

**20
25** | **EMPLOYER
AWARDS**



moving our future

FORWARD



JUNE 25, 2025



James Walkinshaw
Braddock District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

As federal and other workers in the metropolitan Washington region continue to return to the physical workplace, the Commuter Connections Employer Outreach team is providing guidance and support to help employers ease the transition back. Commuters are being encouraged and incentivized to use the abundance of multimodal travel options available within the region, in lieu of driving alone.

The employers we are honoring today have implemented innovative and successful commuter and telework programs. We hope that through their example other organizations will embrace similar initiatives, creating more opportunities to help maximize the efficiencies of shared commutes and telework.

On behalf of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, I wish to congratulate the winners of the 2025 Commuter Connections Employer Awards and extend thanks for their continued commitment to reducing traffic congestion and improving the region's air quality.

Sincerely,



James Walkinshaw
Chair, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

For more than 25 years, Commuter Connections has been acknowledging distinguished companies in the Washington, DC metropolitan region through its Employer Awards program. These award-winning employers offer comprehensive commuter programs to encourage carpooling, vanpooling, transit, bicycling, walking, and teleworking. Such methods help to improve roadway mobility, environmental quality, and provide for better employee work/life balance.

Commuter Connections' regional network of employer outreach professionals collaborate with companies to set up and expand commuter benefits and telework offerings to employees. These efforts help employers attract and retain the best and brightest workforce and may also reduce overhead costs for parking and leased office space.

Please join me in enthusiastically congratulating the recipients of the 2025 Commuter Connections Employer Awards. Their dedication and meaningful efforts to address and improve commuting challenges faced by their employees are well earned and are to be commended.

Sincerely,



Christian Bacon
Chair, Commuter Connections Subcommittee





Christian Bacon
Marketing and Outreach Specialist
Prince George's County
Department of Public Works & Transportation

The 2025 Employer Awards

The Commuter Connections annual Employer Awards program acknowledges employers who offer outstanding commuter benefits, amenities, and tools to facilitate teleworking and the use of alternative commuting methods. By reducing drive-alone travel, such methods help to improve mobility and reduce harmful vehicle emissions.

Qualified applicants were evaluated by a Selection Committee made up of transportation professionals, industry experts, and employers from throughout the metropolitan Washington region. 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 implementing policies that have improved the lives of their employees and residents of the National Capital Region.

Employer Awards

Employers offering a host of commuter benefits and incentives to encourage and reward employees for using alternative means of transportation to and from work. Incentives and commuter benefits can come in many forms, including, but not limited to, transit benefits and subsidies; preferred or discounted parking for carpools and vanpools; amenities for bicyclists and walkers such as showers and storage; and laptops and software for teleworking. With the availability of choices, employees are empowered to make well-informed decisions about better ways of commuting instead of driving alone.

Employer Outreach Team Award

The Employer Outreach Team that has most successfully met its goal of partnering with employers to develop and expand commute benefit offerings.

Employer Services Organization Award

An organization that has instituted a program or enhanced an existing program that makes it easier for employers to introduce or expand commute benefits or telework in the workplace.





Employer Award
City of Alexandria
City of Alexandria, Virginia

Founded in 1749, the City of Alexandria is renowned for its storied history and charm. Alexandria is recognized for its Old Town neighborhood with well-preserved historic buildings, waterfront views of the Potomac River, and a vibrant arts and culture scene. The city offers a wide range of neighborhoods with rich heritage from its iconic Del Ray neighborhood, to the rolling Seminary Hills, and historic neighborhoods like Parker-Gray and Rosemont.

Alexandria's neighborhoods are connected by a robust network of public transit, walking trails, and cycle paths, and transportation options abound for residents, commuters, visitors, and its employees. The City's Transportation Demand Management Program, GO Alex, provides a comprehensive range of services focused on reducing single occupant vehicle (SOV) travel to improve mobility and air quality through encouraging transportation alternatives. In 2024, the City of Alexandria helped reduce 4,974,000 SOV employee miles traveled and saved 226,091 gallons of gas through programs like GO Alex.

Through the SmartBenefits program, the City of Alexandria currently subsidizes City government employees up to \$270 per month for public transit and qualified vanpool services. The City further incentivizes staff to take alternative methods of transportation via a Parking Cashout program. Employees can earn a reward of \$5 per workday to forgo a paid parking spot and instead commute by transit, water taxi, carpool, vanpool, bicycle, or walking.

The City is also part of the regional Commuter Connections program that matches commuters interested in carpooling or vanpooling and promotes the Guaranteed Ride Home and CommuterCash programs.

