

Washington Metropolitan Region TDM Resource Guide and Strategic Marketing Plan



Version 26

FY 2024 Final Report

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**FY 2024 TDM Resource Guide and SMP
Table of Contents**

Background	Page 1
Executive Summary	Page 3
Regional Activity Centers	Page 4
Equity Emphasis Areas	Page 9
Mission Statement	Page 11
Acknowledgements	Page 12
Guiding Principles of Strategic Marketing Plan	Page 14
Key Findings and Strategic Implications	Page 15
Summary of Adopted Strategy for FY 2024	Page 26
Regional Profile	Page 32
Alternative Mode Profiles/Support Programs	Page 39
Carpools and Vanpools	Page 40
Transit	Page 43
Bus Activity	Page 46
Rail Activity	Page 53
Telework	Page 57
Bicycling/Walking	Page 60
Bike Sharing	Page 64
E-Scooters	Page 66
Car Sharing	Page 67
Managed Lanes (HOV and Express Lanes)	Page 69
Park & Ride Lots	Page 79
Guaranteed Ride Home	Page 82
Commuter Benefit Programs	Page 83
Clean Air Partners	Page 86
Incentive Programs	Page 89

FY 2024 TDM Resource Guide and SMP

Table of Contents

Marketing Strategies for Network Members and Regional Partners	Page 92
Calendar of Regional Events for FY 2024	Page 138
Regional Activity Center Profiles	Page 139
Inner Core - <i>District of Columbia</i>	Page 139
Inner Core - <i>City of Alexandria</i>	Page 143
Inner Core - <i>Arlington County</i>	Page 147
Northern Virginia - <i>Fairfax County</i>	Page 151
Northern Virginia - <i>Loudoun County</i>	Page 157
Northern Virginia - <i>Prince William County</i>	Page 160
Suburban Maryland - <i>Frederick County</i>	Page 164
Suburban Maryland - <i>Montgomery County</i>	Page 168
Suburban Maryland - <i>Prince George's County</i>	Page 174
Southern Maryland - <i>Charles County</i>	Page 180
TDM Research Summaries	Page 183
State of Public Transportation Report 2018	Page 184
Employer Satisfaction Survey 2019 (October 2019)	Page 185
Vanpool Drivers Survey Report 2020 (July 2020)	Page 190
GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey Report Baltimore Region FY20 (March 2021)	Page 191
GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey Report Washington, DC Region FY20 (March 2021)	Page 192
Applicant Database Annual Placement Survey Report FY21 (May 2021)	Page 193
Retention Rate Survey 2021 Report (July 2021)	Page 195
Congestion Management Process 2022 Technical Report (July 2022)	Page 196
GRH Applicant Survey Report 2022 Baltimore Reg and St. Mary's Co. (Sept 2022)	Page 198
GRH Applicant Survey Report 2022 Washington, DC Region (Sept 2022)	Page 200
Bike to Work Survey Report 2022 (May 2023)	Page 202
State of the Commute Survey Report 2022 (June 2023)	Page 204
TDM Analysis Report FY 2021 – FY 2023 (November 2023)	Page 206

BACKGROUND

The first formal transportation demand management efforts for the Washington D.C. region began in 1974, under the name Commuter Club, which was established by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), the General Services Administration, and the Greater Washington Board of Trade to provide basic Ridematching for carpools and vanpools. In subsequent years, the program grew into a COG-coordinated network of local rideshare agencies, and in 1989, it became the Ride Finders Network which provided free alternative transportation information and computerized ride matching services to area residents seeking to join car or vanpools or locate appropriate transit arrangements and park-and-ride locations. In 1996, the regional network was renamed Commuter Connections.

In 1997, Commuter Connections expanded its services to include regional telework assistance and resources, its first website, a regional Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program, information on bicycling to work, InfoExpress commuter information kiosks, and free assistance to employers for the development and implementation of alternative commute programs and benefits. In 1998, Commuter Connections began to honor employers in the region through the Employer Recognition Awards program. In 2001, Bike to Work Day was rolled out regionally by Commuter Connections after initially starting as a local District of Columbia event by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association.

In 2003, Commuter Connections expanded its marketing efforts through the implementation of a regional mass marketing measure. The purpose of the measure was to brand the Commuter Connections name as the umbrella organization for commuter transportation information in the Washington metropolitan region and to subsequently increase the use of alternative forms of commuting. In 2008, Commuter Connections began coordinating Car Free Day as a regional event. In 2009, Commuter Connections introduced a carpool incentive project, 'Pool Rewards, which was expanded in 2012 to include vanpools. In 2010, Commuter Connections expanded its coverage of Guaranteed Ride Home program to include the Baltimore region and St. Mary's County.

In 2016, Commuter Connections introduced CarpoolNow, a real-time ridesharing mobile app. In 2017, Commuter Connections launched Flextime Rewards, developed in conjunction with the University of Maryland. The system sends notifications to commuters when heavier than normal traffic congestion is detected along their route, during peak travel periods. In 2019, Commuter Connections and the Maryland Transportation Institute at the University of Maryland launched incenTrip, a mobile app with personalized and real-time features to guide commuters to adjust their travel choices. In exchange, users can accumulate points that can be redeemed for cash and other rewards. In 2024, the incenTrip app is being rebranded to CommuterCash. Also in 2024, Commuter Connections will celebrate its fiftieth year of service.

Today, the Washington, DC region has some of the worst traffic congestion in the country, however, boasts one of the highest rideshare, transit, and bicycling rates. The Commuter Connections regional network provides commute services and information to area residents and employers in the Washington metropolitan region to reduce traffic congestion and emissions caused by single occupant vehicles (SOVs). The outreach mission is to create awareness and benefits of alternatives to driving alone; to position Commuter Connections as an umbrella resource that provides support services to network organizations, employers, and the general public to facilitate those who are seeking to change SOV travel, primarily for commuting purposes. Travel methods promoted by the Commuter Connections network include ridesharing, transit, bicycling, walking, scootering, and teleworking.

The following agencies share the regional commuter database, provide Ridematching services and share information and resources: Alexandria Go Alex , Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City Department of

Transportation, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, Bethesda Transportation Solutions, Fairfax County Commuter Services, U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Frederick County TransIT Services, George Washington Regional Commission, Harford Commute Smart, Howard County Go Howard, Loudoun County Commuter Services, Maryland Department of Transportation, Maryland Transit Administration, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Montgomery County Commuter Services, National Institutes of Health-Bethesda, North Bethesda Transportation Center, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission OmniRide, Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation, Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, and Washington Headquarters Services - DOD. COG provides Ridematching services directly for Arlington County, the District of Columbia, and to residents in other jurisdictions in both Maryland and Virginia not listed above.

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, the region's designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and is funded through the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and U.S. Departments of Transportation. Other entities that play a major role in the delivery of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) products, services, and messages in the Washington, DC region include transit agencies, local governments, business partnerships, bicycling associations, and transportation management associations.

The partnership between agencies and jurisdictions has been encouraged to develop and promote a seamless multi-modal transportation system, and a coherent message to commuters that will accelerate the trial and adoption of alternative commute modes. TDM mass marketing assists the region in supporting air quality goals through the implementation of regional transportation demand management measures, which in turn will help increase regional mobility and efficiencies in the use of the existing transportation infrastructure, conserve energy, and help to improve public health by reducing air pollution.

The purpose of the Washington Metropolitan Region Transportation Demand Management Resource Guide and Strategic Marketing Plan (SMP) is to assist with the coordination of TDM marketing campaigns to maximize regional effectiveness in increasing awareness and use of alternative transportation modes. It also provides background on TDM products and services, which offer multi-modal options to Washington, DC area residents and businesses, which assist commuters in finding and adopting alternative transportation methods.

Regional TDM marketing activities are strategically planned and executed to optimize available resources. Messages are tailored and targeted to audiences who are most inclined to try and adopt alternative methods of commuting. Evaluation methodologies measure levels of change in travel behavior.

Furthermore, the Strategic Marketing Plan has been developed as a reference tool for use by the regional agencies and jurisdictions and outlines regional marketing campaigns and budgets that effectively promote TDM practices.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Commuter Connections, through partner input conducts and reviews regional commute data and market research. Findings and results are applied to planning and marketing communication programs by targeting specific audience groups likely to adopt alternative commute practices, and through the most cost-effective media with messaging that resonates.

This SMP places focus on key activity centers and Equity Emphasis Areas within the Washington, DC metropolitan region. It includes data from previously conducted research, together with new information gathered from members of the Regional TDM Marketing Group. A research appendix includes executive summaries of recent Commuter Connections studies from approximately the past five years, in addition to other relevant TDM research. An initial survey and interview process occurred in May 1997 for the inaugural SMP report, and the Regional TDM Marketing Group updates this document on an annual basis through collaborative input.

The Washington, DC region continues to show growth in households and employment at a steady pace. The stress on the region's highway and public transportation systems remains a challenge to manage.

Metropolitan Washington Regional Activity Centers

Activity Centers are existing urban centers, priority development areas, transit hubs, suburban town centers, and traditional towns. They are the locations that will accommodate much of the region's future growth and development in the coming decades.

While Atlanta has Livable Centers, and San Francisco has Priority Development Areas, the DC region has Activity Centers. Different terms yet similar concepts; they represent places or hubs in large metropolitan areas where future growth is designated, encouraged, and concentrated.

Activity Centers emerged from the Transportation Planning Board's 1998 Vision, which called for a strong regional economy, including a healthy regional core and dynamic Activity Centers. Following the vision, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), in cooperation with local planning officials, produced the first regional map of Activity Centers in 2002 and an update in 2007. Initially, Activity Centers were mostly used for technical analysis and transportation planning purposes, such as developing growth forecasts, measuring commercial construction activity, and modeling transportation capacity.

In 2010, area leaders convened at COG through the Region Forward initiative to collaborate on fostering an accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable metropolitan Washington. The vision called for a mix of housing, jobs, and services in Activity Centers, as well as efficient transportation connections within and between Activity Centers. Most importantly, Region Forward re-emphasized Activity Centers as the best strategy for accommodating future growth.

Place + Opportunity: Strategies for Creating Great Communities and a Stronger Region is a concept to strengthen and enhance Activity Centers throughout metropolitan Washington. Activity Centers are the places that will accommodate much of the region's growth in the coming decades—attract residents, businesses, and visitors to the area, and are critical to ensuring the region's future competitiveness and success. Incorporating in-depth research on market, physical, and socioeconomic characteristics of the region's Activity Centers, this report offers goals, strategies, and tools to assist local governments and other stakeholders working to create thriving, high opportunity places.

Strong Activity Centers are the foundation of a strong region. While they take many different forms throughout the region, Activity Centers share some common characteristics; communities that offer a range of housing, transportation options, jobs, services, and amenities. Most importantly, they provide access to opportunity for residents, workers, and businesses. The importance of these places to local communities and the region is increasingly clear. Activity Centers will more efficiently accommodate the significant growth projected for metropolitan Washington. Activity Centers with a mix of uses, amenities, and good pedestrian infrastructure have been shown to attract more people and growth, perform better economically, and prove more resilient during recessions than less mixed-use and less walkable neighborhoods. The region's Activity Centers are diverse, ranging from highly urban places to suburban town centers, to traditional towns. Each community has its own aspirations, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to achieving success. However, Activity Centers with common characteristics can benefit from similar strategies and investments.

To help make progress toward the TPB's transportation and land-use goals and get more out of the investments made in existing transportation infrastructure, the TPB calls upon regional leaders to promote policies that bring jobs and housing closer together. A TPB priority is focusing new development to support population growth in Activity Centers and near high-capacity transit station areas. Doing so can expand travel options and make for shorter trips in vibrant walkable communities.

Currently, 29% of the region's population lives within Activity Centers, and 66% of jobs are located within them. Based on the performance analysis of the financially constrained element of Visualize 2045, by 2045, 35% of the region's population will live in Activity Centers, and 67% of the region's jobs will be located in them. By pushing the pace on implementing policies that encourage development in Activity Centers, promoting housing affordability in Activity Centers, and by continuing to invest in efficient public transit, the region can reap even greater benefits from this type of land-use planning.

The Regional Activity Centers on the following pages represent the top 100 in descending order by number of jobs.

Employment by Activity Center/Cluster
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Round 9.2 Cooperative Forecasts
Top 100 Sorted by Number of Jobs

Jurisdiction	Activity Center Name	2025 Employment
District of Columbia	Farragut Square	192,995
District of Columbia	Downtown DC	115,804
District of Columbia	Monumental Core	72,166
District of Columbia	Westend	69,322
District of Columbia	NoMa	68,396
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Dulles South	58,036
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Merrifield Dunn Loring	52,024
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Tysons Central 123	48,530
Montgomery County	Bethesda	46,391
District of Columbia	Dupont Circle	43,932
Arlington County	Crystal City	42,868
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Reston Town Center	41,620
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Fort Belvoir	39,157
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Fairfax Center	38,323
Arlington County	Rosslyn	36,309
District of Columbia	Capitol Hill	35,781
District of Columbia	Capitol Riverfront	35,446
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Fort Belvoir North Area	34,291
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Herndon	32,320
Montgomery County	White Oak / FDA	28,938
Arlington County	Ballston	28,681
Montgomery County	Silver Spring	28,526
Montgomery County	White Flint	27,283
Arlington County	Pentagon	26,000
Frederick County	Francis Scott Key Mall	25,957
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Fairfax City	24,409
Montgomery County	Life Sciences Center/ Gaithersburg-Crown	24,122
Montgomery County	NIH / Walter Reed National Military Medical Ctr	23,727
Montgomery County	Rockville - South / Twinbrook	23,146
City of Alexandria	Carlyle / Eisenhower East	22,901
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Dulles East	22,367

Jurisdiction	Activity Center Name	2025 Employment
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Tysons East	20,489
City of Alexandria	King Street / Old Town	20,474
District of Columbia	McMillan / Old Soldiers Home	20,432
PrinceWilliamCo/Manassas/ManassasPark	City of Manassas	20,349
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Wiehle- Reston East	20,261
District of Columbia	U / 14th Corridor	20,049
District of Columbia	Georgetown	19,826
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Springfield	18,657
Montgomery County	Rockville - Town Center	18,570
Montgomery County	Germantown	18,413
City of Alexandria	Braddock Road Metro Area	18,355
Montgomery County	Rock Spring	17,967
Prince George's County	New Carrollton	17,800
Frederick County	Downtown Frederick	17,599
Arlington County	Pentagon City	17,449
District of Columbia	Southwest Waterfront	17,148
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Tysons Central 7	16,751
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Tysons West	16,499
City of Alexandria	Beauregard	16,131
Loudoun County	RT 28 Central	15,737
Charles County	Waldorf	15,246
Arlington County	Court House	15,043
Loudoun County	Dulles Town Center	14,797
District of Columbia	St Elizabeth's	14,616
PrinceWilliamCo/Manassas/ManassasPark	Potomac Town Center / Potomac Mills	14,470
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Bailey's Crossroads / Western Gateway	14,315
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Fairfax Innovation Center	13,882
City of Alexandria	Landmark / Van Dorn	13,518
Loudoun County	Leesburg	13,364
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	City of Falls Church	13,353
Prince George's County	Largo Town Center/ Morgan Blvd	12,026
Fairfax Co./Fairfax City/Falls Church	Beltway South	11,890
PrinceWilliamCo/Manassas/ManassasPark	Gainesville	11,390

