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**Commuter Connections Announces
95 Express Lanes Carpool Photo Contest**

Carpools with E-ZPass® FlexSM Could Win Money for Gas This Fall

Washington, D.C. – Today, Commuter Connections, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the 95 Express Lanes announced a new contest for carpoolers who take the necessary step of obtaining an E-ZPassFlex in advance of the opening of the 95 Express Lanes. Throughout October, three-person carpools that post a photo of their carpool members with an E-ZPass Flex on the Commuter Connections Facebook page (www.facebook.com/commuterconnections) will be entered for a chance to win a \$500 gas card for each member of the carpool.

The 95 Express Lanes – 29 miles of high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes on I-95 spanning from Garrisonville Road in Stafford County to the Edsall Road area on I-395 – are on track to open soon. All drivers will need an E-ZPass® or an E-ZPass Flex to travel on the 95 Express Lanes. Carpools with three or more people can travel toll-free on the Express Lanes with an E-ZPass Flex set to HOV mode.

E-ZPass Flex works like a standard E-ZPass but allows carpoolers to switch between HOV and toll-paying modes. The switchable E-ZPass Flex lets the Express Lanes operator know which vehicles are HOV-3+ so that they aren't charged a toll. E-ZPass Flex works like a standard E-ZPass on all other Virginia toll roads and wherever E-ZPass is accepted – regardless of the position of the switch.

“The 95 Express Lanes will improve commutes on I-95 but the need for E-ZPass is a new requirement for all carpoolers,” said Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections. “To ensure a smooth trip when the Express Lanes open, we encourage all carpoolers to get their E-ZPass Flex now, and then enter our contest. Your carpool photo

could be worth \$1,500 in gas rewards.”

To enter the contest, carpools need to:

- Get an [E-ZPass Flex](#)
- Go to the [Commuter Connections Facebook page](#) to:
 - Provide your carpool's information on the Photo Contest tab and agree to the terms and conditions
 - Then, post a photo of you and two carpoolers with your E-ZPass Flex to the Commuter Connections Facebook wall with the phrase *#95carpoolcontest*

Carpoolers can get an E-ZPass Flex at 75 convenient Northern Virginia [retail locations](#) including Wegmans, select Giant Food Stores, or at one of the E-ZPass Customer Service Centers; [online](#) or by calling Virginia E-ZPass at (877) 762-7824. Virginia E-ZPass customers who carpool can [exchange](#) their standard E-ZPass for an E-ZPass Flex or they can [add](#) an E-ZPass Flex as an additional transponder on their account. Visit www.ezpassva.com or call the Customer Service Center for more information – (877) 762-7824

For complete rules and details, please visit www.95ExpressLanes.com/carpoolcontest. As safety is of utmost importance, please do not take photos while in a moving vehicle.

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About Commuter Connections

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, www.mwcog.org. Commuter Connections has been providing trusted ridematching services for carpools and vanpools since 1974 and promotes bicycling to work, ridesharing and other alternatives to drive alone commuting, and offers the free Guaranteed Ride Home program. Commuter Connections, www.commuterconnections.org is funded by the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and U.S. Departments of Transportation.

About the 95 Express Lanes

The 95 Express Lanes are high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes that will operate on I-95 to provide travelers with faster, more predictable travel options. The project will add capacity and extend the existing HOV lanes. The 95 Express Lanes will operate from I-95 near Garrisonville Road in Stafford County to the vicinity of Edsall Road on I-395 in Fairfax County (approximately 29 miles). Operated through a public-private partnership between the Virginia Department of Transportation and Transurban, the 95 Express Lanes will offer drivers a new option for a reliable trip on I-95 in Northern Virginia. For

more information, please visit 95ExpressLanes.com.

Abbreviated Contest Rules

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Void where prohibited and outside DC, VA and MD. Open to legal residents of DC, VA and MD, who are 18 years or the age of majority or older at the time of entry. Begins 12:00:01 AM ET on 10/01/14; ends 11:59:59 PM ET on 10/31/14. For details on the entry process, including the alternate method of entry, go to www.95expresslanes.com/carpoolcontest. One winner and the two persons featured in the photo provided by the winner will each win a \$500 gas station gift card. Terms and conditions apply to the gift card; see gift card for details. Approximate Retail Value (“ARV”): \$500. Total ARV of all prizes: \$1,500. For complete rules and eligibility requirements, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Transurban (USA) Operations Inc. at PO Box 23530, Alexandria, VA 22304.

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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