Center

James Sebastian, District Department of Transportation and Chair,
Transportation Planning Board Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee

Lorraine Taylor, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Steve Taylor, U.S. Census Bureau and 2004 Marketing Award Recipient

About COG

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) was formed in 1957 as a regional organization of Washington area governments and today includes 19 local government members. COG examines, responds to, and provides guidance on regional issues in areas such as the environment, transportation, affordable housing, economic development, human services, and public safety. COG acts as a problem solving forum for the region, serves as a federally designated planning organization, acts as an advocate for its members, and as a technical consultant and information resource.

Commuter Connections is a network of Washington metropolitan commuter transportation organizations coordinated by COG that work toward easing citizens' daily commutes and reducing vehicle emissions. This is accomplished by promoting and facilitating ridesharing, bicycling, walking, teleworking, transit, and by providing the regional Guaranteed Ride Home program. Commuter Connections also operates several InfoExpress kiosks throughout the region containing a host of commuter information.

● Phone:(800) 745-RIDE

● Fax:(202) 962-3218

● TDD:(202) 962-3213



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

How To Get Involved

Does your company have a telework, Metrochek, or Air Quality Action Days program?

If your employer provides these opportunities (or others such as rewarding employees who walk, bicycle, or carpool to work) then we encourage you to apply for the 2006 Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards.

For more information about services and assistance available through Commuter Connections: Call us at (800) 745-RIDE (7433), or visit our Web site at www.commuterconnections.org, (en español también).

For further information on how you can participate in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' many programs, contact: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 777 North Capitol St., NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002-4239

- Internet: www.mwcog.org
- COG Information Center: (202) 962-3256
- Air Quality Hotline: (202) 962-3299

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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www.commuterconnections.org

The 2005 Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards selection process was coordinated by NDW Communications and Pathways Strategic Communications.

Special thanks to the Commuter Connections Subcommittee - 2005 Employer Recognition Awards Workgroup: Damon Harvey, District Department of Transportation; Robin Briscoe, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland; Kate Konrad, Arlington Transportation Partners.

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