Jurisdiction	Activity Center Name	2025 Employment
Frederick County	Fort Detrick	10,970
Loudoun County	Ashburn Station	10,925
Prince George's County	Bowie	10,153
Montgomery County	Gaithersburg - Central	10,141
Arlington County	Virginia Square	9,770
District of Columbia	Columbia Heights	9,698
Arlington County	Clarendon	9,405
Montgomery County	King Farm / Rockville Research Center	9,047
Montgomery County	Friendship Heights	9,020
PrinceWilliamCo/Manassas/ManassasPark	City of Manassas Regional Airport	8,877
Prince George's County	Suitland Metro	8,872
Montgomery County	Gaithersburg - Kentlands	8,772
Loudoun County	Ashburn	8,526
District of Columbia	Friendship Heights	8,490
District of Columbia	Walter Reed	8,193
Montgomery County	Olney	8,118
Prince George's County	College Park	7,894
Loudoun County	RT 28 South	7,796
Prince George's County	Landover Mall	7,790
Montgomery County	Gaithersburg - Metropolitan Grove	7,678
District of Columbia	Rhode Island Ave	7,624
Prince George's County	National Harbor	7,620

Metropolitan Washington Equity Emphasis Areas

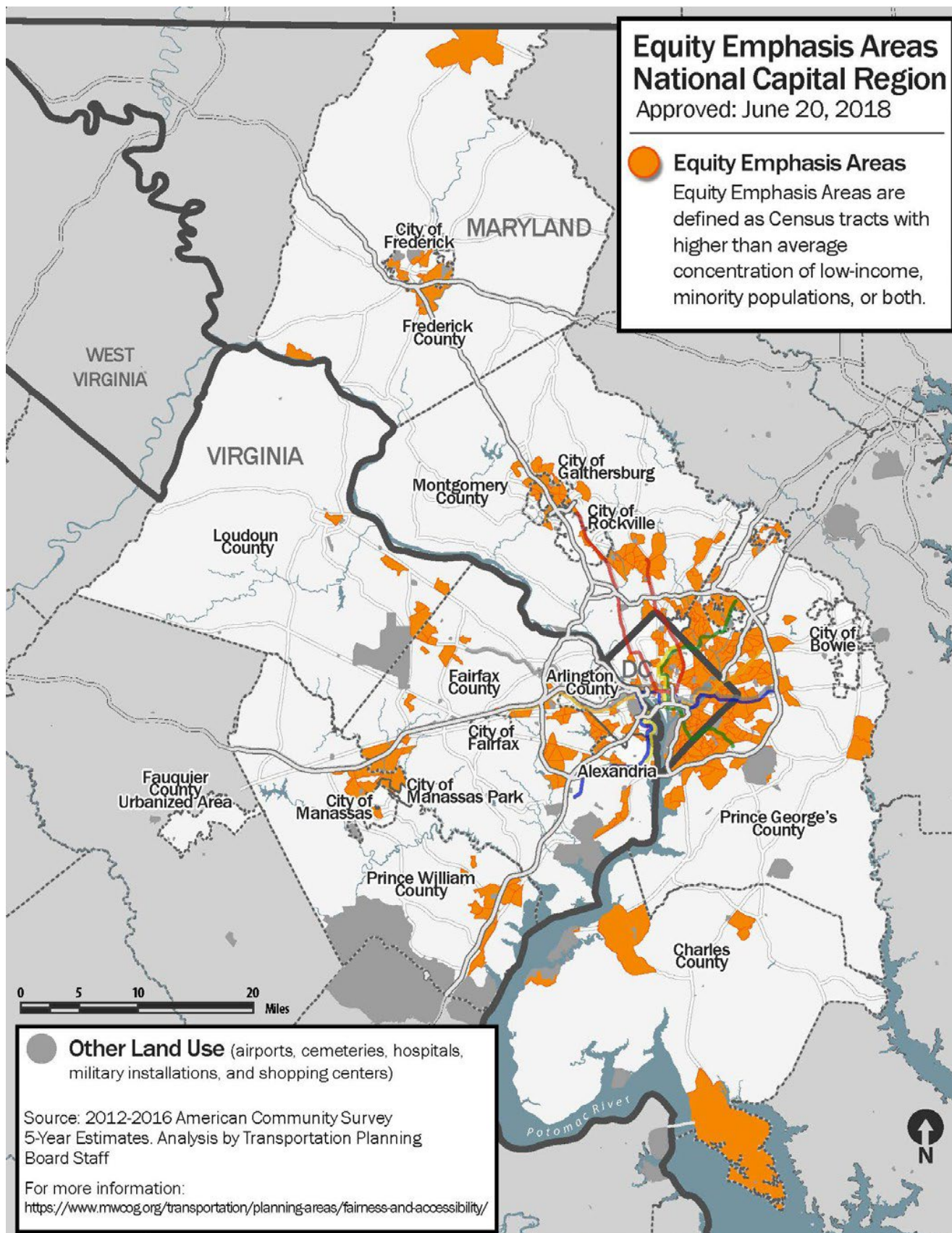
Equity Emphasis Areas which are small geographic areas that have significant concentrations of low-income, minority populations, or both. The methodology for the Equity Emphasis Areas was adopted by the TPB in March 2017. Tract-level Census data is used to identify communities that have significant concentrations of low-income and / or minority populations (African American, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino). Data from the American Community Survey for each of the minority population groups is used:

To identify concentration, the tract percent for each group was divided against its respective regional average. This resulted in a tract-level Ratio of Concentration, or the number of times the regional average, for each population group. To identify tracts with significant concentrations of low-income or minority population groups, as well as to normalize and compare results across the four groups and region, an Index Score is calculated based on each groups' Ratio of Concentration for every tract in the region. Index Scores for each population group is aggregated to reach an uncapped Total Index Score. Total Index Scores greater than or equal to 4.00 are considered Equity Emphasis Areas.

Tracts are identified as Equity Emphasis Areas if one of two criteria are met: Tracts must have a concentration of individuals identified as low-income more than one-and-a-half times the regional average or high concentrations of two or more minority population groups and/or high concentrations of one or more minority population groups together with low income concentrations at or above the regional average. Index scores are used to ensure that these conditions are met. A person is considered low-income if their household income is less than one-and-a-half times the federal government's official poverty threshold which varies by household size.

The TPB is required to analyze the long-range transportation plan for disproportionately high and adverse impacts on low-income and minority populations. The TPB's primary purpose for the Equity Emphasis Areas map is as an analytical tool to identify regional impacts of the planned transportation projects as whole by comparing accessibility and mobility measures for the Equity Emphasis Areas compared to the rest of the region.

Additionally, the Equity Emphasis Areas will be used in other planning activities and will be made available to local jurisdictions to assist with considering equity in initiatives such as education, health, and green space.



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a cooperative regional transportation document designed to serve as a marketing resource plan to reduce drive alone behavior by maximizing use of commuter transportation alternatives in the Washington-Baltimore Metropolitan regions:

More specifically, this document:

- Serves as a resource directory of current products, research, and marketing activities conducted within the Washington metropolitan and Baltimore regions. It is maintained with the most current information available from notable sources.
- Outlines a strategy for a regionally coordinated TDM marketing campaign to maximize effectiveness in increasing awareness regarding TDM, by targeting employment activity centers for the promotion of alternative transportation modes, and to create measurable results.
- Focuses on primary impacted Activity Centers and Equity Emphasis Areas in the Washington, DC region, and profiles TDM products available within those areas.

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF STRATEGIC MARKETING PLAN

Through previously conducted research within the Washington, DC region, we understand that the general population is aware of the negative outcomes of both traffic congestion and clean air challenges. Most of the population have not translated this awareness into action. For some, SOV alternatives lack the conveniences of driving alone and they are not receptive to change. For others, however, so-called inconveniences are only perception. Marketing campaigns initiated within the region must champion key attributes of more sustainable transportation (lowering stress, cost savings, time savings) and demonstrate that such options are flexible to match the commuters' daily needs.

The SMP document:

- Summarizes key findings of the most relevant research related to the products and demographics associated with TDM issued over the last five years.
- Addresses strategic marketing activities related to pursuit of alternatives to single occupant driving.
- Focuses on key messaging that have proven effective in past campaigns.
- Conveys opportunities within specified impacted activity centers/clusters for marketing and promotions, based on ample capacity and demand for alternative commuting.
- Focuses on providing outreach to disproportionately high and adversely impacted low-income and minority populations within Equity Emphasis Areas.
- Outlines a marketing strategy to efficiently and effectively maximize coverage within the region and increase awareness of the benefits of alternative commuting.
- Evaluates the promotions and advertising strategy by reviewing the quantity of phone calls to 800-745-RIDE, visits to the Commuter Connections web site, the number of GRH and Ridematch applications, and the number of incentive program participants.
- Evaluates awareness and performance of Commuter Connections programs and identifies commuting trends based on State of the Commute (SOC) Survey and TDM Analysis reports.

KEY FINDINGS AND STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Below are key findings and resulting implications noted after review of TDM research. Ongoing research provides Commuter Connections with a better understanding of commuter trends and changing demographics, preferences, and behaviors of our regional audience.

2022 State of the Commute Survey

Findings Related to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Commute disruptions were widespread – Three quarters of all workers experienced some disruption to their pre-pandemic commute patterns. Six in ten started or increased their use of telework; 32% shifted to full-time telework, eliminating all their commute trips, and 28% increased the number of days they teleworked. Workers also reported making other commute and work situation changes; 16% were working for a different employer or different job, 13% were working different days or hours, and 9% had shifted to a different type of transportation for their commute. The SOC survey interviewed only residents who were employed at the time of the survey. It is likely some residents who lost jobs during the pandemic had not yet returned to work but these job and commute disruptions are not included in the results.

Both the percentage of workers who teleworked and the average frequency of telework were dramatically higher in 2022 than in 2019 – In 2022, 66% of regional commuters were teleworking at least occasionally, nearly double the 2019 percentage of 35%. In 2022, teleworkers numbered 2.14 million regional workers. The average telework frequency also rose, nearly tripling from 1.2 telework days in 2019 to 3.37 telework days in 2022.

Telework replaced nearly half of daily commute trips in 2022 – The combination of the high percentage of workers teleworking and the high frequency of telework produced a nearly five-fold increase in the percentage of commute trips replaced by telework in 2022 compared with 2019. In 2022, telework accounted for 48% of commute trips, compared with about one in ten trips in 2019. On a typical workday in 2022, nearly 1.5 million workers teleworked, eliminating 2.9 million daily commute trips.

Driving alone accounted for a higher share of trips that were made to outside work locations in 2022 – The analysis examined commute patterns both with and without telework. When telework was excluded from the mode distribution, the resulting mode splits for trips made to outside work locations showed a statistical increase of nearly 14 percentage points in the drive alone mode share between 2019 and 2022 (2019 64.6%, 2022 78.4%). These trips were shifted from train (10.0 percentage points), carpool/vanpool (1.8 points), and bus (1.7 points), all of which lost mode share between 2019 and 2022.

Transit mode share declined across all geographic and demographic commuter populations. The analysis also examined commute patterns across a range of commuter characteristics. When telework was excluded, relative patterns of mode use were generally similar in 2022 as in 2019. For example, transit use in 2022 was higher among workers who lived and/ or worked in the Core area, younger workers, Non-Hispanic Black respondents, and respondents who had limited access to a personal vehicle. These groups also had been above-average users of transit in 2019. But even for commuting populations for which transit was a common mode, transit use declined between 2019 and 2022. For example, in 2019, three in ten workers under 45 years old had primarily used transit; in 2022, only 16% used transit as their primary mode. In all cases, the lost transit mode share was shifted to driving alone.

Commuting got easier for some workers and more difficult for others but overall commute satisfaction was about the same in 2022 as in 2019 – One-quarter (26%) of respondents who were traveling to an outside work location said their commute was more difficult than one year ago but 24% said their commute was easier. The percentage who had a more difficult commute was about the same as in 2019. However, workers who reported an easier

commute rose from 15% in 2019 to 24% in 2022. The percentage of respondents who were satisfied with their commute was about the same in 2022 (52%) as in 2019 (50%).

Transit riders were more likely to report commute difficulty and less commute satisfaction than were other mode users – Respondents who primarily teleworked, carpooled/vanpooled, or drove alone to work were particularly likely to report an easier commute than last year. This likely reflected the fact that while commute distances were about the same in 2022 as in 2019, commute travel times had declined, due to fewer vehicles on the road. More difficult commutes were far more common among train riders (50%) and bus commuters (42%). Transit riders also gave lower ratings for commute satisfaction; 46% of Metrorail riders and 44% of bus commuters reported being satisfied with their commute, compared with about half of carpools/van- poolers (52%) and drive alone commuters (51%). Transit riders also were less satisfied in 2022 than they had been in 2019; perhaps due to transit service disruptions during the pandemic and riders’ concerns with the potential exposure to coronavirus.

Workers were less aware of commute advertising and commute resources in 2022 – About 27% of all respondents said they had seen, heard, or read advertising about commuting in the year prior to the survey, a considerably lower percentage than estimated in the 2019 survey (45%). This is likely due in part to lower exposure to advertising. Workers who teleworked most or all their workdays would have fewer opportunities to see or hear advertising during their commute and perhaps noticed it less because it was not relevant to their current work situation. But some organizations that sponsor commute advertising paused their mass media and worksite outreach, so it also is likely that fewer ads were available for commuters to notice. Awareness of regional and local commuter assistance services also fell; awareness of Commuter Connections dropped from 48% in 2019 to 40% in 2022, and five of the ten local jurisdiction commute assistance programs experienced lower name recognition in 2022 than in 2019.

But respondents continued to report access to work- place commute services at nearly as high a rate in 2022 as in 2019 – Fifty-six percent of respondents said their employers offered one or more commuter benefits or services at the worksite; this was a slight decrease from the 60% rate estimated in the 2019 SOC survey. This could suggest some employers discontinued commute services because many employees were working from home during the pandemic. However, working from home could have limited employees’ exposure to information or services they might have noticed if they were working at their usual work location. Transit subsidies and commute information continued to be the most common worksite services, and employees who had access to the services were as likely to use them in 2022 as they did in 2019.

Commute Patterns

In 2022, 48% of weekly commute days were telework (work from home). This was vastly different than in 2019, when telework accounted for just 10% of weekly commute days. But even controlling for the growth in telework, for commute trips made to outside work locations, use of drive alone increased and alternative modes fell as a share of commute trips.

Two modes, driving alone and telework, accounted for nearly nine in ten commute days in 2022. Workers teleworked for 47.6% of their commute days/trips and made 41.2% of commute trips by driving alone (including taxi/ridehail service). The remaining commute days/trips were divided into 7.8% transit, 1.7% carpool/ vanpool, and 1.7% bike/walk.

The 2022 mode split was dominated by the pandemic- related increase in telework. Excluding telework from the total reveals the distribution of modes used on days workers traveled to outside work locations. Driving alone accounted for about 78% of commute trips to outside locations and alternative modes made up the balance; 15.0% transit, 3.3% carpool/vanpool, and 3.3% bike/walk.

Comparison of the “outside commuting” mode splits for 2022 and 2019 showed a statistical increase of nearly 14 percentage points in the drive alone share of commute trips (2019 64.6%, 2022 78.4%). These trips were shifted

from train (10.0 percentage points), carpool/vanpool (1.8 points), and bus (1.7 points), all of which lost mode share. Bike/walk mode share remained essentially unchanged, when telework is excluded.

