

Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2006

National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board



The Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Chairman

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board



Washington D.C. is one of the most admired and visited cities in the world and the National Capital Region as a whole has a strong economy and an ever growing population. Along with these accolades, the metropolitan area is also home to some of the worst traffic congestion in the nation. High gasoline prices compound daily commuting woes and employees and employers alike are looking for solutions.

The business community plays a vital role in shaping the commuting behavior of their employees. Employers who offer commuter benefits are true catalysts toward changing drive-alone patterns. These programs are not only a good idea for employees and the environment but they make good business sense. Companies that offer outstanding commute programs as part of their overall benefits package are able to attract and retain highly qualified employee talent. Many businesses also enjoy reduced overhead costs as a result of lower parking and office space demand.

Commuter Connections and its jurisdictional partners work with employers to provide the needed tools and support that help generate awareness of available commuting options, as well as foster development and expansion of commuter benefit programs. By providing commuter benefit information and programs, employers empower their employees to make well-informed decisions about smarter ways to get to work.

The employers we are honoring today offer commuter programs beyond the status quo and lead by example within the business community. They are great places to work and are committed to supporting transit, ridesharing, telework, and bicycling. Their actions demonstrate a culture change and a concern about the quality of life for their employees and the region. We hope that through their example, other employers will embrace similar practices.

On behalf of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, I congratulate the winners of the 2006 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 'Michael Knapp', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Knapp, Chairman

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Chair

Commuter Connections

Welcome to the ninth annual Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards ceremony. We are here to recognize a select group of employers whose innovative commuter programs are helping to improve the quality of life not only for their employees but also for citizens of the entire Washington metropolitan area. In the last year alone, gas prices have risen more than 35 percent in the National Capital Region, and fuel costs are having a significant impact across the entire nation. Transportation alternatives are more important now than ever before as area residents are actively seeking new options to their single occupancy vehicle trips in order to ease the skyrocketing costs.

A growing number of employers have recognized the value of transit subsidies and pre-tax benefits since their creation over a decade ago. Companies are increasingly supporting alternatives like vanpooling, bicycling, carpooling, public transportation and telecommuting to help foster a more productive work environment. And in today's workplace, it is essential for employers to offer commuting alternatives to attract and retain a quality workforce.

The Commuter Connections' Employer Services Program, a region-wide, transportation information outreach and service network, is dedicated to the goal of helping employers set up and expand commuter programs, thereby creating a better workplace and an improved environment for all of us.

Please join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2006 Employer Recognition Awards. They have dedicated resources to improve the quality of life for their employees and are great examples to others within the region.



Leann C. Landry



The 2006 Employer Recognition Awards

Commuter Connections encourages the general public, area businesses and their employees to adopt alternative commuting methods such as transit, teleworking, carpooling/vanpooling and bicycling. These methods help to mitigate traffic congestion and provide for cleaner air through reduced auto emissions. The Commuter Connections annual Employer Recognition Awards Ceremony recognizes employers who have voluntarily initiated programs that facilitate the use of such alternatives. Eligible employer programs included those that 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.

Applicants were evaluated and winners were chosen for their ability to offer measurable commuter benefits that reduce automobile fuel consumption and emissions through fewer vehicle trips and miles traveled. In addition, winners were selected for their altruistic policies that have improved the lives of their employees and the region.

Incentives

Commuter incentives reward and encourage employees for taking alternative means of commuting. They also help to attract and retain employees. Incentives and commuter benefits can come in many forms such as transit and vanpool subsidies, pre-tax transit and vanpool passes and preferred or discounted parking for carpools and vanpools. Other incentives might include offering flex-time schedules or the provision of facilities and equipment such as showers and lockers for those who bike or walk to work, on-site amenities, free shuttle service or laptops for teleworkers.

Marketing

Promoting the merits of ridesharing, transit and teleworking within a company is an essential part of a successful commuter program. Companies who educate and advocate alternative commuting options enjoy high employee participation rates in such methods. With knowledge of the available choices, employees are empowered to make well-informed decisions about better and smarter ways to get to work. They arrive less stressed and more able to start their productive day. Marketing of commuter information and available benefits clearly serves as an influential aspect behind helping to change commuter drive-alone patterns.