Employees have access to shower facilities and lockers at most worksites, and several sites have bike storage rooms and covered bike racks. Capital Bikeshare memberships, valued at \$95 annually, are provided free of charge to City employees, and many stations are located near City facilities. Each May, the City of Alexandria hosts a local Bike to Work Day pit stop event in Old Town Alexandria to further promote cycling to work.

Nearly a third of employees have agreements to telework up to two days per week, further reducing car travel, and are provided with telework equipment. To help shorten commutes for employees currently living outside the City, eligible employees are offered an interest-free, deferred payment loan of up to \$15,000 to purchase homes within the City of Alexandria.



Founded in 1921, the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) is an individual membership professional organization representing 100,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy.

In January of 2021, APTA opened its new headquarters across from the Potomac Yard Metro Station and along the DASH bus line. APTA subsidizes employees up to 50 percent of the IRS maximum tax exemption allowed per month for public transit, and newly enrolled employees receive a free \$50 SmarTrip card through the SmartBenefits Plu\$50 program. Out of 150 employees, 29 (19%) are enrolled in APTA's transit benefits program.

APTA's office is situated next to a public walking/biking trail and employees have access to indoor and outdoor bike racks, locker rooms, and showers. APTA offers a bike repair station in front of the plaza connected to its building for employees and the public, which includes bike repair tools, including a tire pump.

Employees who enjoy bicycling can borrow one of four APTA-owned bikes kept on-site, for activities such as daily exercise breaks, lunch with colleagues, or local appointments. APTA has earned a Silver Bicycle Friendly Business designation from The League of American Bicyclists each year since 2022, and hosts an annual local Bike to Work Day event at its headquarters.

The association encourages employees to carpool and has designated carpool parking spaces available in its garage. Nearly all employees work from home at least two days per week and are also offered an annual "Work from Anywhere" week. In 2024, APTA helped employees reduce 787,500 single occupant vehicle miles traveled and save 35,795 gallons of gas.

APTA promotes its diverse commuter benefits through various methods and encourages employees to register for Commuter Connections' services such as the Guaranteed Ride Home program.

To learn more about APTA employee benefits and employment opportunities, visit apta.org/apta-and-you/jobs-at-apta.





Employer Award
American Physical Therapy Association
City of Alexandria, Virginia



Employer Award
Washington Headquarters Services
Arlington County, Virginia

Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), founded in 1977, is a Department of Defense (DoD) Field Activity to provide administrative and management support to multiple DoD components and military departments including the Pentagon and Mark Center.

The WHS Transportation Management Program Office was established in 2010 to manage the DoD shuttle system, encourage transportation options other than single occupant vehicles, and facilitate traffic impacts from large-scale construction projects at the Pentagon. The Pentagon Transit Center is the largest transit hub in the region with 59 bus routes, 2 Metrorail Stations, 15 DoD shuttle routes, 593 bike spaces, 681 preferred carpool and vanpool parking spaces, and 5 slug queuing stations.

Of 33,000 federal civilian employees and military service members in the Washington, DC metropolitan region, 54.4 percent use transit; 9.1 percent carpool, vanpool or slug; and 1.2 percent bike. WHS is a member of Commuter Connections, with a private label ridematching portal, and offers transit subsidies up to \$325 monthly through its Mass Transportation Benefit Program. WHS also offers alternative work schedules, compressed work weeks, and amenities such as bike storage, bike repair stations, and lockers and showers.

WHS has made it easy for employees to acquire information about alternative commute options through outreach at transportation fairs and events, and through continual communications such as transportation advisories, traffic alerts, digital signage, website postings, social media, and a monthly newsletter. It has also developed custom brochures and commuter guides on its various programs and services. Additionally, WHS maintains a transportation hotline, rideshare distribution lists, and dedicated Transportation Management Program offices at the Pentagon and Mark Center.

In 2024, WHS helped reduce 131,480,000 single occupant vehicle employee miles and saved 5,976,364 gallons of gas.



Pike & Rose is a community located in the heart of Montgomery County on Rockville Pike and is managed by Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT). The property has nearly 90 tenant businesses, including offices, restaurants, retailers, entertainment, and hospitality, with over 2,600 employees. The neighborhood is home to luxury condos, The Residences apartments, and a boutique hotel - Canopy by Hilton. Its vibrant restaurant and retail scene includes West Elm, Summer House Santa Monica, Uniqlo, Fogo de Chao, and local small shops such as Sunday Morning Bakehouse and Julii. Venues such as IPIC Theaters and Pinstripes provide great fun and excitement.