Carpooling declined as a share of weekly commute trips. Among those who carpooled in 2022, about 75% carpooled with family members. This was a significant increase over the 56% of “household carpools” reported in 2019. By contrast, the share of carpoolers who said they used casual carpools or “slug” carpools declined from 20% in 2019 to just 4% in 2022. The coronavirus pandemic could have had two impacts on casual carpooling. First, the shift of many workers to work from home/telework would have reduced the number of potential slug drivers and riders. The second possible factor is commuters’ desire to minimize their risk of contracting coronavirus by avoiding travel with commuters whose virus and or vaccination status they did not know.

Alternative mode use fell across all geographic and demographic characteristics but remained higher for respondents who lived and/or worked in the central portion of the region than for those who lived/worked outside the regional core.

When telework is excluded from the mode distribution, only about half (49%) of commuters who lived in the Core area (Alexandria, Arlington, and District of Columbia) drove alone. This was much lower than the 81% drive alone rate for the Middle Ring (Fairfax, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties) and the 88% rate for the Outer Ring (Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Loudoun, and Prince William counties). The mode pattern for employment area was similar; about six in ten (59%) commuters who worked in the Core area drove alone, dramatically lower than the drive alone rates for Middle Ring workers (88%) and Outer Ring workers (93%).

The average commute distance of respondents who commuted to outside work locations declined slightly from 17.1 miles in 2019 to 16.9 miles in 2022. The 2022 survey asked respondents the distance from their home to their work location. Respondents who teleworked full-time were asked the distance to the location where they would work if they were not teleworking. Respondents who commuted to an outside location traveled 16.9 miles one way, essentially the same as the 17.1 miles average measured in the 2019 survey. Full-time teleworkers reported their travel distance would be 16.3 miles if they were not teleworking. Across all workers, the average commute distance would be 16.7 miles.

Respondents who were traveling to an outside work location commuted an average of 37 minutes one-way, a notably shorter time than that reported in 2019 (43 minutes). This could be related to the slight drop in commute distance, but it is likely the elimination of commute trips due to expanded telework was the more significant factor. One-third of workers teleworked full-time at the time of the survey and another one-third teleworked at least occasionally. This would have removed a much larger number of commuting trips from the peak period in 2022 than in 2019.

Commuters who used alternative modes recognized personal benefits of choosing these modes. When alternative mode users were asked what personal benefits they receive from using these modes, 94% named at least one benefit, a slightly higher share than the 89% in 2019. Saving money topped the list of personal benefits, mentioned by 32%. Respondents also cited benefits with a connection to quality of life, such as getting exercise or health benefit (20%), avoiding traffic (17%), and helping them avoid stress or relax while commuting (14%). Fourteen percent said they could save time or travel more quickly and 13% said they could use their travel time productively when they used an alternative mode. Over one in ten said it was a convenient/easy way to travel (11%) and 10% benefited by not needing to find or pay for parking.

Telework

The percentage of workers who telework exploded between 2019 and 2022, in response to the pandemic. In 2022, 2.14 million regional workers teleworked at least occasionally. This represented a near doubling of regional teleworkers.

Two-thirds (66%) of regional commuters said they teleworked at least occasionally. “Commuters” were defined as workers who were not self-employed and would otherwise travel to a worksite outside their homes if not teleworking. These teleworkers represented 2,137,000 regional workers.

The 66% telework percentage is almost double the 2019 percentage of 35%. Telework incidence grew in every demographic and occupational segment.

Even with the dramatic telework increase in 2022, the survey showed that an additional 9% of all commuters “could and would” telework if given the opportunity (295,000 workers). These respondents said they did not telework but could perform some or all their job responsibilities at a location away from the main work- place and they would like to telework. In fact, many of these workers did occasionally work remotely, although they did not consider it as “telework;” 73% said they worked from home all day during their regular work hours as least one day in the past year and 27% worked from home at least one day per month. But they worked from home infrequently; on average just 13.5 days per year or about 0.27 days per week.

In early 2022, 1,455,400 workers (44% of all regional workers) teleworked/worked from home on a typical workday. This action eliminated nearly 3 million commute trips each work day.

The average telework frequency also rose between 2019 and 2022. Nearly four in ten were teleworking their workdays in 2022 and 32% teleworked three or four days per week. Across all teleworkers, this averaged 3.37 telework days per week, nearly triple the average of 1.2 days per week in 2019.

When the average 3.37 days per week telework frequency for teleworkers and the 0.27 days per week work-at-home frequency of non-teleworkers are applied across the region, it equates to approximately 1,455,400 regional workers teleworking/working at home on a typical workday, or about 44% of all regional workers. Assuming two commute trips per day, these workers eliminate nearly three million work trips each workday.

Most teleworkers reported that telework had a positive impact on their ability to do their work and most teleworkers wanted to continue teleworking in the future. More than nine in ten (92%) respondents who were teleworking at the time of the survey said they would want to telework at least one day per week and 39% said they would want to telework all their workdays. Only 2% of teleworkers were not interested in continuing to telework at all.

Teleworkers were shown four statements about their experience with telework and were asked to rate their level of agreement with each statement on a five-point scale. Nearly nine in ten (86%) agreed (rating of 4 or 5-strongly agree) with the statement that they were productive while they were teleworking and 80% agreed that they were able to coordinate with co-workers while they were working at home. Two-thirds (66%) agreed that they were better able to concentrate on work tasks while teleworking. Conversely, when asked if they found it difficult to unplug from work while teleworking, nearly half (45%) agreed. But more than one-third either disagreed or strongly disagreed, suggesting that it was not universally a concern. The percentage of teleworkers who worked under “formal” telework arrangements was more than twice as high as the percentage who teleworked under informal arrangements with supervisors.

Half (50%) of all respondents (both teleworkers and non-teleworkers) said their employer had a formal telework program and 21% said telework was permitted under informal arrangements between a supervisor and employee. Formal programs were most common at Federal agencies and among respondents who worked for large employers.

The 50% share of workers who reported a formal telework arrangement at work was a considerable increase over the 34% who reported formal telework in 2019. It is possible that employers’ opening telework to a much greater number and wider range of employees to respond to the pandemic prompted some employers to formalize

telework policies and replace informal agreements that had been sufficient for use with selected employees before the pandemic.

Availability and Use of Transportation Options

Most respondents reported access to some transit service in their home area. More than four in ten (44%) respondents said they lived less than one-half mile from a bus stop and 53% said they lived less than one mile away. Train station access was less convenient; only 19% lived less than one mile from a train station. About one-quarter of respondents said they did not know how far they lived from the bus stop and train station.

Among respondents who could provide a distance, the average distances were 1.1 miles to the nearest bus stop and 4.4 miles to the nearest train station. But respondents who lived in the Core area said the closest bus stop was an average of 0.4 miles away and a train station was 1.2 miles away. Three-quarters (78%) of Core area residents lived less than one-half mile from a bus stop.

At the time of the survey, one in ten respondents who were commuting to outside work locations used transit for their commute. Among those who were not riding transit to work, 31% said they had done so within the past three years. When asked why they stopped riding, 68% cited the coronavirus pandemic as a reason and half said it was an important factor in their decision to change commute modes. But access to transit also was a factor for former riders. Twelve percent said transit was less available because they had changed their work location or schedule. Five percent moved to a home area where transit was not available or convenient, and 13% said the transit service or schedule was limited. Former riders also noted some transit service characteristics as barriers to transit use, particularly that transit “takes too much time” (14%), “could be unreliable” (8%), and expensive (5%), or that they did not feel safe on transit (5%).

One in ten commuters region-wide had used an HOV lane for their trip to work and 14% had used an Express/Toll Lane. But more than three-quarters of commuters who used the Express/Toll Lanes said they typically drove alone while using the lane. Thus, these lanes offer only modest benefits for congestion relief along those corridors.

Three in ten (31%) respondents said there was an HOV lane along their route to work and one-third of these respondents, equating to about 9% of all commuters, had used the lanes. Fewer respondents (26%) had access to Express/Toll Lanes, which are open to drive alone commuters for a fee. But more than half of respondents who had an Express/Toll Lane available had used it, representing 14% of all commuters region-wide.

More than three-quarters (77%) of Express/Toll Lane users said they typically drove alone while riding in the lanes. But commuters who carpooled, vanpooled, or rode transit buses in Express/Toll Lanes used the lanes more frequently. One-third (33%) of commuters who typically rode in a carpool/vanpool or bus on an Express/Toll Lane used the lanes three or more days per week; only 14% of commuters who drove alone in an Express/Toll Lane used the lanes this frequently.

More than four in ten commuters who used an HOV lane (HOV lane only or HOV and Express/Toll lanes) made a travel change influenced by availability of the lanes. Among those who used only the Express/Toll Lanes, 24% made a change influenced by the lane availability.

More than one-third (35%) of respondents who used both HOV and Express/Toll Lanes said they made an alternative mode change to be able to use the lanes (18% started carpooling/vanpooling, 8% added another rider to a carpool/vanpool, and 9% started riding transit). Among respondents who used only HOV lanes, 13% made one of these alternative mode changes to use the lanes. Some HOV respondents said they changed their work schedule to avoid the restricted hours (HOV only 11%, HOV/Express 18%). Respondents who used only Express/Toll Lanes were less likely to have made alternative mode travel changes; only small percentages started ridesharing (3%) or riding transit (1%) to use the lanes. One in ten (13%) changed their work schedule to avoid the

time restriction and 5% started or increased driving alone, presumably shifting from alternative modes.

Respondents who used an HOV/Express Lane for commuting estimated that they saved an average of 16 minutes for each one-way trip when they used the lanes. HOV/Express Lane users who lived in the Outer Ring jurisdictions saved an average of 20 minutes one-way.

Commute Changes, Commute Ease, and Commute Satisfaction

While many commuters were long-time users of their mode, commuters continued to shift modes. Commuters who drove alone to work had used this mode an average of 6.4 years and 30% had been driving alone for 10 years or more. Four in ten (39%) started driving alone within the past three years. By contrast, 45% of train riders, 53% of bike/walk commuters, 58% of bus riders, and 65% of carpoolers adopted these modes within the past three years.

Commuters who shifted to alternative modes within the past three years did so primarily to save money (11%), because the new mode was more convenient (9%), or because they had a change in their personal circumstances, such as changing jobs or work hours (21%) or moving to a new residence (20%).

Respondents who started driving alone to work in the past three years gave some of the same reasons for switching modes as did alternative mode users; changing jobs or work hours (16%), moving to a new residence (8%), saving time (7%), and ease or convenience (6%). These results suggest both drive alone and alternative mode shifts are made to respond to changing personal circumstances. But respondents who started driving alone reported greater concerns about coronavirus than did alternative mode users; 11% of commuters who started driving alone said they wanted to avoid getting COVID-19 and 7% simply said “coronavirus pandemic.” Twelve percent switched due to reduced or unreliable transit service and 7% said they lost a carpool partner; these also could have been pandemic-related.

Half of commuters were satisfied with their current commute, about the same percentage as in 2019, but transit commuters gave notably lower ratings for satisfaction in 2022 than in 2019.

Half (52%) of commuters rated their commute satisfaction as a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale, where 5 meant very satisfied. Two in ten (20%) rated their commute as a 1 (not at all satisfied) or 2. Commute satisfaction in 2022 was statistically the same as in 2019, when 50% were satisfied.

Nine in ten bike/walk commuters were satisfied with their commutes. By contrast, only about half of carpoolers/vanpoolers (52%) and drive alone commuters (51%) reported being satisfied. Transit riders reported lower satisfaction; half (49%) of commuter rail riders also were satisfied but only 46% of Metrorail riders and 44% of bus commuters rated their commute satisfaction as a 4 or 5.

Satisfaction among carpool/vanpool commuters and drive alone commuters increased slightly in 2022. These mode users are most affected by traffic congestion and these changes could reflect a lessening of congestion in 2022, as fewer workers traveled to outside work locations. Commute satisfaction declined between 2019 and 2022 among users of all three transit modes: commuter rail (56% in 2019 to 49% in 2022), Metrorail (56% in 2019 to 46% in 2022), and bus (62% in 2019 to 44% in 2022). The 2022 declines in satisfaction for the three transit options likely are at least somewhat related to transit service disruption during the pandemic and riders’ concerns with the potential exposure to coronavirus.

Commute satisfaction also differed by where the respondent lived and worked. Respondents who lived in the Core were more satisfied (60% satisfied) than were respondents who lived in the Middle Ring (54%) or Outer Ring (45%). Conversely, a much higher share of respondents who worked in the Outer Ring (66%) were satisfied than was the case for Core (50%) and Middle Ring (53%) workers.

Commute satisfaction declined dramatically as commute length increased. Nine in ten (91%) respondents who commuted 10 minutes or less gave a 4 or 5 rating for satisfaction. When the commute was between 21 to 30 minutes, satisfaction dropped to 59% and when travel time exceeded 60 minutes, only 17% rated their commute a 4 or 5.

Commuting got more difficult in the past year for one-quarter of commuters but a nearly equal share had an easier commute. Many respondents considered commuting factors when making job or home location decisions and took actions to improve their commutes.

Twenty-six percent of respondents said their commute was more difficult than one year ago but 24% said their commute was easier. Respondents who primarily teleworked, carpooled/vanpooled, or drove alone to work, and those whose commutes were short, were particularly likely to report an easier commute than last year. More difficult commutes were far more common among train riders (50%), bus commuters (42%), and those who commuted more than 45 minutes to work (39%).

Respondents' commute satisfaction was influenced by the ease of the commute. Two-thirds (66%) of respondents who had an easier commute than last year and 60% whose commutes had not changed were satisfied with their commute, compared with only 26% who said their commutes had become more difficult.

Nearly four in ten respondents said they made either a work or home location change in the past two years; 19% changed their work location and 28% changed their residence.¹ The work change percentage was about the same as the 20% who reported a work location change in 2019. But the 2022 home move percentage was well above the 18% who reported a home location change in the 2019 survey.

Respondents who made a home or work location change in the past year were more likely to report an easier commute (27%) than were commuters who did not make a change (22%). This suggests a move could have played a role in improving the commute.

Two-thirds (67%) of respondents who made a location change said they considered a commuting factor, such as the length, ease, or cost of commuting to/from the new location, when making their location decision. Nearly one-third (28%) said commute ease was more important than other factors and 1% said it was the only factor in their decisions.

More than half (52%) of respondents who made a home or work location change considered how close their new location would be to transportation services such as Park & Ride lots, HOV/Express Lanes, protected bike lanes, transit stations/stops, and bikeshare and carshare services. Despite the higher incidence of home location changes in 2022 compared with 2019, the percentage of respondents who considered their transportation access at the new location was the same in 2022 as in 2019 (52%). Most individual services were named by similar percentages of respondents in 2022 as in 2019.

Awareness and Impact of Commute Advertising

General awareness of commute information fell between 2019 and 2022 but it is not clear if this is the result of lower recall or lower exposure to advertising.

About 27% of all respondents had seen, heard, or read advertising for commuting in the year prior to the survey, a considerably lower percentage than estimated in 2019 (45%). Increased use of telework might have been a factor in the decline. Workers who teleworked most or all their workdays would have fewer opportunities to see or hear advertising during their commute and perhaps noticed it less because it was not relevant to their current work situation. But Commuter Connections and some other organizations that sponsor commute advertising paused their mass media and worksite outreach in 2020 due to the pandemic, so it also is likely that fewer ads were available for commuters to notice.

Forty-five percent of respondents who recalled advertising could cite a specific advertising message. Nearly three in ten respondents who had heard or seen a message reported a message related to transit service, with most recall focused on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA, Metro).