Teleworking

Teleworking at home or at a local telework center, allows employees to dramatically reduce or completely eliminate the time and money spent commuting to-and-from work, one or more days per week. For employers, savings may come in the form of reduced overhead such as office space costs and parking. In addition, telecommuting provides for lower absenteeism, higher productivity and helps businesses attract and retain qualified employees.

Incentives

George Mason University
Fairfax, VA



George Mason University is a state owned university with campuses in Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William County and Loudoun County. They have offered the Commonwealth Commuter Choice program since 1999 to its 5,000 employees to help ease traffic congestion. Employees who participate in the program receive up to \$105 per month in transit subsidies that can be used on any transit or vanpool provider in the region. More than 2,000 (40%) employees rideshare or use transit to get to work. Additionally, George Mason promotes the Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home program; offers a free shuttle between the Vienna Metro station and its Fairfax campus and between the Prince William and Fairfax campuses; and provides a full-time telework program to all its employees. In 2004, a vanpool program with university owned vans was provided free to employees. While others must pay parking fees of \$160 per year, vanpool riders enjoy free parking and attractive parking locations close to the campus core. Carpools also receive preferential parking. George Mason University provides special discounts or reimburses telework participants for laptop computers, BlackBerry® PDAs, cell phones and broadband connections into the participants' homes.

Currently, George Mason employees take advantage of the full array of transportation benefits. The participation rates by mode include:

Vanpools: 12 vanpools with 200 riders

Carpools: 80 carpools carrying an average of 160 people

Transit: 1,900 riders use the Metro subway and various bus systems

Telework: Participation in Telework has grown from 35% in 1999 to 85% in 2005 with 4,250 employees teleworking one or more days per week

Shuttle: 43% of employees use the various shuttle services each year

Annual Operational Costs to George Mason University:

- The Metro shuttle costs the University approximately \$300,000.
- The intercampus shuttle costs the University approximately \$264,000.
- The vanpool program costs \$182,000.

Annual Results:

Vanpools: 200 employees x 60 miles x 240 days = 2,880,000 miles

Carpools: 160 employees x 33 miles x 240 days = 1,267,200 miles

Transit: 1900 employees x 33 miles x 240 days = 15,048,000 miles



Marketing

Discovery Communications Inc.

Silver Spring, MD



Discovery Communications is the leading global real world media company, with strong roots in Maryland. As one of Montgomery County's largest and most active companies, Discovery strives to offer innovative and flexible commuting options for all area full-time and part-time employees commuting to and from the workplace through a complete menu of choices and associated benefits.

Employees can read commuter related announcements through regular electronic bulletin board postings, the employee intranet and Discovery's internal electronic bi-weekly newsletter. New employees are provided a comprehensive overview of commuter program benefits at the employee orientation and can visit the Commuter Information Center stationed near the Metro entrance of the main building. The center includes information on bus and train schedules, Guaranteed Ride Home and rideshare applications, and company information on the Commuter Program.

In 2005, Discovery hosted several lunch hour commuter benefit promotions with Montgomery County Commuter Services. Transit and commuter related organizations participated in Discovery's annual Health and Safety Fair and the annual Commuter Fair reaching more than 1,000 employees. Discovery annually hosts the Bike to Work Day pit stop in Silver Spring by providing space, logistical support, a free bike for the raffle and promotional items for participant bags.

Approximately 95% of Discovery's employees participate in the Commuter Program. The following benefits are offered:

- Monthly transit subsidy of \$60, with the balance eligible for pre-tax deduction.
- \$350 incentive for bicycling to work/\$100 walking shoe allowance per year.
- Half-price and preferred parking for hybrids, carpools and vanpools.
- FlexTime scheduling / Compressed Work Week / Job Sharing.
- Free shuttle between Discovery work sites in Silver Spring, as well as Metro and MARC stations.
- Free FlexCar membership.
- Robust Telework program provides laptops for all full-time employees, Directors and above receive BlackBerry® PDAs.

