



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

**Council of Governments**

**NEWS**

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– PRESS RELEASE –

## **Drivers in the Metro DC Area Are Asked to Pledge to Go Car Free or Car Lite on September 22nd**

Washington, D.C. — This year, 15 sponsors have joined with Commuter Connections to celebrate World Car Free Day in the Washington DC metropolitan region on Monday, September 22. Car Free Day is a worldwide event that encourages green travel awareness and the use of alternatives to drive-alone transportation. Sponsors are showing their support by providing great raffle prizes for those who take the pledge to go car free or car-lite (carpooling or vanpooling).

Commuter Connections, a regional transportation network coordinated by the Transportation Planning Board at the Council of Governments, hosts the annual Car Free Day event to demonstrate the benefits of travel options such as mass transit—including the new Silver Line and Metroway Bus Rapid Transit service—ridesharing, bicycling, walking, and telework. All residents, commuters, and students in the region, including those who already use alternative modes of transportation, are asked to take the pledge at [carfreemetrod.com/pledge-to-car-free.php](http://carfreemetrod.com/pledge-to-car-free.php) and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion.

“We appreciate that thousands in the region have already taken the pledge to show support for green transportation options,” said Nicholas Ramfos, Commuter Connections Director. “We are grateful to our sponsors who have donated generous prizes to the regional Car Free Day raffle. We encourage everyone to go to the website today at [www.carfreemetrod.org](http://www.carfreemetrod.org) and take the pledge to go car free or car lite. It just takes a few minutes—and every pledge counts!”

Those who take the pledge to go car free or car-lite become eligible to win great prizes.

Prizes donated by Gold Level Sponsors this year include:

- **Kindle Fire**, courtesy of the [Tri-County Council](#) for Southern Maryland
- **Sole' custom bicycle**, courtesy of [Clear Channel Communications](#)
- **Health & fitness club annual membership**, courtesy of Sport&Health
- **Capital Bikeshare annual memberships**, courtesy of [goDCgo.com](#)
- **Pair of prescription glasses or sunglasses**, valued at up to \$350, courtesy of SEE, [SEEeyewear.com](#)
- **Apple iPad mini**, courtesy of Walking Role Models—Providing health & wellness workshops for students and families, [walkingrolemodels.org](#)
- **Tickets to Fright Fest**, courtesy of Six Flags America—Experience Maryland's most horrific Halloween event, Fright Fest, , [sixflags.com](#)
- **\$250 Bikeshop gift certificate**, courtesy of [BicycleSPACE](#)

On Car Free Day, Monday, September 22, for one day only, Capital Bikeshare is offering 24-hour memberships sold at kiosks system-wide for \$1 (the usual terms and conditions, as well as the standard usage fees apply).

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) will participate in [PARK\(ing\) Day](#) to highlight the District's sustainability efforts and to kick off car-free activities in the region, today September 19, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., issuing six-hour temporary parking passes for participants to turn metered parking spaces into temporary, pop-up parks.

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 is available at the Commuter Connections [website](#). Site visitors can set up a free account and request a ride match for their daily commute or a special event, make carpooling plans, and learn about other transportation opportunities to save time and money, while doing something good for traffic congestion and the environment.

Take the 2014 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 #CarFreeDayDC2014 or #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 has provided free trusted ride-matching services since 1974 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) / TPB & COG on Facebook: [Click Here](#)

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