Nearly one in ten (9%) respondents reported a message about WMATA and coronavirus cleaning or safety. Six percent named a message about WMATA service improvements and 3% said it was about WMATA service cuts or changes. Eight percent recalled a message about ridesharing and 3% recalled a message to contact Commuter Connections.

Four in ten (41%) respondents who had heard ads could name the sponsor. WMATA was named by 25% as the advertising sponsor. Commuter Connections/MWCOG was named by 6%, lower than the 10% who named Commuter Connections in 2019.

Commute advertising appeared to influence commuters' consideration of travel options.

Almost two in ten (17%) respondents who saw or heard advertising said they were more likely to consider ride-sharing or public transportation after seeing or hearing the advertising. This was about the same percentage (18%) as was estimated in the 2019 survey.

But about one-third of respondents who recalled an advertising message and who were commuting to an outside work location at least one day per week said they took some action after hearing the ad to try to change their commute. Thirty-five percent of respondents who took an action to change their commute said the advertising they saw or heard encouraged the action.

Many respondents who took an action sought more information from the Internet, a personal referral, or from a commute or transit service. Almost half who took an action tried or started using an alternative mode for commuting. Although these respondents equaled just 1.9% of all regional respondents, they represent nearly 40,000 commuters region-wide.

Awareness and Use of Commute Assistance Resources

About one-third of regional commuters were aware of commute information and assistance resources. About one-third (32%) of respondents said they knew of a telephone number or website they could use to obtain commute information. Awareness of regional commute information resources was the same as noted in the 2019 survey.

Awareness of commute resources was substantially higher among respondents who saw or heard commute advertising in the past year (43%) than for respondents who did not recall advertising (26%). Commuters who had heard of Commuter Connections reported higher awareness of regional commute resources (43%) than did commuters who were not aware of Commuter Connections (24%).

About one-third of respondents who said they knew of a specific number or web site had used it; these respondents represented about 11% of all regional commuters, about the same percentage as in 2019 (12%). Respondents named more than 40 numbers, websites, or mobile apps that they had used, indicating commuters seek information from a wide range of resources. Five percent named a Metro/WMATA resource; about 1% mentioned a resource offered by a county transit, commuter, or transportation agency; and less than 0.5% named a phone number or website administered by Commuter Connections.

Four in ten regional commuters had heard of Commuter Connections. In 2022, 40% of all regional commuters said they had heard of Commuter Connections. This percentage continued a declining trend dating back to 2013 (2019 - 48%, 2016 - 61%, 2013 - 62%, 2010 - 64%) but still represents a high level of general population awareness.

Five percent of respondents who knew of Commuter Connections had contacted the program or visited a Commuter Connections or MWCOG website in the past year. These commuters represented about 2% of all employed residents of the region.

Most local jurisdiction services were known to at least a quarter of their target populations. Respondents were asked about local commute assistance services provided in the jurisdictions where they lived and worked. Awareness of these programs ranged from 9% to 53% of respondents who were asked the questions. Two of the ten local programs were known to at least half of the target respondents and three other programs were known to about three in ten target respondents.

Use of the services ranged from 1% to 8% of the target audience. Use was generally higher for programs in outer jurisdictions and for programs associated with transit agencies or with a strong transit component. The relationship to the location within region was likely because outer jurisdiction commuters encountered more congestion in their travel and had longer commute times and distances, which could encourage them to seek options for travel to work.

Employer-provided Commuter Assistance Services

Availability of worksite commute assistance services declined slightly between 2019 and 2022, perhaps because many employees were working from home.

Fifty-six percent of respondents said their employers offered one or more alternative mode benefits or services to employees at their worksites. This was a slight decline from the 2019 percentage (60%) but about the same as percentages noted in the 2016 (55%) and 2013 (57%) surveys. The drop from 2019 could suggest some employers suspended some commute services because many employees were working from home during the pandemic. However, the percentage represents employees' perceptions or awareness of service availability; the fact that many employees worked from home some or all their workdays could have limited their exposure to services they might have noticed if they were working at their usual work location.

The most common services were SmarTrip/subsidies for transit/vanpool, available to 43% of respondents, and information on commuter transportation options, available to 23% of respondents. Two in ten (23%) respondents said their employers offered services for bikers/walkers and 15% said their employers offered preferential parking for carpools and vanpools.

Respondents who worked for Federal agencies were most likely to have benefits/services available (81%), compared with 42% to 60% of respondents who worked for other types of employers. Respondents who worked for large employers also reported greater access to benefits/services than did respondents who worked for small firms. Benefits/services were far more common among respondents who worked in the Core area; 72% of these respondents had access to services compared with 46% who worked in the Middle Ring and 28% who worked in the Outer Ring.

SmartBenefits transit/vanpool subsidies and information on commute options were the most widely used commuter assistance services, used by 56% and 34%, respectively, of respondents who had access to the services. Two in ten respondents who had access to carpool subsidies (19%) and bicycle/walking support (18%) had used these services.

Seven in ten commuters reported having free worksite parking. The majority of respondents (69%) said their employers offered free, onsite parking to all employees in 2022. This was a substantial increase from the 60% who reported free parking in 2019. Four percent of workers who had free parking said parking was not free before the pandemic, so this result could indicate employers expanded availability of free parking to the reduced population of workers who continued working at the main workplace.

Respondents who worked for nonprofit organizations and at Federal agencies workers were least likely to have free parking at work; only 55% of nonprofit workers and 59% of Federal workers had free parking, compared with seven in ten workers who worked for private firms or state/local governments. Free parking also was much less common in the Core; only 37% of Inner Core workers had free parking, compared with 81% of Middle Ring workers and 87% of Outer Ring workers.

The availability of commute benefits/services was inversely related to the availability of free parking at the worksite. Only 40% of respondents who said free parking was offered to all employees said their employers also offered commute benefits/services that would encourage or help them use alternative modes for commuting. By contrast, 66% of respondents who said free parking was not available reported having access to commute benefits/services at work.

Worksite commuter assistance services appeared to encourage use of alternative modes. Driving alone was less common for respondents who had access to benefits. Only 67% of respondents with these services drove alone to work, compared with 87% of respondents whose employers did not provide these services.

Respondents whose employers did not offer free parking also used alternative modes at much higher rates. Six in ten (60%) respondents who did not have free parking drove alone, compared with 87% of respondents who had free parking.

Commuters in the region have only a modest understanding of the concept of driverless cars. Two-thirds of respondents cited concerns about the concept. Three in ten (31%) respondents said they were “very familiar” with the concept of driverless cars; they had heard or read a lot about them. The largest share, (58%) of respondents said they were only “somewhat familiar” with the concept of driverless cars; they had heard or read something about them but did not know much about them. The remaining one in ten either were “not at all familiar” (7%) or were not sure what they knew (4%). Awareness does not appear to have grown recently; these percentages mirror nearly exactly the awareness reported in the 2019 survey.

General awareness was similar among most demographic groups, but higher shares of men (42%), Non-Hispanic White (35%), and Asian (34%) respondents, and respondents with household incomes above \$160,000 (37%), said they were “very familiar” with the concept.

Two-thirds (66%) of respondents cited a concern that they had with driverless cars. Nearly half (48%) were concerned that driverless cars could reduce the safety of driving or increase driving crashes, and 25% expressed a concern that the technology was not yet reliable enough.

2022 Guaranteed Ride Home Program Survey Washington, DC Region

Nearly nine in ten (86%) respondents who drove alone pre-GRH and started using alternative modes during-GRH said GRH had been important to their decision to make the change. Six in ten (59%) said GRH had been very important and 27% said it was somewhat important to the decision.

74% of respondents who increased alternative mode use said GRH was either very important (47%) or somewhat important (27%).

GRH appears to be similarly important for respondents who maintained alternative mode use as for those who started using alternative modes. About 84% of respondents who maintained their alternative mode use said GRH was very important (52%) or somewhat important (32%) to their decision.

Carpoolers and vanpoolers were most likely to have used a GRH trip, with 52% and 49%, respectively, saying they had taken a GRH trip. About four in ten (39%) bus riders and 35% of commuter rail riders had taken a trip.

Almost a third (30%) of Metrorail riders had taken a trip.

GRH members have far longer commutes. The average one-way commute distance for GRH respondents was 37 miles, compared to the average one-way commute distance for the overall region of 16.7 miles. The average number of one-way commute minutes for GRH respondents was 66 minutes, compared to the average overall one-way commute duration for the region of 37 minutes.

The most frequent reason (75%) for using the GRH program was illness (self, child, or family member) the overwhelming majority of GRH members (97%) said they were satisfied with the program.

2019 Employer Satisfaction Survey Report

Most respondents are relatively smaller private-sector employers. Almost 60 percent of the respondents said their company employed fewer than 100 employees in the Washington, DC region. The vast majority (78%) of respondents worked for a private company.

More than half of the employers (57%) said they offered SmartBenefits. Eleven percent said they currently offered bike or walk incentives. The most common onsite alternative transportation support facility made available by employers at the worksite was bike racks/showers/personal lockers, at least six in ten respondents.

Over half, (68%) said employees at their worksite were permitted some flexibility in their work start and stop times. More than seventy percent said employees at their location were permitted to telework and over 40 percent said compressed work schedules were available.

Commuter Connections network employer outreach representatives are providing top service. At least 8.5 in ten respondents rated their Commuter Connections network representative a 4 or 5 (excellent) on a 1 to 5 point scale for professionalism (93%), willingness to help (93%), timeliness of service delivery (90%), responsiveness to their requests/questions (91%), enthusiasm about Commuter Connections and its products and programs (92%), knowledge of Commuter Connections and/or local ridesharing and transit products (93%), their ability to provide information that is helpful to the company and employees (90%), and their knowledge of local transportation and air quality issues (87%).

SUMMARY OF ADOPTED STRATEGY FOR FY24

As part of the Regional Mass Marketing program element, the Commuter Connections Marketing campaigns will provide frequent promotion of Ridematching services, Guaranteed Ride Home, 'Pool Rewards, CarpoolNow Mobile Application, Flextime Rewards, and CommuterCash (formerly incenTrip). In addition, the program promotes the following special events: Bike to Work Day, Car Free Day and the Employer Recognition Awards.

These services and special events promote alternative commute options including ridesharing, teleworking, bicycling, walking, and mass transit. The FY 2024 marketing program will raise awareness of commuting choices available in the Washington, DC metropolitan region through paid and earned media and other marketing and outreach techniques. The program will support Commuter Connections network members in educating area employers and commuters on how to find and use alternatives to driving alone for work trips. Both work and non-work trips apply to use of the CommuterCash app and participation in the Car Free Day event.

Marketing Input

The background for this marketing brief was derived from the following sources:

- [FY 2021 Commuter Connections Applicant Database Annual Placement Survey Report](#)
- [FY 2018 – FY 2020 Commuter Connections TDM Analysis Report](#)
- [State of the Commute 2022 Survey Report](#)
- [2022 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Washington DC Region](#)
- [2022 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Baltimore Region](#)
- [2022 Bike to Work Day Survey Analysis Report](#)

The findings of these reports and surveys help establish the basis for the FY 2024 Marketing Communications Plan. They provide quantitative and qualitative measurement of commute behavior by employees, Commuter Connections program applicants, and event participants throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan region, and indicate the impact of this behavior on air quality and congestion. Other important inputs include performance data from past campaigns, information gathered through industry reports, surveys, and trends and how they might be applied to the Commuter Connections marketing campaign.

Current Environment

Working five days per week onsite or fully remote are no longer the norm for office workers as hybrid schedules have become a more acceptable business model in the Washington DC market and a compromise to employer/employee dynamic. Hybrid benefits offer flexibility, work-life balance, less stress, and savings in the form of time and money.

Perceptions about where, when, and how work gets done changed dramatically during COVID-19. Early efforts to bring employees back to the office full scale were thwarted by a backlash of employees lobbying for a permanent work from home scenario. Inflexible employers were on the receiving end of a phenomenon known as the Great Resignation, when about 50.5 million people quit their jobs in 2022, besting the prior record set in 2021, according to the federal JOLTS report. Employers adapted by offering hybrid strategies, asking workers to come back into the office at least one day per week.

In August 2023, President Biden aligned with executives from some of the nation's largest private employers in announcing his Cabinet's push to get more federal employees to return to the office in the fall, a measure which has the full support of District of Columbia mayor, Muriel Bowser. In Congress, the issue has been mostly partisan. Biden's announcement served to heighten the divide between key business leaders who largely embrace in-person work, and employees who primarily embrace remote work. To date, unions representing more than

900,000 federal employees are not in favor of the White House's plan for more in-person work.

Hybrid work has become more of a middle ground solution. Surveys show many employees are open to and some even want to go back to the office, at least one or two days a week. More than 60% want to retain their remote flexibility and are likely to search for employment elsewhere if denied. Less than 10% prefer to work on-site while a third prefer fully remote work. Moreover, Gartner research forecasts that generational shifts in the workforce will continue to drive many organizations to adapt their hybrid work policies to meet employee demands for flexibility.

Of employees who have returned to the office a few days a week, most choose to drive alone. With more commuters choosing to drive alone instead of opting to take transit or rideshare, traffic volume is returning. Excluding telework, the 2022 State of the Commute Survey found that commuters drove alone to work about 78% of the time and alternative modes made up the balance. Respondents took transit (train or bus) for 15% of workdays, and vanpooled or carpooled for 3.3% of workdays. During the pandemic, many who worked remotely moved farther from the city's inner core, to where the cost of living is lower. This trend is also having an impact on traffic. The 2022 State of the Commute Survey finds that alternative mode use is much higher for respondents who live and/or work in the central portion of the region than for those who lived/worked outside the regional core. The survey finds that four in 10 (41%) commuters who live in DC drive alone. This is substantially lower than the 84% drive alone rate for Maryland and the 80% rate for Virginia.

The case for ridesharing is a compelling one and its economic benefit remains a strong, simple message that resonates with commuters. Commuters who changed from driving alone to an alternative mode said they did so for personal benefits. The top three reasons for switching were saving money (11%), ease and convenience (9%) and saving time (6%). Inflation rose at its fastest pace in about 40 years. Prices at the pump continue to be an important issue as the cost to fill up a tank remains influential in commuters' willingness and availability to use alternative modes of transportation. According to AAA, in the Washington, DC metropolitan region, gas prices reached a record all-time high on June 15, 2022, peaking at \$5.06 per gallon (average - regular gas). As of August 14, 2023 the price at the pump stands at \$3.82.

The Commuter Connections 2021 Annual Placement Survey which estimates transportation and air quality impacts using survey data from program registrants indicates that the average one-way commute distance is 39.2 miles and takes 54 minutes by car each way. According to the 2022 State of the Commute Survey, Commuter Connections survey respondents have far longer commutes (time and distance) than the regional one-way average of 16.7 miles and 37 minutes. Understanding this data allows Commuter Connections campaigns to target such individuals. The Placement Survey also noted that respondents who were traveling to a workplace outside their homes drove alone for 43% of their commute trips. They used transit for about one quarter (26%) of weekly trips, vanpooled for 21% of trips, and carpooled for 7%. Respondents made about 4% of weekly commute trips by bicycling or walking.