Results:

- The program reduces the number of miles driven by 1,558,800 annually (based on 15 miles per trip).
- Discovery has been designated an EPA Best Workplace for Commuters employer in 2004 and 2005.
- Discovery's Commuter Program was awarded Outstanding Traffic Mitigation Plan in 2005 by Montgomery County Commuter Services.



Telework

U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General (USPS OIG)

Arlington, VA

The USPS OIG conducts audits to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; and investigations to promote integrity by preventing and detecting fraud and misconduct in the U.S. Postal Service. USPS OIG first adopted a Telework Program in October 2001. In June 2004, USPS OIG Inspector General, David C. Williams, supported the creation of a formal Smart Workplace policy for his employees. Smart Workplace allows optimal performance of OIG staff based on a fundamental change in management style, where project deliverables, not people's behavior, are managed. By December 2004, Smart Workplace was launched, successfully replacing the agency's legacy Telework Program.

The USPS OIG has 850 employees nationwide and 358 employees at their Arlington headquarters. All employees participate in Smart Workplace with the majority working remotely performing audits and investigations as often as 3 times per week. This is made possible by the introduction of the Virtual Front Office, an internal centralized call center that manages customer inquiries. Smart Workplace ensures guidance using sound performance measures and mobility through enabling technologies.

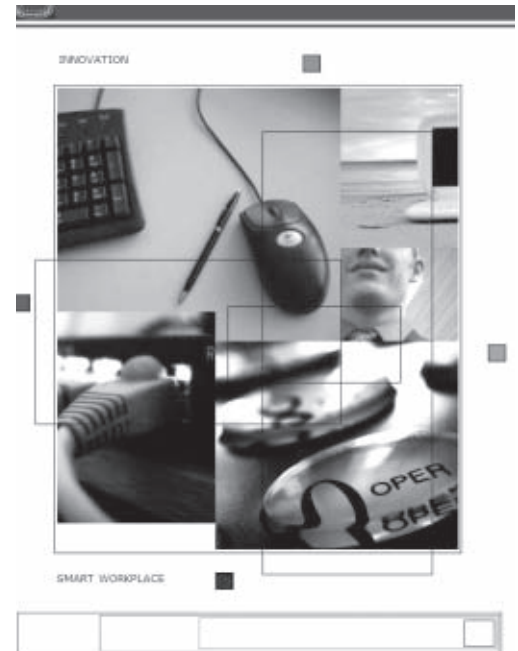
Smart Workplace includes modern office design concepts, "hoteling" and "team rooms," that are being adopted in certain field locations. These working space changes enable cooperative arrangements for teams to promote collaboration, planning, and innovation.

Policy:

- Smart Workplace applies to all USPS OIG employees, regardless of physical work location. The flexibility to work remotely is immediately available to any new employee.
- Employees are responsible for developing project plans for tasks assigned by managers.
- Managers and the employees develop their internal performance expectations to ensure accuracy, understanding, and alignment to goals.
- All employees receive laptop computer systems, remote access, and phone cards to fully enable the mobile workforce. Managers are also provided wireless communication devices such as BlackBerry® PDAs and cell phones.

Results:

- 358 employees x 33 miles x 144 days = 1,701,216 miles reduced annually.



2006 Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award

Montgomery County



This award is given to the Commuter Connections Employer Services sales team that has most successfully met its goal of partnering with employers to develop and expand commute benefit offerings. There are a total of ten Employer Services sales teams with sixteen representatives in the Washington metropolitan region that cultivate and support employer based transportation programs. Employers who offer commuter friendly programs encourage employees to try alternative means of getting to work besides driving alone. These practices lessen the heavy rush hour demand on our roadways and its resulting levels of pollution. Employees maintain better morale, lower stress, and less costly commutes. Employers benefit from higher employee retention and savings may come in the form of reduced overhead through lower parking and office space requirements.

