



**CONTACT:**

Allie Zamow: (914) 821-5100; [azamow@asc-pr.com](mailto:azamow@asc-pr.com)

Steve Kania: (202) 962-3249; [skania@mwkog.org](mailto:skania@mwkog.org)

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## **Prizes, Promotions, and a Papal Visit—Great Reasons to Take the Pledge to Go Car Free on September 22**

*Regional Businesses, Transit Agencies Support Annual Car Free Day Event*

Washington, D.C. — Regional businesses are partnering with Commuter Connections to demonstrate their support for area residents and commuters who are pledging to celebrate Car Free Day on Tuesday, September 22, by providing great prizes. And this year, the Papal visit adds another great reason to participate. Pope Francis' arrival in the District of Columbia will entail street closures and traffic delays. Leaving your car at home, teleworking, or opting for another way to travel such as bicycling, walking, transit, or ridesharing will help to reduce the impact.

All residents in the region, including those who already use alternative modes of transportation, are encouraged to take the pledge at [www.carfreemetrod.org](http://www.carfreemetrod.org), and help reduce traffic on September 22 and during the entire week. The busy week in D.C. includes a three game Battle of the Beltways night series at Nationals Park between the Washington Nationals and Baltimore Orioles, starting Monday September 21. In addition, award winning artist Ed Sheeran will be performing at the Verizon Center on September 22 and 23.

Car Free Day is an annual worldwide event that encourages green travel options and environmental awareness, and the benefits of alternatives to drive-alone transportation. Taking the pledge to go car free offers a chance to win great prizes donated by our regional sponsors, whether you pledge as #teambike, #teamwalk, #teamrail, #teambus, #teampool or #teamtelework.

“We encourage everyone to take the Car Free Day pledge and enjoy the promotions and events to celebrate the region’s green transportation options,” said Nicholas Ramfos,

Commuter Connections Director. “And we’re grateful to our sponsors who support our efforts by donating generous prizes for our regional raffle.”

#### Raffle prizes:

- **Kindle**, courtesy [Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland](#)
- **Bike shop \$250 gift certificate**, courtesy [BicycleSPACE](#)
- **Six Flags America pair of tickets \$123.98**, courtesy [Six Flags America](#)
- **SmarTrip card with \$25 in fare**, courtesy [Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority](#)
- **Commuter train round-trip passes**, courtesy [Virginia Railway Express](#)
- **Capital Bikeshare annual memberships \$85**, courtesy [goDCgo](#)
- **Pizza restaurant \$25 gift cards**, courtesy [Mellow Mushroom of Adams Morgan and Herndon](#)
- **Healthy Snacks gift bag**, courtesy [KIND](#)
- **Organic food restaurant \$50 gift card**, courtesy [sweetgreen](#)
- **Bike rentals \$40**, courtesy [Bike and Roll DC](#)

#### Promotions:

- [Frederick County TransIT](#) – Free rides on all shuttles and connector buses on Car Free Day.
- [Loudoun County Commuter Services](#) – Those who live and/or work in Loudoun County who take the Car Free Day pledge will be eligible for a raffle to win one of two \$75 VISA gift cards.
- [City of Alexandria Local Motion](#) – Free t-shirts on Car Free Day, limit first 100 people, here’s [how to get yours](#).
- [Montgomery County Commuter Services](#) – Celebrate Car Free Day from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Bethesda Metro Station, Friendship Heights Metro Station, Germantown Transit Center, Select Ride On bus stops, Shady Grove Metro Station, Silver Spring Metro Station, and Twinbrook Metro Station with giveaways and raffles.
- [Fairfax County Transportation Expo](#) – Fairfax Connector, Metro, VRE and others, more than 20 exhibitors are expected from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center.
- [Crystal City](#) – Free coffee and snacks will be available at Crystal City Water Park from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., for those who agree to take the Car Free Day pledge.
- [Live More Block Party](#) – Thursday, September 24, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Pavilion at Reston Town Center, learn the benefits of new transportation options, including Silver Line Metro, plus entertainment, face painting, refreshments, giveaways, and more! Register to win Reston Town Center Gift Cards.
- [Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland](#) will be at the North Beach Board Walk on Friday, September 18, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. promoting Car Free Day at the Farmer’s Market.

- [Ballston BID](#) will be providing coffee and giveaways on Car Free Day, Tuesday, September 22 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Ballston Metro. Note: no food or beverages are permitted within the Metro system.
- [Maid To Clean](#) - 10% discount off one cleaning service for new and current clients when booking service starting on Car Free Day, September 22 – December 31, 2015. Maid to Clean is an eco-friendly cleaning business that services D.C. and Northern Virginia. Offer cannot be combined with any other discounts.

For a complete list of prizes, promotions, and events, visit the Car Free Day website: <http://carfreemetrodc.org/car-free-day-events.php>

Car Free Day is just one of the innovative ways Commuter Connections promotes alternatives to drive-alone commuting. Information on travel options for commuters and travelers is available at the Commuter Connections [website](#). Site visitors can set up a free account and request a ride match, make carpooling plans, and learn about other transportation opportunities to decrease the number of single-occupant vehicles on the road and reduce congestion around the Washington metropolitan region.

Take the 2015 Car Free Day Pledge today at [www.carfreemetrodc.org](http://www.carfreemetrodc.org). Stay up-to-date on Car Free Day Metro DC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Promote the event and share your experiences using #CarFreeMetroDC.

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*Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and is funded by the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia Departments of Transportation, as well as the U.S. Department of Transportation. Commuter Connections provides free ridematching services and promotes alternatives to drive-alone commuting, and offers the free Guaranteed Ride Home program. [www.commuterconnections.org](http://www.commuterconnections.org)*

[www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org)

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**COG is an independent, nonprofit association where area leaders address regional issues affecting the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia.**

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777 North Capitol St NE, Ste 300 | Washington DC 20002 | 202-962-3200 | [www.mwcog.org](http://www.mwcog.org)