There are approximately 300 project records in the approved FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the National Capital Region. The construction impacts of these projects and others will make FY24 and years beyond challenging for the region's commuters; even more important is the need to promote TDM options to provide multi-modal solutions for those affected by the construction. The following are some of the big-ticket projects across the region in the TIP:

District of Columbia: South Capitol Street Corridor

Suburban Maryland: Op Lanes Maryland Phase I South, New American Legion Bridge and I-270 to I-370, Op Lanes Maryland Phase North, I-270 from I-370 to I-70, Purple Line

Carpooling continues to receive national and regional attention through social media and mobile apps. Social

media and digital presence are important aspects of a campaign that aims to reach a growing demographic. We can continue to increase interaction with the use of hashtags, video, and social media postings geared toward target audiences. Hashtags are used by participants, particularly during special regional events such as Bike to Work Day. Such postings expand reach to a commuter's own followers, resulting in more people becoming aware of Commuter Connections programs. Millennials, generally regarded as individuals born between 1981 and 1996 (ages 27-42 in 2023), make up 22 percent of the population and are causing a decline in car usage and ownership. This newfound interest in shared mobility is positive news for Commuter Connections. Increasing awareness provides an opportunity to address the advantages Commuter Connections has offered to the region for more than 40 years. Commuter Connections has an established, trusted brand across the region and has a database of over 17,000 commuter ridesharing accounts that are verified every year.

The Ridematching service offered by Commuter Connections allows commuters to easily establish carpools. A lasting carpool starts from a trusted source and is reinforced through cost savings and support of backup transportation (Guaranteed Ride Home). These messages will continue to be promoted in this year's regional TDM marketing campaign. Additionally, regional commuters have access to the Ridematching system through a mobile platform. Commuter Connections' real-time Ridematching app, CarpoolNow, gives commuters easy access to finding carpool partners in real time and locating park-and-ride lots. The app increases interest in carpooling by providing a non-commercial way to find a shared ride compared to other Ridematching apps, and drivers receive a \$10 cash payment per trip, up to \$600 per year. CarpoolNow will be promoted for its ease of use and the driver incentive in this year's Ridematching outreach effort. Flexible vanpooling is also available through the app and allows Vanpool Operators and Coordinators to advertise open seats in their vanpool(s) to the public. Enrolling a van in Flexible Vanpool allows the public to request to join a vanpool in real-time or reserve a seat in advance for a one-time ride. Both the Vanpool Operator and the Vanpool Coordinator must approve the flexible option for vanpools. This will allow the van to display a cost-per-ride to the public. Other information needed for the enrollment process includes origin and destinations, departure and arrival times, days of operation, and vanpool. Marketing campaigns for these programs and offerings are reviewed each fiscal year within the context of the current environment and can be adapted based on external factors; for example, commuter drive-alone pattern changes due to post-pandemic drive-alone conditions, gas prices etc. Marketing efforts are adapted based on such needs and are modified accordingly to help spur adoption (re-adoption) of alternative modes of travel.

Among the most popular personal benefits of ridesharing are saving time and money, which inevitably impact commuters' transportation choices. Commuter demographics are changing as well, shifting from baby boomers to millennials. Today, millennials make up the largest single portion of the U.S. labor force. According to a Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data, more than one-in-three American labor force participants (35%) are millennials.¹ By 2030, millennials will make up 75 percent of the workforce.² More than half of those studied between the ages of 22 and 37 by Arity, a Chicago-based transportation company created by Allstate Corporation, believe that a car is not worth the money spent on maintenance, and they would rather be doing something other than driving.³

Societal benefits, like saving energy and reducing pollution and congestion, are among the top motivators for those who use commute alternatives. Many people are increasingly aware of their own impact on the planet and are familiar with ways to positively impact the current environment including the use of alternative

transportation. The connection between health and transportation will be considered as part of the campaign

¹ <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/04/11/millennials-largest-generation-us-labor-force/>

² <https://www.wired.com/insights/2013/08/the-rise-of-the-millennial-workforce/>

³ <https://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-young-adults-cars-attitudes-20181106-story.html>

message.

For commuters who rideshare, the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program provides a free and reliable ride home in case of an unexpected personal or family emergency, or unscheduled overtime. GRH also covers transit and all alternative modes which helps to prompt commuters to take advantage of using them. This year's campaign will continue to promote the value of GRH registration for those already using or considering transit, bicycling, and walking to and from work.

For commuters in the middle, outer and exurb rings, including the Baltimore Metropolitan region and St. Mary's County, the GRH campaign will focus on positioning the service for those who already use alternative modes, such as ridesharing and public transportation, as well as to help prompt conversion from SOV driving to other alternative modes. The overall message will remain focused on registering for the program and positioning it as a safety net to ease the transition for those switching from driving alone to using commute alternatives to and from work. Messages will also remind consumers to call or visit the Commuter Connections website to re-register annually.

In addition to paid and earned media, the regional effort will include the Car Free Day and Bike to Work Day events. The mission of these events is to encourage SOV drivers to try alternative travel modes on the day of the events. By providing an opportunity to use transportation alternatives through regionally focused events, and by providing a chance at winning raffle prizes; after a positive experience, individuals may choose to incorporate alternatives as part of their regular, or at least occasional, commute or lifestyle.

Incentive programs provide financial incentives to get commuters to try shared modes of travel. Cash incentives are offered to CarpoolNow drivers and 'Pool Rewards participants, while CommuterCash users can apply earned points toward cash, EZPass, SmarTrip, gift cards, etc. After commuters get comfortable using a new mode of travel, they are eventually weaned off the incentives.

Marketing Strategies

- Emphasize the cost savings of ridesharing by using simple and direct messages.
- Leverage Commuter Connections' mobile Ridematching capabilities to position the brand as the trusted, convenient provider of Ridematching services for 50 years.
- Draw on the additional savings of 'Pool Rewards as an incentive within rideshare ads.
- Drive inner core, Baltimore City commuters who use public transportation, bicycling, or walking to register for GRH.
- For middle, outer, and exurb ring commuters in both the Washington, DC and Baltimore regions, leverage carpooling and vanpooling by positioning GRH as a safety net for ridesharing and public transportation users, available to commuters in case of unscheduled overtime or an unexpected personal or family emergencies.
- Increase the number of participants in the Car Free Day and Bike to Work Day events based on set committee goals.
- Promote employer efforts to ease regional commuting issues through earned media placements and highlight the Employer Recognition Awards. Incorporate human interest stories of commuters using alternative commute modes and/or employers offering commuter benefits that have higher than expected engagement levels.
- Increase the number of commuter downloads and usage of the CarpoolNow mobile application in the Washington, DC region through creative materials in traditional and digital media outlets.
- Leverage umbrella campaign value add to support CommuterCash messaging to increase usage.
- Increase commuter participation in the Flextime Rewards program.
- Promote programs to millennials, Spanish-speaking, and African American audiences in radio, digital and print messages as well as commuters in equity emphasis areas.

- Explore opportunities to advertise with transit and/or bus wraps.

For FY 2024, radio and digital media will likely be leveraged as the anchor mediums for the program to effectively reach most of the Commuter Connections target markets. However, additional marketing mediums will be explored as well, to determine effectiveness.

Digital Media

Digital media, such as Google, YouTube, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and other social media, will complement the overall campaign. Online advertising with visuals and video (where applicable) will aim to drive target audiences searching for commuter options, such as carpool/vanpool, etc., to the Commuter Connections website. Recently, the use of social media influencers to reach new prospects provides an opportunity to promote Commuter Connections in new and interesting ways. Utilizing such tactics at key decision-making moments will increase the reach to the target audiences and increase the likelihood of click-throughs and ultimately a request for Ridematching, GRH, or other programs and services offered. Facebook continues to be the most popular social network and X is an ideal platform for real-time marketing and responses within minutes of an event.

Internet advertising is also visual and closer to one-to-one selling than any other form of media. Optimized placement of banner ads on websites and mobile apps targeted to jurisdiction, news, weather, television affiliates, and job sites may be used to reach commuters who are just a click away from Commuter Connections' online Ridematching service or GRH registration and re-registration.

The marketing team will continue to expand the use of social media, and mobile apps and devices. Building upon Commuter Connections' existing pages on Facebook and Instagram (Commuter Connections, Telework) and accounts on X for Bike to Work Day and Car Free Day, which have received increasing attention over the last few years, the marketing team will investigate additional strategies to increase engagement and integrate social media activities through other marketing approaches. The team will continue to improve mobile access to Commuter Connections resources and commute option information and benefits and explore possibilities to better reach new audiences.

Traditional Media

The marketing effort will effectively and efficiently reach its target markets based on a review and analysis of third-party media data from Strata, Scarborough, and Arbitron as monitored by a professional media buying firm. Reach and frequency of the target demographic will be calculated using a cost/value proposition for each media option. Media buying strategies will be selected based on Scarborough Research reports for specific target audiences for Ridesharing, Guaranteed Ride Home, GRH Baltimore, Employer Recognition Awards, Car Free Day, Bike to Work Day, 'Pool Rewards, CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, and CommuterCash. These reports identify specific media that are best suited for each target audience. The report information is considered along with the cost of each media option and results from previous Commuter Connections campaigns.

Visual creative is important to provide reinforcement of messages delivered through radio spots, as well as brand awareness. FY 2024's marketing strategy will include well-placed visuals across the geographical region. Outdoor print such as bus signage and shelters will be evaluated as potential visual elements for the campaign.

Sponsorships

Opportunities to involve retailers and local businesses in sponsorship or promotion of Commuter Connections programs such as GRH Rewards, Bike to Work Day, and Car Free Day will be considered. We aim to identify businesses interested in both encouraging people to explore the use of more sustainable, healthy transportation and benefiting from the patronage of those commuters. Retailers could provide sponsorship through giveaways or discounts for Car Free Day or could be involved in co-promotional opportunities such as GRH Rewards.

Creative

Results from prior year campaigns will be studied and best practices will be carried forward to new campaigns. New creative will be developed for the Rideshare and GRH spring FY24 campaigns and as needed for other FY24 campaigns.

REGIONAL PROFILE

The information within this section of the SMP are excerpts from Visualize 2045: the federally mandated Long-Range Transportation Plan for the National Capital Region, approved by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) in October 2018.

The federal government requires that this plan is updated every four years. The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved the update to Visualize 2045, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the accompanying air quality conformity analysis on June 15, 2022.

Visualize 2045 represents a new kind of long-range planning effort in the region. For the first time, in addition to projects that the region's transportation agencies expected to be able to afford between 2018 and 2045, the plan included aspirational projects, programs, and policies that go beyond financial constraints.

The National Capital Region comprises of approximately 3,500 square miles and spans the spectrum of settlement patterns: urban, suburban, exurban, and rural. The region is one of the most affluent in the country, with an annual median household income of nearly \$106,000 and a gross regional product of over \$561 billion per year.

This economic strength is due in large part to a consistently strong job market that, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, is driven by the federal government and the robust service sector that recovered much of its job losses or could shift to telework. The difference in laws, government structures, and financial resources of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia creates a complex policy environment. The region's large size and range of development patterns lead to diverse transportation needs. For these reasons, regional transportation planning and decision-making must balance a wide array of needs and priorities.

Recent Trends

Over the past few decades, the National Capital Region's healthy economy has fueled consistently strong population and job growth, and that trend is expected to continue well into the future. Since 1970, the region's population has nearly doubled, and the total number of jobs in the region has grown at an even faster rate.

According to the U.S. Census, from 2000 to 2020 the region steadily gained over one million residents from 4.4 to 5.6 million people. Total regional employment has grown by almost 284 thousand jobs from 2000 to 2020, although the recession of the late-2000s slowed the growth and resulted in reductions in regional employment for a few years. More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a loss of 371,000 jobs from March to April 2020, followed by a recovery of 318,000 jobs by October 2021.

Forecast Growth

Where and how the region grows impacts the transportation options, congestion levels, and quality of life for the people in the region. According to the latest data from COG's Cooperative Forecasts, there are 5.7 million people living in the National Capital Region and, by 2045, that number is expected to increase to over 7 million, an increase of 23 percent. Fairfax County (including City of Fairfax and City of Falls Church) and the District of Columbia will gain the most residents, by 252 thousand and 258 thousand, respectively.

The number of jobs in the region will grow from 3.4 million today to 4.3 million by 2045, an increase of 26 percent. Fairfax County (including City of Fairfax and City of Falls Church) and the District of Columbia, the jurisdictions with the most forecasted job growth, are expected to gain 196 thousand and 199 thousand jobs, respectively.

Housing availability and affordability is a growing problem in the region. As noted in the COG report The Future of Housing in Greater Washington, "There is an imbalance between the number of jobs and the amount of housing available to the workforce. This situation affects the area's affordability, potentially undercuts its appeal to new companies and talent, strains the transportation system, and impacts the environment and quality of life for the region's residents. For some, this means not only long commutes to

work, but also difficult choices between paying rent or affording other basic necessities such as food or medicine.” With employment expected to grow at a faster rate than the population, if housing growth cannot keep up with the rate of employment growth, more and more people will have to commute into the region from outside. This type of commuting pattern puts a heavy load on the region’s roads and transit systems as trips become longer and more congested.

Working closely to align regional transportation policy and land-use policies, the TPB and regional leaders are committed to finding solutions to the regional housing and job imbalance. One approach is to encourage greater concentration, circulation, and connection of residential and commercial developments in mixed-use Activity Centers and near high-capacity transit, places optimal for future growth.

Demographics

The National Capital Region is a dynamic and diverse metropolitan area. According to data from the U.S. Census, it is a highly diverse region, less than half (42 percent) non-Hispanic white, followed by 26 percent African American, 17 percent Hispanic/Latino/a/x, and 11 percent Asian. In terms of age distribution, the largest age groups are between 25-34 and 35-44 (15.5 percent and 14.7 percent, respectively). There is slightly larger proportion of females (51.3 percent) compared with males (48.7 percent). Nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of the region’s households earn less than \$50,000 a year.

Analysis of regional household travel data collected in 2017-2018 identifies important findings in household size, type and tenure, and vehicles. These figures have important implications for land use and transportation plans, programs, and policies as the region determines the needs of residents.

There are currently 2.1 million households in the TPB region. The largest household size group in the region are two-person households (30 percent), followed by households with four or more persons (27 percent), one-person (26 percent) households, and three-person households (17 percent). About 70 percent of households live in single-family housing (51 percent single family detached, 20 percent single family attached homes, such as row houses) and 30 percent live in multifamily housing, such as apartment buildings. Over two-thirds of households own their home (71 percent) while just over one-quarter of households live in rental housing (27 percent), the remaining 1.7 percent is categorized as other. In terms of vehicle availability, 34 percent of households have one vehicle, 39 percent have two vehicles, and 19 percent have three or more vehicles. About eight percent of households do not have a vehicle.

The Regional Transportation System

Planning for the future transportation system is built on the patterns of past growth, development, and infrastructure investment. When considering the total job and residential locations expected in 2045, about 80 percent of those are already in place in the region. Visualize 2045 adds to and enhances the region’s already extensive transportation network but to preserve past investments about 28 percent of funds go to system maintenance.

An integrated and extensive rail and bus transit system and a connected system of highways and priced toll lanes comprise the high-capacity backbone of the transportation system. In addition, extensive infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as provisions for bike sharing, ridehailing, and car-sharing services, allow for a wide range of options throughout the region.

The region is served by:

- More than 17,000 lane miles of highways and major roads, more than 500 miles of which are tolled lanes.
- 129 miles of Metrorail and 91 Metrorail stations.
- 173 miles of MARC and VRE commuter rail and 39 commuter rail stations.
- 37 miles of bus rapid transit, light rail, and streetcars, with more to come.
- 800+ of miles of off-street paved trails and paths for walking and biking.
- 400+ miles of bike lanes.
- More than 19,000 directional miles of important freight corridors within the TPB’s planning area

carrying more than 300 million tons of goods annually.