The TPB's Commuter Connections program is pleased to honor Montgomery County Commuter Services with the Employer Services Sales Team Achievement Award. The employer outreach program is represented by the Employer Services Section in Silver Spring and Friendship Heights, the Bethesda Transportation Management Association - Bethesda Transportation Solutions, and the North Bethesda Transportation Management Association - North Bethesda Transportation Center.

During the past year, the combined sales staff of six representatives made over 1,900 contacts with employers and participated in over 100 face to face meetings. Due to their efforts, over 140 companies within Montgomery County have committed to and implemented traffic reducing programs at significant levels. In addition to meetings, the sales team also participated and helped organize transportation fairs and presented at new-hire orientations.

2006 Employer Services Organization Achievement Award

Washington, DC Economic Partnership



The Washington, DC Economic Partnership (formally known as the Washington, DC Marketing Center) is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) public/private partnership dedicated to increasing economic development in the District of Columbia. The Economic Partnership is the first point of contact for companies that want to do business in the District. The Economic Partnership promotes business opportunities throughout DC, contributes to business retention and attraction activities and is a clearinghouse for economic development information.

As Washington, DC's corporate outreach and retention program, DC Business Connections (DCBC) is a symbol of the new and improved business climate in the Nation's Capital. The program was launched in 2000 by Mayor Anthony A. Williams, and since that time, the DCBC team has reached out to thousands of businesses. Through the DCBC program, companies are provided with solutions to problems that affect their everyday operations, including commuting challenges.

The Executive Pulse system is a tool used by DCBC to determine the needs of businesses and in turn, connects them with existing programs and resources available through its many partners, including Commuter Connections. From there, partners respond to the company's concerns and needs and can develop a plan of action. The Pulse system has helped over 40 companies in their efforts to find transportation solutions for their worksites. Together, the Economic Partnership and Commuter Connections are joining forces to help DC employers, by making it easy to get the needed expertise and information about smarter ways to work.

Honorable Mention

Commuter Connections would like to acknowledge the following nominees with honorable mention:

American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP)	Bethesda, MD
Bryan Cave, LLP	Washington D.C.
Cambridge Information Group	Bethesda, MD
Charles County Government	La Plata, MD
ESI International	Arlington, VA
FDC Reports Inc., a division of Elsevier	Chevy Chase, MD
Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC)	Washington D.C.
Georgetown University	Washington D.C.
Holiday Inn Select	Solomons, MD
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.	Washington D.C.
National Rehabilitation Center	Washington D.C.
Potomac Hospital	Woodbridge, VA
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	McLean, VA
XM Satellite Radio	Washington D.C.

2006 Selection Committee:

Catherine Hudgins, Fairfax County Supervisor—Selection Committee Chairperson

Tamiko Graves, VPSI, Inc.

Robert Grow, Greater Washington Board of Trade

James Landry, Chevy Chase Bank

Anthony Newman, American University

Elizabeth Preston, League of American Bicyclists

Ruth Rich, American Lung Association of the District of Columbia

Richard Solli, Maryland Transit Administration

Tammy Ussery, Metropolitan Washington Telework Centers

About the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region and plays an important role as the regional forum for transportation planning. The TPB prepares plans and programs that the federal government must approve in order for federal transportation funds to flow to the Washington metropolitan region. The TPB became associated with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) in 1966. COG was established in 1957 by local jurisdictions to address regional concerns including growth, housing, environment, public health and safety, and transportation. Although the TPB is an independent body, its staff is provided by COG's Department of Transportation Planning.

Commuter Connections is a network of Washington metropolitan commuter transportation organizations and a program of the TPB, that works toward easing daily commutes and reducing vehicle emissions. This is accomplished by promoting and facilitating ridesharing, bicycling, walking, teleworking, and 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.



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 2007 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



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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(800) 745-RIDE

www.commuterconnections.org

Special thanks to the Commuter Connections Subcommittee - 2006 Employer Recognition Awards Workgroup:

- Lorraine Taylor, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- Vanessa Vega, Arlington Transportation Partners
- Victor Egu, Prince George's County Dept. of Public Works & Transportation

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