Pike & Rose is conveniently located two blocks from the North Bethesda Metro Station and FRIT offers a monthly transit subsidy for Pike & Rose retail employees through the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's FareShare program.

Pike & Rose offers bike racks, bike rooms, and locker and shower facilities, and since 2017 has hosted a pit stop location for the annual Bike to Work Day event. Additionally, there are several nearby Capital Bikeshare stations. FRIT worked with the State Highway Administration and Montgomery County to help redesign Towne Road for safe bicycle/pedestrian access. Lastly, its parking garages offer preferred parking spaces for carpools and vanpools.

FRIT is actively involved with promoting use of drive-alone alternatives to Pike & Rose employees by hosting "Commuter Information Days," placing transportation literature at the concierge desk and other common areas, real-time transit displays, and a section about local transportation options within its official Pike & Rose handbook.

Pike & Rose is a LEED Stage 3 Gold-certified development complete with a green roof space, rooftop farm, and a solar canopy which powers 90 percent of its Trade Street parking garage.





Employer Services Organization Award
Federal Realty – Pike & Rose
Montgomery County, North Bethesda, Maryland



Employer Outreach Team Award
Fairfax County Commuter Services
Fairfax County, Virginia

The Employer Services Outreach Team Award is given to the Commuter Connections employer outreach team that has most successfully met its goal of partnering with employers to develop and expand commuter benefit offerings. There are a total of 10 employer outreach teams who service the Washington, DC metropolitan region to cultivate and support employer-based transportation programs.

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) Commuter Connections program is pleased to honor Fairfax County Commuter Services with the 2025 Employer Outreach Team Award. During the 2024 calendar year, 418 meetings were held by the team, netting 404 new employer programs within the jurisdiction, 42 percent of which were higher level employer commute programs. County staff also organized and participated in numerous transportation events at many employer worksites to help generate employee participation.

Winner selection for this award was based on information provided by the jurisdictions as part of required monthly reporting to COG/TPB, and through ongoing database verifications made by Commuter Connections staff.



2025 Honorable Mention

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

ABM - Dulles, VA
American Society of Health System Pharmacists - Bethesda, MD
American Real Estate Partners - Ashburn, VA
Ameritel Corporation - Derwood, MD
Astor & Sanders Corporation - Rockville, MD
Charles County Government - La Plata, MD
CNA - Arlington, VA
Fluet - Tysons, VA
Happy Go Bicycles - Washington, DC
Inova Alexandria Hospital - Alexandria, VA
Inova Health Systems - Fairfax, VA
Inova Loudoun Hospital - Leesburg, VA
Lerch, Early & Brewer - Bethesda, MD
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority - Vienna, VA
Primary Care Coalition - Silver Spring, MD
Systems Integration & Development - Rockville, MD
Transit Management of Alexandria (DASH) - Alexandria, VA
US Government Building Fund - Arlington, VA
White Oak Community Recreation Center - Silver Spring, MD

2025 Selection Committee

Commuter Connections would like to thank the following members for volunteering as part of the 2025 Employer Awards Selection Committee:

Laurel Hammig, National Park Service
Katy Lang, District Department of Transportation
Michelle Martin, Maryland Department of Transportation
Marissa Quander, Groundswell
Kelsey Sisko, Maryland Department of the Environment
Kari Swenson, Horizon/McDonald's

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Established in 1965, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for metropolitan Washington. Working with local, state, regional, and federal partners, the TPB coordinates future plans, provides data and analysis to decision makers, and coordinates regional programs to advance safety, land-use coordination, and more. The TPB is housed at and staffed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

Commuter Connections

Commuter Connections is a regional network of transportation organizations that began in 1974 and is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), offering free commuter services to employers and employees. Services and programs include ridematching for carpools and vanpools; coordination of the Bike to Work Day event; administration of the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program (Washington and Baltimore regions); and management of the CommuterCash app. Through its Employer Outreach Representatives, Commuter Connections assists employers with commuter benefit programs, including telework and alternative work schedules. Commuter Connections is funded by the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Founded in 1957, COG is an independent, nonprofit association with a membership of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is the hub for regional partnership where each month more than 1,500 officials and experts convene to make connections, share information, and develop solutions to the region's major challenges. Together, COG, its members, and employers advance a region-forward vision for a more prosperous, accessible, livable, equitable, and sustainable future. The Board of Directors is COG's governing body and is responsible for its overall policies.

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