- Two Class I railroads—CSX Transportation and the Norfolk Southern Corporation which operate 250+ miles of mainline track and carrying more than 47 million tons of local freight annually.
- 852 EV Charging Stations 2,424 and EV plugs.
- 15+ local and commuter bus systems and about 10 paratransit service providers.
- Nine intercity train stations and an estimated 14 intercity bus stations.
- Three major airports with extensive domestic and international connections, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), and Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) that also carry significant levels of freight cargo.

Transportation Emissions and Air Quality

Transportation planning in the region is heavily influenced by air quality planning, which is a federal requirement. Once the financially constrained element project list of the plan is approved by the TPB, it is tested to ensure that the plan's projects collectively contribute to the air quality improvement goals embodied in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Using models, TPB staff perform a series of tests to forecast how much air pollution will be generated between now and 2045, and how much the air will be improved by cleaner gasoline standards and other factors.

If the TPB's analysis demonstrates that the plan meets regional air quality goals, federal agencies certify that the plan is "in conformity." In other words, the TPB ensures that the constrained element "conforms" to air quality improvement goals. Results of the most recent analysis show that, with respect to ozone season pollutants, specifically, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and, Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), the TPB is in attainment for all criteria but ozone, and the TPB is making plans to be in attainment for that criteria. While not federally required, the TPB also forecasts GHG emissions and takes strides to contribute to achieving the COG 2030 climate mitigation goals.

Data analysis provides important context to the experiences of residents of the region. Traffic and the number of vehicles passing near or through communities can lead to prolonged exposure to transportation-related emissions. Increased exposure to certain forms of air pollution can lead to significant health risks. Communities' proximity to congested or high-volume roadways increases the likelihood of localized impacts, especially if elements aimed at mitigating the impacts are not present. Further, national studies and reporting have concluded that communities of color are more likely to bear a greater burden of emissions related exposure.

Like other large metropolitan regions, proximity to congested roadways and high levels of vehicle volume in the National Capital Region are not felt equally. Communities closer to the region's core, interstates, or major highways experience greater exposure than in outer suburban or rural parts. In Activity Centers, proximity and level of traffic is 150 percent higher than in non-Activity Centers. This is likely reflective of high traffic counts on highways and major roads near Activity Centers. From an equity perspective, EEAs in the region experience 57 percent greater traffic volume than non-EEAs. The proximity of many EEAs near the region's core and along major roadways leads to the uneven experience.

TPB's Aspirational Initiatives

In 2018, the TPB adopted seven transportation initiatives. Each initiative incorporates policies and transportation solutions that the TPB has championed for years as documented in the CMP. These strategies are most effective when working together by providing more options on a well-integrated and reliable transportation network. As the TPB members prioritize funding and enact these strategies, the region has the potential to significantly improve its transportation system performance. With the update to Visualize 2045, the region will make progress on these initiatives that improve mobility, accessibility, and air quality in the region while contributing to the region's GHG reduction and climate resiliency goals.

The TPB led a study that engaged a long-range plan task force to establish consensus on regional policy priorities, which led to the 2018 endorsement of the Aspirational Initiatives, as follows:

- Bring Jobs and Housing Closer Together by concentrating more housing and jobs in central locations such as Activity Centers and near high-capacity transit station areas to make it possible for more people of all incomes to live near employment and other frequent destinations. This can enable trips to be shorter and reduce auto trips as people will be able to choose from a range of travel options.
- Expand Bus Rapid Transit and Transitways throughout the region to provide people not only more transit options but also a reliable and fast bus service for work and non-work trips.
- Move More People on Metrorail, by providing more frequent services with longer trains and expanded stations that are accessible by nonmotorized modes.
- Provide More Telecommuting and Other Options for Commuting to take advantage of the many jobs suitable for teleworking and to provide employees with transit and nonmotorized travel benefits and disincentivize commute parking.
- Expand Express Highway Network strategically, in an environmentally sensitive manner, to create a network that connects much of the region, featuring express bus systems and allowing carpools and vanpools to be exempt from tolls.
- Improve Walk and Bike Access to Transit, as investments that remove barriers to walking and biking to transit stations to reduce auto travel and help fully utilize the investments already made in high-capacity transit.
- Complete the National Capital Trail Network to create an extensive network of trails that provides walk and bicycle access to jobs and other activities by connecting communities across the region to Activity Centers.

Equity Considerations

Where and how the Aspirational Initiatives are implemented can have an impact on equity outcomes in our region. To assist implementing agencies consider equity in the planning process, the TPB makes the Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) available as a planning tool to examine demographic patterns in the region. For example, EEA locations can be used to plan and prioritize areas to improve walk and bicycles access, transit movements, and routing. The TPB also conducts studies and outreach that consider equity across a range of subjects and encourages the findings to be considered when planning for investments that promote the initiatives. The following pages describe the initiatives and offer data and perspectives from the TPB's focus groups and Aspiration to Implementation activity to provide insights on how the initiatives relate to equity concerns. The benefits of the initiatives, when implemented together regionwide, can address some of the top equity concerns raised during the focus groups, such as safe walk and bike access to transit, housing affordability near a range of transportation options, transportation access, travel time, and reliability.

Transportation Options

As a growing and diverse region, metropolitan Washington needs a transportation system that provides a wide range of ways to get around. Through the TPB, transportation agencies in the region work together to provide more convenient and affordable transportation options, allowing each person to choose what works best for them. This update to Visualize 2045 emphasizes the need for transportation options, programs, and policies that will help the region work together to address climate change, improve safety, and advance equity in the region. Strategies include the integration of the transportation system and access to more transportation choices, such as riding transit, walking, or biking, so that everyone can connect more easily to activities, services, and opportunities.

Transportation Demand Management

Many of the strategies in this section represent Transportation Demand Management (TDM) approaches intended to help people find and use alternatives to driving alone. TDM uses marketing, incentives, and employer-based programs to reduce congestion and improve air quality. Commuter Connections is the TPB's TDM program. The Commuter Connections regional network provides commuter services and information to area residents and

employers to reduce traffic congestion and emissions caused by single occupant vehicles (SOVs). The outreach mission creates awareness of SOV alternatives and their resulting benefits, to build the Commuter Connections network as an umbrella resource that provides support services to network organizations and individuals who currently drive alone, and to facilitate those who are seeking to change SOV behavior by providing information about commute alternatives. The Commuter Connections network primarily promotes activities including ridesharing, using transit, bicycling, walking, teleworking, and employer services.

Equity Considerations

Providing travel demand management means increasing access to travel options and telework that can expand the number of jobs that a person might be able to access within the region and help employer or government TDM incentive programs to reduce travel costs. Shorter and non-SOV commutes can reduce emissions and provide health benefits to commuters. While many lower-paying jobs do not have telework as an option, promoting telework in the region helps reduce congestion for those that need to drive or take transit to go to and from work.

TPB's Role

Commuter Connections is the major demand management component of the TPB's congestion management process (CMP) that helps support regional air quality goals. Its products and services are provided to member agencies through central program administration, implementation, and monitoring of tasks outlined in the annual Commuter Connections Work Program. Approximately 30 independently run programs are members of the Commuter Connections network. Each has its own funding sources, budgets, goals, staff, and operational strategies. Many of the operational logistics are carried out at the local level and coordinated regionally through subcommittees and ad-hoc groups, which meet regularly and as needed. Commuter Connections network members also assist employers to start or expand commuter benefit programs. The TPB staff provides regional resources such as telework and "flexwork" policy templates that employers can use to tailor their worksite programs. Regionwide incentive programs such as Guaranteed Ride Home, CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, 'Pool Rewards program, and CommuterCash can help nudge commuters out of their SOV mode into ridesharing, transit, and active transportation modes of travel. This allows for each jurisdictional program to have its own strategic TDM plan based on local resources and needs. The Commuter Connections Subcommittee provides overall technical review and input into program services.

Visualize the Future

The Commuter Connections program is generally regarded as among the most effective commuter assistance programs in the nation in terms of reducing vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled. During the COVID-19 pandemic, surveys show there was a significant increase in telework, walking, and biking, while there was a decrease in transit and driving. While short-term impacts of the pandemic were significant, the long-term impacts on travel behavior are unknown. The TPB will continue to monitor system usage through its various programs, including the 2022 State of the Commute Survey and will forecast transportation system usage based on objective information and sound planning assumptions. Looking to 2045, when another 1.3 million people and nearly one million jobs will be added to the region, the importance of managing transportation demand will only increase. Enabling people to not drive alone in the future will make the region's air cleaner and will help meet the 2030 GHG reduction goals of the COG Climate and Energy Action plan (endorsed by the TPB in 2020) and will help reduce congestion on the roads.

The sponsors for the projects in the constrained element identified 42 projects as implementing the Aspirational Initiative that focuses on transportation demand management: Provide More Telecommuting and Other Options for Commuting. The sponsors also identified hundreds of other projects that improve or expand alternatives to driving, a key feature of transportation demand management. Projects examples in the constrained element that promote TDM and descriptions of benefits from project sponsors include the White Flint District East and West in Montgomery County that supports expanding BRT and providing access to BRT and Metrorail.

Ongoing Challenges

TDM faces many challenges in influencing commuters to choose other ways to get to work. Concerns related to public health following the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted attitudes when choosing to drive or take transit. Commuters may not understand the value of carpools or vanpools because they may have trouble quantifying how much time they spend commuting. As commuters seek housing that they can afford, they may not find sufficient affordable housing near high quality transit options. Employer policies also encourages driving by making free parking available. The price at the pump also has impact on commuting behavior. High gas prices encourage more ridesharing behavior, and vice versa.

Bicycles, Pedestrians, and Micromobility

The metropolitan Washington region is a national leader in bicycle and pedestrian-oriented community design. Bike sharing, protected bike lanes, bike trails, and bike parking have been critical to the success of new developments such as the Wharf in the District of Columbia and Potomac Yard in Alexandria. Projects like the National Capital Trail Network, a 1,400-mile trail network, which is one of the TPB priority initiatives, are knitting existing disconnected trails across the region into a true network. Projects such as the Washington Boulevard Trail, the Bethesda Trolley Trail, and the Rhode Island Avenue Trolley Trail are linking residential and commercial areas to nearby parks, transit, and other community assets. As of 2019, about 3.3 percent of work trips in the region were on foot, scooter, or bike. Currently, there are over 800 miles of bike paths and over 400 miles of bike lanes in the region. Since 2014, the region has added roughly 350 miles of paved bike paths and bike lanes to the network, or roughly 60 miles per year. Walking and biking are forecast to increase at much higher rates than any other mode of travel. Where trails can be added alongside rail and utilities, further expansion is possible. An additional 2,445 miles of bicycle and pedestrian facilities are planned through 2045, including over 1,200 miles of shared use paths, 600 miles of standard bike lanes, and 190 miles of protected bike lanes.

Transit

The region boasts one of the premier public transit systems in the country. Metro moves hundreds of thousands of people—commuters, students, and tourists each workday on rail, bus, and paratransit. Commuter rail services in Maryland (MARC) and Virginia (VRE) and dozens of local bus and other transit providers move many thousands more. Together, these transit services play a critical role in providing affordable transportation options, sustaining economic vitality, providing high-quality alternatives to driving, building communities, and reducing environmental impacts. Transit ridership has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, with changing travel patterns and services, and the rise of telework, long-term impacts are not yet known.

Transit planning in the region involves all transit agencies and jurisdictions as well as various regional organizations. WMATA operates Metrorail, Metrobus, and MetroAccess, which together carry close to 85 percent of all public transportation trips in the region. WMATA has its own planning documents, and in 2020 concluded a regional effort to reimagine bus service in the region, the “Bus Transformation Project.” DDOT, the MDOT MTA, and the Virginia DRPT also engage in transit planning, such as MDOT MTA’s 2020 MARC Cornerstone Plan. Local jurisdictions and operators develop more detailed plans for transit service, typically published as Transit Development Plans or Transit Strategic Plans. Other regional organizations plan for transit, including the NVTC, which is leading development of the proposed VA-7 BRT line and providing transit operating funds, and the NVTA, which conducts multimodal planning and funds transit capital projects.

Intercity Travel: Buses and Rail

Intercity buses connect the metropolitan Washington area to New York City, Philadelphia, and other major cities or destinations. These buses serve thousands of person trips daily. In addition to privately operated bus services offered by companies such as Greyhound, Megabus, and Peter Pan. Virginia funds The Breeze intercity buses, with the initial 2017 route serving Blacksburg, Staunton, and Front Royal. New routes from Dansville via Lynchburg and Charlottesville and from Martinsburg via Richmond were added in 2021—all connecting into Union Station in downtown DC. The region also benefits from multiple commuter bus options that provide car-free travel to and from major employment centers.

The region has a major terminal for intercity Amtrak passenger rail traveling up and down the East Coast as well as west to Pittsburgh and Chicago, southwest to Atlanta, and south to the Carolinas and Florida. While many travelers are heading north, Lorton, VA, is the northern terminus for Amtrak's Auto-Train service to Sanford, FL (Orlando). In addition, Virginia is investing significantly in improving rail service in the state, both leading the new Long Bridge project across the Potomac River as well as purchasing the right-of-way for construction of additional tracks on the DC-Richmond corridor and expanding service to other parts of the state and onwards to North Carolina.

Driving and Riding in a Vehicle

The region's extensive highway and road network provides connectivity for people and goods to destinations across the region. Every day, millions of people travel on our region's roads to access jobs, schools, and medical care, as well as shopping, entertainment, and recreational opportunities. Roads also carry most goods delivered to homes, schools, businesses, and stores in the region. The TPB encourages people who travel in vehicles to share the ride through carpooling when possible. In the last decade, rideshare and ridehail services have grown creating new opportunities for people to share rides, or use a vehicle as-needed rather than investing in a vehicle, but these services could also encourage more trips in cars. The 2017-2018 Regional Travel Survey reports nearly three times the amount of taxi and ridehail travel in 2017-2018 compared to the 2007-2008 survey. The TPB continues to monitor the impact of these services on transportation demand and travel choice, especially given recent short-term disruptions to travel trends due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Long-term impacts of the pandemic remain uncertain.

The responsibility for planning and investing in the region's roadways is shared by state, county, and local transportation planning agencies. Generally, each road has an owner that is responsible for how that roadway functions, including roadway performance and congestion, maintenance, safety, and alignment with Complete Streets policies. Maintaining facilities in a state of good repair is a critical, if unsung, emphasis of transportation agencies' future investments, whether bridge or pavement conditions, traffic signals, lighting, signage, or other infrastructure. While all roads in the region form the network that connects our communities, only those projects of regional significance that are required for inclusion in the region's air quality analysis or that use federal funding are included in the constrained element.

PRODUCT PROFILES

1. Carpools and Vanpools
2. Transit
 - a. Bus Activity
 - b. Rail Activity
3. Telework
4. Bicycling/Walking
5. Bike Sharing
6. E-Scooters
7. Car Sharing

SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMS

1. Managed Laned (HOV/Express Lanes)
2. Park and Ride Lots
3. Guaranteed Ride Home
4. Commuter Benefit Programs
5. Clean Air Partners
6. Incentives Programs

CARPOOLS AND VANPOOLS

Product Profile

Relative to other major U.S. markets, carpools and vanpools are a highly used form of alternative commuting in the Washington, DC region. Beyond the shared cost savings of maintaining and operating a vehicle, another tremendous benefit is the time savings of HOV/Express lanes, for those who have access. An additional personal benefit is reduced stress from not driving every day.

Commuter Connections assists commuters in finding suitable ridesharing arrangements through online Ridematching. Commuters who set up a free account with Commuter Connections may sign up for free Ridematching. This process provides an instant list of matches of possible rideshare partners. The tool indicates potential carpool/vanpool partners as drivers or passengers, with the same or similar route and schedule.

Many of the vanpool operators, including Enterprise and ABS vanpools, accept SmartBenefits® as fare payment. Vanpools typically travel greater distances than carpools. The majority of vanpools in the Washington region originate in Virginia, mostly in Prince William, Spotsylvania, and Stafford counties. The primary destinations of vanpools are the District of Columbia, Arlington, and Fairfax County. There are several vanpool operators in Virginia, and a large number of single owner operated vans. In the Commonwealth of Virginia, the AdvANTage Vanpool Self-Insurance program is offered through the Division of Risk Management (DRM), a division of the Virginia Department of the Treasury. A vanpool self-insurance pool is a group of vanpool owners who contribute annual membership fees used to self-insure their commuter vanpools. Through the pool, vanpool owners share common risks via a combination of self-funding and insurance.

In FY2017, Commuter Connections introduced CarpoolNow, a free mobile app for commuters in the Washington, D.C. region providing on-demand carpooling, connecting drivers offering a ride with passengers seeking a ride. The mobile app displays routes, estimated pick-up times, and confirms pick-up and drop-off locations. During FY2018, Commuter Connections worked with Howard County, MD through a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant to promote the CarpoolNow mobile app. In FY2019, the CarpoolNow app was offered to carpoolers in the Washington, DC metropolitan region, including a \$10 driver incentive per trip. In FY2021, improvements were made to make CarpoolNow easier for drivers to connect with other commuters through real-time location data to suggest popular carpool pickup points throughout the region, for example, popular Park & Ride Lots. When using the app, these hot spots are signified by a “plus” icon on the map. CarpoolNow’s benefits and ease of use will be promoted as part of Commuter Connections marketing outreach.

In FY2023, Flexible Vanpooling was introduced by Commuter Connections as a way to help vanpool operators and coordinators fill open vanpool seats to hybrid workers. The public can request to join a vanpool in real-time or reserve a seat in advance for a one-time ride.

Current Strategies

- Encourage ridesharing as solution to saving time and gas expenses.
- Encourage greater carpools and vanpools through placement of highway signs with the Commuter Connections 800 number and web site in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.
- Promote Commuter Connections’ Ridematching software and CarpoolNow app through social media, direct mail, and value-added media in order to achieve a critical mass of applicants that will allow for effective matching.
- Increase commuter awareness on the ‘Pool Rewards carpool/vanpool incentive program, particularly during the I-66 (outside the Beltway) construction period.
- Increase commuter awareness that Fairfax and Prince William County offers personal property tax relief

for vans used for not-for-profit ridesharing purposes.

- Increase commuter awareness that SmartBenefits can be used for vanpooling.
- Increase commuter awareness that all Northern Virginia rideshare agencies offer temporary financial assistance to new vanpools or vanpools experiencing emergency loss of ridership that threatens the survival of the ridesharing arrangement through the Van Start/Van Save program.
- Increase commuter awareness that Prince George's County offers 100 percent subsidy for first month, 50 percent for second month and 25 percent for third month of newly formed vanpools with a minimum of eight passengers in a 12-15 passenger van, or with five passengers in 9 passenger vans.
- Increase commuter awareness that Frederick County provides start-up funds for new vanpools for the first year of operation.
- Increase commuter awareness about the Commuter Connections mobile app that allows for direct account access.
- Educate commuters that there are vanpool incentive programs available through 'Pool Rewards and Vanpool Alliance.
- Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC) partners with RideFinders, a division of GRTC and a regional non-profit agency, to provide R-VAN service, which helps start vanpools by matching at least seven people to share the ride and commuting cost to and from work.
- Promote hybrid vanpools.
- Promote Flexible Vanpooling program to Vanpool Operators.

Strengths

- Cost savings from volatile gas prices, and lower maintenance costs due to less wear and tear on personal vehicles.
- It is free and easy to set-up an account with Commuter Connections for Ridematching services and to use the mobile app.
- If using HOV and Express lanes, substantial time and cost-savings may be enjoyed.
- Addresses the suburb-to-suburb commute more efficiently than public transit.
- Reduces maintenance of parking lots or leasing costs for employers.
- In 2023, employers can give \$300 tax-free subsidy to vanpoolers each month via SmartBenefits® or other Transit Voucher.
- Reduces the stress of daily driving.
- Allows commuters to relax, read, or use laptop during the commute.
- GRH supported.
- The vanpool riders determine their route and schedule based on their needs, making vanpooling very flexible.
- Reduces the need for families to have an additional vehicle.
- Through the 'Pool Rewards program, new carpoolers receive a cash incentive of \$130 over a 90-day period, and newly formed vanpools receive \$200 a month through 'Pool Rewards.
- Vanpool Alliance introduced an incentive for new qualifying vanpool applications. Vanpools traveling along I-66 can receive up to \$200 towards demonstrated parking costs. Vanpools traveling along I-395 can receive up to \$200 towards demonstrated parking costs and an additional \$400 over the base payment.
- An extra \$100 bonus is being offered through 'Pool Rewards for carpoolers travelling the 495NEXT work zone.
- CarpoolNow offers a \$10 per trip driver incentive to drivers giving carpool rides to and from work in the Washington, DC metropolitan region.
- The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland has a vanpool benefit of \$300 for FY23.

Deficiencies

- Perceived as an option that takes away freedom and personal space from commuters.
- Some SOVs do not feel the cost savings are worth the effort of picking up a commute partner or vanpool.

- Some feel they need their vehicle for use during the workday.
- Difficult to recruit vanpool drivers.
- Schedule inflexibility.
- Lingering apprehensions about COVID-19 may continue to deter commuters from carpooling or vanpooling with people they are unfamiliar with.

Promotional Strategy

- Promote Commuter Connections' Ridematching capabilities.
- Promote GRH more to encourage greater number of carpools and vanpools.
- Promote commute cost savings for carpools and vanpools.
- Target large employers, especially government agencies and defense contractors with transportation fairs.
- Promote ridesharing as a car-lite alternative through the Car Free Day promotion.
- Focus on suburban employers to fill the commute needs of the suburb-to-suburb commuters.
- Work with employers moving to or within suburbs from an area that was well served by transit. Encourage these commuters to maintain their alternative commute with ridesharing options.
- Focus on employer-based vanpool promotions in the federal and defense contractor sector.
- Promote ridesharing opportunities in HOV/Express Lane corridors with regard to time savings, particularly with the new Express Lanes being built on I-66 (outside the Beltway).
- Promote preferential parking programs for carpools and vanpools through the Commuter Connections newsletter and through the Employer Services program.
- Promote 'Pool Rewards carpool/vanpool incentive project.
- Promote formation of carpools and vanpools for free use of the Express Lanes in Virginia.
- Promote CarpoolNow mobile app.
- During the pandemic commuters were encouraged to carpool with a trusted circle of family members, neighbors, or co-workers.
- Promote Flexible Vanpooling to operators and commuters.
- Promote ridesharing opportunities for commuters' circle of neighbors, friends, and co-workers.

Challenges

- Violation rates in all HOV/Express Lane corridors.
- "Empty lane syndrome".
- Congested HOV lanes will diminish advantage of time savings.
- Beyond the cost of gas, SOV commuters may not understand the real depreciation costs of driving alone such as the increased mileage and wear and tear on the vehicle.
- Low levels of marketing and advertising to commuters.
- Difficulty of recruiting new vanpool drivers.
- Rising vanpool insurance costs.
- Low level of participation in 'Pool Rewards.
- Getting more drivers to use the CarpoolNow mobile app.
- COVID aftereffects. Pre-pandemic carpoolers/vanpoolers may still find ridesharing in a post-COVID environment to be too close for comfort, and may instead opt to drive alone, particularly if offered free parking.
- Perception that one must carpool or vanpool five workday a week or not at all.
- Conversion of HOV Lanes from HOV-2 to HOV-3 along I-66.
- Getting vanpool operators to enroll in Flexible Vanpooling program.

TRANSIT

The Washington metropolitan region has a solid presence of bus and rail providers offering a range of transportation and shuttle services. In addition, the region has two commuter rail services, MARC and VRE. The major provider of bus and rail service is the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which operates Metrobus and Metrorail in the District of Columbia and surrounding jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia. Metrorail provides safe, clean, reliable transit service for more than 600,000 customers a day and is the second busiest in the U.S., serving 98 stations. Metrobus operates 159 bus lines.

The Maryland Transit Administration is constructing a light rail transit line between New Carrollton in Prince George's County and Bethesda in Montgomery County. The line will include 11 stops in Prince George's County and connect to major transit hubs and Metrorail Stations on the Green and Orange Line. Project completion is being anticipated in 2024.

Product Profile

Within the Washington/Baltimore region there are many transit providers, namely:

- Alexandria Transit Company (DASH)
- Arlington Transit/ART
- City of Fairfax CUE bus
- DC Circulator
- Fairfax Connector bus service, with Metrobus operated REX service
- Frederick County Transit Services
- Loudoun County Transit
- Montgomery County Ride On
- MDOT MTA Local Bus, Light Rail, Metro Subway, MARC Train and Commuter Bus
- Prince George's County *TheBus*, and PGC Link microtransit
- OmniRide Express, OmniRide Metro Express, OmniRide Local and OmniRide East-West Express
- Virginia Railway Express (VRE)
- WMATA- Metrobus, Metrorail and MetroAccess

The factors influencing transit use include:

Automobile-Related

- Cultural dominance of the automobile
- Auto availability/reliability
- Daily travel costs (gasoline, tolls) and mileage depreciation
- Repairs and wear and tear maintenance
- Parking availability and cost
- Environmental impact of emissions

Travel-Related

- Connectivity with other transit modes

- Convenience and comfort of transit
- Distance from origin and destination to transit station/stop
- Mode of travel to transit station
- Number of mode changes necessary to reach destination
- Number of transfers necessary to reach destination
- Reliability
- Time of travel
- Transit fares
- Employer subsidies or assistance with pre-tax fare purchasing
- Travel time to destination using transit
- Safety
- Real-time travel and tracking information

Human-Related

- Knowledge of transit system (i.e. schedule and routes)
- Understanding of process of purchasing fare media
- Perception/image of transit to public
- Personal preference
- Family schedules and obligations
- Environmental considerations
- Access to multilingual information (i.e. schedules and routes)

Transit System-Related

- Connectivity with other modes including shuttles, bikesharing, carsharing, and other first mile/last mile strategies
- Convenience and comfort of transit
- Number of mode changes necessary to reach destination on transit
- Number of transfers necessary to reach destination on transit
- Parking availability at transit stations
- Parking costs at transit stations
- Proximity to residential areas
- Proximity to employment sites, services, facilities
- Proximity to retail and/or tourist attractions
- Security/safety
- Ability of transit's access to reach nearby medical, shopping, recreational and other opportunities
- Cost-effectiveness of transit
- Paratransit accessibility

Payment-Related

- Transit fare structures
- Payment method for transfers
- Ability to transfer between transit systems
- Uniformity of fare payment and transfer procedures in metropolitan area
- Methods to encourage fare pre-payment among all income and demographic groups including the unbanked
- Methods to enable off-board fare-payment
- Methods to discourage adding value to pre-payment systems on-board buses

Transit Information-Related

- Availability to track in real time, transit location whereabouts and estimated arrival
- Ability to obtain transit information (routes, stops, schedules, fares and other policies) in varying media (paper, electronic signage)
- Ability to obtain transit information in major languages used locally
- Ability to obtain transit information in accessible formats for people with sensory disabilities

Pedestrian & Bicycle Access-Related

- Directness of pedestrian path of travel between transit stops and trip origins or destinations
- Accessibility of pedestrian path of travel between transit stops and trip origins or destinations
- Safety and accessibility of transit stops
- Provision of passenger amenities at transit stops
- Provision of bike share stations by major transit stops and regional activity centers
- Provision of secure bike parking at transit stations (e.g. Metro Bike & Rides)
- Ability to safely cross major intersections or parking lots along path of travel between transit stops and trip origins or destination

Residents and visitors may choose public transit that is convenient and cost effective. However, they must have a sufficient comfort level with and understanding of how to use transit to get to and from their destination safely and in a timely manner. The factors listed above provide reference points useful to align and promote public transit. A targeted approach focusing on residential neighborhoods and employment centers that are close to bus stops and rail stations with a SmartBenefits promotion would be most effective. Additionally, better transit information to increase comfort level for those deciding to take transit would be of benefit, particularly for limited English proficiency (LEP) groups.

Bus

Bus Assets

- Least expensive commute mode (other than bike/walk)
- Reduced fares may be available for students and riders of certain ages, income, and disabilities
- Practical alternative for commuters without vehicles
- Commuter bus services supplement publicly owned transit
- Convenient to many home destinations, learning institutions, shopping and business centers
- Eligible for the Guaranteed Ride Home program
- Permitted on HOV/Express or bus-only lanes
- Allows seated passengers to relax
- Some buses offer free WiFi and recharge ports
- Commuter Stores, plus online ability to purchase bus fares via CommuterPage.com; Montgomery County's web site, and Fare Media by Mail.
- Bike racks are on all Metro and local bus systems
- Availability of real-time bus arrival information systems
- SmarTrip® accepted on all local bus systems.
- WMATA now offers monthly passes that include unlimited bus rides, as well as a 7-day regional bus pass for \$15.
- In 2019, DC Circulator began offering free rides on all buses
- MTA CharmPass app allows riders to purchase fares for commuter bus service using mobile devices.
- In 2020, Prince George's County *TheBus* added on-demand microtransit service to a geographically-defined region and Saturday service to 13 routes
- The SmarTrip® app allows the ease to tap-and-go on iPhones, Apple Watches, and Android device using Google Pay wherever SmarTrip is accepted.
- In 2021, DASH (City of Alexandria) became fare-free to all passengers
- CUE began a Zero-Fare pilot program in 2022
- October to December 2023 ART bus fare is free during rush periods (morning and evening)
- Fairfax Connector has Electric Buses in service to make strides toward the county's climate and sustainability goals
- Fairfax Connector has Free Student Bus Pass Program for the county's high school and middle school students.
- Fairfax Connector offers free fares to children under 12 who are accompanied by a paying adult.
- Fairfax Connector has a reduced fare program - the Transit Rider Incentive Program, available to low-income residents.

Bus Deficiencies

- Riders may have additional steps to get to the bus stop, and to their final destination i.e. first/last "mile".
- Lack of sufficient parking at some bus stops
- Bus idling with non-clean burning engines.
- Slow with multiple stops; typically travel in same congested lanes as other traffic
- May be considered as an inferior mode of transportation by car drivers; negative stigma
- Transfers to other buses/trains may be required to reach final destination.
- Lack of service in some areas, especially non-urban
- Continuity of service not guaranteed: low ridership routes can be reduced or discontinued
- Lack of suitable pedestrian access to/from some bus stops
- Lack of shelter availability at some bus stops

Bus Prospects

- Conversion to cleaner energy sources

- Free bus service available for all riders in certain jurisdictions
- Ability to multitask, i.e. work/study, network and listen to music on the bus
- Prime mode of travel for DC residents
- SmarTrip® card and SmartBenefits® subsidies, and pre-tax benefits
- Use of queue-jumpers and other prioritization methods, including some Bus Rapid Transit in the region
- Use of smaller buses for increased flexibility in routes for residential areas
- Mobile ticketing apps
- All-door boarding efficiencies
- Information screens

Bus Challenges

- Fare increases
- Lack of information/understanding by prospective new riders of routes, schedules
- Fare payment methodologies that slow bus travel times (e.g., adding value to SmarTrip on buses)
- Limited funding for operations and expansion
- Limited parking
- Limited or lack of routes in some areas.
- Lack of available and appropriately zoned land for maintenance and parking facilities
- Lack of funding to right-of-way (ROW) to create dedicated bus-only lanes
- Insufficient enforcement of existing bus lanes.
- Impacts on existing developed areas where additional ROW is acquired for dedicated lanes
- Decreased ridership due to other commuting options such as telework, TNC's bikesharing and e-scooters.
- Perceived breeding ground for viruses
- Safety
- Reliability
- Fare evasion
- Frequency of service and hours of operation

<i>TRANSIT AGENCY</i>	<i>BUS ROUTES</i>	<i>CAPACITY</i>	<i>TYPE OF SERVICE</i>	<i>ROUTES CLOSE TO CAPACITY</i>	<i>ROUTES IN NEED OF RIDERSHIP INCREASES</i>
Alexandria Transit Company (DASH)	12	Standard: 28-40 seats; Articulated: 60 seats	Fixed-route, Peak and non-peak HOV: Lines 35, 103 & 104	Lines 30 & 35, King Street Trolley	Lines 34, 102 & 104
Arlington Transit (ART)	16	Seated: 19-30 Seated and Standing: 28-45	Fixed Route	41, 42, 43, 45, 87 (peaks)	51, 52, 53, 55, 61, 62, 72, 74, 75, 77, 87 (off-peak)
DC Circulator	6	Seated: 27-42 Standing: 37-54	Fixed route; 149 stop locations	Crowded during peak commuter rush hours; National Mall route crowded during Cherry Blossom season	Eastern Market – L’Enfant Plaza National Mall
Fairfax Connector	100	29-39	Fixed Route Express	Routes closest to capacity 151, 159, 171, 394, 395, 401, 402, 599, 634, 698, 699, 950	340, 432, 461, 467, 507, 552, 557, 558, 624, 724, 952, RIBS4
Fairfax CUE	4	Seated: 31-32 Standing: 25-30	Peak and non-peak (7 days a week)	All routes crowded during peak commutes.	Green routes
Frederick County Transit Services	9 Connector Routes 7 Commuter Shuttle Routes	16 seated (Shuttles) 29 seated (Connectors)	Local and commuter	10, 20, 40, 51, & 65 Connectors are crowded during peak rush hours	Route 85 Shuttle 80 Connector
Loudoun County Transit	48 (as of November 2022)	Equipment varies: 11, 18, 26, 40, 55 seated	Fixed route Local, Silver Line Bus, Commuter, and ADA service		All routes

MTA Commuter Buses	36 routes in Maryland	55 seats per trip	Total trips – 306 (am) 315 (pm) 13 (midday) am & pm peak service, with a couple off peak trips, and midday trips	None	210, 215
MTA Commuter Buses by region					
Baltimore	7 routes	50-55 seats, 74 daily trips			
Central Maryland	5 routes	50-55 seats, 100 daily trips			
Washington (East,South and North)	24 routes	50-55 seats, 460 daily trips			
MTA BaltimoreLink Bus Network	65	40-66 seats, 5,862 trips per weekday	See breakout by service type below	N/A	N/A
MTA CityLink	12	40-66 seats, 2,156 trips per weekday	24 hours/7 days a week	N/A	N/A
MTA Express BusLink	9	40-66 seats, 192 trips per weekday	Peak hours, weekdays only except for 163	N/A	N/A

MTA LocalLink	44	40-66 seats, 3,514 trips per weekday	Spans from approximately 16 to 24 hours depending on ridership demand	N/A	N/A
Montgomery County Ride On	80 fixed routes, A micro transit service called Flex in two areas, Wheaton/ Glenmont and Rockville; a high- frequency, limited stop service in the MD355 corridor called Ride On extRa; a rapid transit service called the Flash along US Rt 29 corridor	Seated: 19-43 Standing: 28- 64 ; pandemic capacity 15- 20	Peak and Non- peak service HOV: Rt. 70, 71, 74, 78, 79, 100	Many routes have capacity issues at some time during their operating day	All routes
OmniRide Express/ OmniRide Metro Express	13 routes from Prince William County/Manass as area/Stafford to DC/ Pentagon/ Arlington/Tyson s. 2 routes to Metrorail	43-57	Commuter Service Service to Metrorail	Most commuter routes	Tysons Corner Manassas- Pentagon
OmniRide Local/ OmniRide East- West Express	7 Local routes and 1 cross county between Woodbridge and Manassas	29-45	Local		Most Local routes

Prince George's <i>TheBus</i> and PGC Link	TheBus (fixed route) 28 TheBus Routes	24 fixed routes	Peak and Non- peak service (Mon-Sat)	16, 18, 20, 21, 24, 30, 32, are Close to capacity	13A, 14, 15X. 21X. 28, 37, 53
	PGC Link microtransit service in Fort Washington / Oxon Hill and Accokeek	10-12	On-demand (Mon-Fri)	N/A	

SUMMARY OF BUS ACTIVITY	BUS LINES	CAPACITY	TYPE OF SERVICE	ROUTES CLOSE TO CAPACITY	ROUTES IN NEED OF RIDERSHIP INCREASES
WMATA System Total	159 Lines	Range of seats per bus between 27-66 (assumes 39.5 avg seats /bus) 14, 739 Wkdy Trips 582, 190 Wkdy Seats	Peak and Non- peak	46 Lines	42 Lines
WMATA DC Service	67	Range of seats per bus between 27-66 7,780 Wkdy Trips 307, 310 Wkdy Seats	Peak and Non- peak	30N,30S; 32,36; 33; 39; 42,43; 52, 54; 63; 70; 79; 80; 90,92; 96; B2; H1; H3, L1; S1; S4; U5,6; V2,V4; W3; W4; X1; X2; X9 [25 lines]	37; 60; 62; 74; B8,9; D2; E2; E6; G2; G9; H6; K2; M4; U4; U7; W5; X8 [18 lines]
WMATA MD Service	53	Range of seats per bus between 27-62 3,826 Wkdy Trips 151, 127 Wkdy Seats	Peak and Non- peak	86; C2,4; C8; D12,14; F4; F14; G14; K6; P12; R1,2; T18; Y2,7,8; Q2,4; Z6,8 [14 lines]	B21,22; B27; B29,31; B30; C12,14; C11,13; C26,28; F12; H13; NH2 [12 lines]
WMATA VA Service	39	Range of seats per bus between 27- 40 3, 133 Wkdy Trips 123, 753 Wkdy Seats	Peak and Non- peak	3Y; 7Y; 7W; 11Y; 16A,C 16Y; 28A 7 lines]	3T; 4A,B; Metroway; 10N; 15K; 17B,M; 22A,F; 28F; 29C; 29W; S80,91 [12 lines]

Rail

Rail Assets

- Commuter Stores provide an excellent sales vehicle for merchandise and tickets
- Bi-level coaches on VRE and MARC train systems
- Clean
- Quiet cars and bathroom facilities available on commuter trains
- Food and beverages allowed on commuter trains
- Free parking at most commuter rail stations
- Convenient: leave the driving to someone else
- Favorable cost compared to long distance SOV driving and parking
- Guaranteed Ride Home program
- In many cases, rail is faster than driving alone
- Reliable (not affected by traffic congestion on roads/highways)
- Transit Link Card between Metro, MARC and VRE makes it easier and economical to combine trips
- Weekend service on MARC on the Penn line between DC and Baltimore
- In 2021, VRE updated VRE Mobile, an app that accepts credit cards and SmartBenefits, to allow riders to purchase and validate tickets more easily from their smartphones
- MTA's CharmPass app allows riders to purchase fares for MARC using mobile devices
- In 2019, the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission formed to provide enforceable oversight to repair safety concerns proactively
- WMATA launched a SelectPass program for packaged/unlimited trips, which became an official Metro Unlimited Pass product in 2019
- The SmarTrip® app allows the ease to tap-and-go on iPhones, Apple Watches, and Android device using Google Pay wherever SmarTrip is accepted
- Full size bikes allowed on commuter trains

Rail Deficiencies

- Commuter rail has limited schedule (including some limited off-peak service)
- Limited or lack of free parking
- MARC's Brunswick and Camden lines and both VRE lines are frequently susceptible to heat orders during summer months; reduces maximum speed by 20 mph. Occurs when temperatures are 85° or greater, or a 25-degree temperature swing within a 24-hr period.
- Commuter rail is susceptible to weather-related speed restrictions due to flash flooding and high winds
- Delays due to freight/Amtrak breakdowns

Rail Prospects

- Provides attractive transportation option to commuters of various income ranges
- Provides transit subsidies for those working for participating employers and the federal government
- Provides an opportunity for riders to relax during the commute
- Metrorail's Silver Line Extension to Washington Dulles International Airport and Loudoun County provides greater transit capacity.

Rail Challenges

- Fare increases
- First mile/last mile
- System delays and bad press has beleaguered transit in recent years
- Safety

- Loss of transit ridership due to Yellow Line bridge between the Pentagon and L'Enfant Plaza for 7-8 months
- Returning to pre-COVID ridership levels
- Pre-pandemic passengers may find rail in the post-COVID environment to be a perceived breeding ground for the viruses, and may instead continue to drive alone, particularly if offered free parking
- Fare evasion

SUMMARY OF RAIL ACTIVITY

PROVIDER	RAIL TYPE	ROUTES	CAPACITY	ROUTES TO MARKET
VRE	Commuter	Manassas Line (Broad Run to Union Station) Fredericksburg Line (Spotsylvania to Union Station)	Trains run between 10 and 50 percent capacity, as of Oct 2023. Ample free parking available at 14 morning origination stations. Bicycle racks and/or lockers available at all 19 stations and full-size bikes are allowed on all trains.	VRE runs 16 weekday trains on each line. Trains generally run north in the morning and south in the afternoon/evening. The system's four core stations – Alexandria, Crystal City, L'Enfant, and Union Station – serve both lines. There are six additional stations on the Manassas Line and nine on the Fredericksburg Line.
MARC (MTA)	Commuter	Brunswick Line Camden Line Penn Line	At current ridership levels, MARC stations have excess parking. Daily Seat Capacity: Brunswick 10,928 Camden 10,979 Penn 37,395 seats	1) Brunswick Line (Martinsburg, WV and Frederick, MD to Union Station) 2) Camden Line (Baltimore to Union Station) 3) Penn Line (Perryville, MD to Baltimore to Union Station)
Metro (MTA)	Subway	Owing Mills to Johns Hopkins Hospital	Not at capacity	NW Baltimore Corridor: Owings Mills, Downtown. Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Light Rail (MTA)	Commuter	Hunt Valley to BWI Airport Glen Burnie to Timonium/Hunt Valley (Off-Peak) Camden to Penn Shuttle	Not at capacity	Hunt Valley to Downtown to Camden Yards to BWI. Glen Burnie to Downtown to Timonium. Camden Yards to Penn Station
AMTRAK	Regional/Commuter	Northeast Corridor	Not at capacity	Northern Virginia District of Columbia Southern Maryland Baltimore - BWI
Metro - WMATA	Subway	Blue, Green, Orange, Red, Silver, Yellow lines	Capacity during peak periods	District: (all quadrants) Maryland: Prince George's and Montgomery Counties Virginia: City of Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax Counties

TELEWORK

COG/TPB began helping businesses start or expand telework programs in 1996 through the Commuter Connections program, which defines teleworkers as wage and salary employees who at least occasionally work at home or at a location other than their central work place during their normal work hours. Over the years, Commuter Connections has provided telework brochures, videos, seminars, demonstration projects, sample telework policies and agreements, and other information to employers. Telework is supported by COG/TPB through Commuter Connections' network members in Maryland who provide telework outreach activities and support service to employers.

According to the Commuter Connections State of the Commute (SOC) Survey in 2022, prior to 2022, about six in ten respondents teleworked one or more days per week and four in ten teleworked less than one day per week. The 2022 pattern was notably different, with 95% of respondents teleworking at least one day per week and 75% teleworking at least three days per week. In 2022, the average telework frequency was 3.37 days per week, nearly triple the average 1.20 days per week frequency from 2019. The high average frequency in 2022 was driven by two factors. First, more than half of teleworkers were teleworking all their workdays, substantially raising the average across all teleworkers. But the telework frequency for respondents who worked some days at an outside work location was 1.46 days per week, also higher than the 2019 average.

Conducted by Commuter Connections during the COVID pandemic, a survey of 180 employers who participated in the organization's Employer Outreach program showed that two in ten (20%) respondents would likely continue teleworking at the same level as during the pandemic. Thirty-seven percent said they anticipate teleworking at a higher than pre-pandemic level, either allowing more employees to telework and/or allowing more days or hours of telework per week. Twelve percent of employer respondents anticipate reverting back to a pre-pandemic telework level, and 23% expect to reduce telework to a level lower than before the pandemic.

Employer-Based Promotions

Connecting VA – The Connecting VA (previously Telework!VA) program is an initiative of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) that began in 2001. The program provides technical assistance for companies interested in creating, improving, or modifying a productive hybrid work program. VDRPT began partnering with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on marketing efforts in FY2011. Technical assistance includes policy development, manager and employee training, budget development and assistance with technology plans. For more information, visit <https://connectingva.drpt.virginia.gov/>.

Federal Employers

Telework resources for federal employees: www.gsa.gov/governmentwide-initiatives/telework

In the Washington metropolitan region, there is a combination of private and university run telework centers. In April 2011, GSA discontinued financial affiliation/sponsorship of the original 14 telework centers in the Washington Metropolitan area. However, there are other private sector telework centers, or 'hoteling,' arrangements, available from private co-working entities such as WeWork and MakeOffices. Co-working centers provide space, similar to hoteling arrangements, plus some offer conference rooms and training facilities for short meetings/classes, on a fee basis. These alternative workplaces are useful types of facilities for remote, home-based workers, and for the field work force to meet or convene.

Strengths

- Strengthens employee recruitment and retention.
- Lowers training costs associated with high turnover.
- Reduces absenteeism and late arrivals.
- Increases employee productivity.
- Improves employee satisfaction by providing flexible work scheduling, better time management and the balance between work and family life.
- Reduces costs for office space and parking.
- Expands access to skilled workers.
- Expands opportunities for business continuity of operations especially in times of natural or man-made disasters.
- Enhances public recognition as an innovative business and a good corporate citizen.
- Reduces congestion.
- Financial incentives available from States to assist employers with costs and training.
- Significant numbers of companies shifted from informal to formal telework policies due to the pandemic.
- Significant numbers of companies invested in online communications systems as a result of the pandemic.
- Has made it more possible for companies to maintain continuity of operations during the pandemic.

Weaknesses

- Concern with how to select employees with telework appropriate positions.
- Concern with the effect telework has on customer service.
- Accountability issues for work performed out of the office.
- Distractions at home i.e. children, pets, etc.
- Workers Compensation issues and OSHA requirements are not well understood.
- Workers are afraid of being passed up for promotions because they are out-of-sight.
- Cost of technology for teleworking.
- Striking a balance between working from home and being in the office.

Opportunities

Private co-working centers or spaces are on the rise; there are even niches within the co-working space industry. Some of the new centers are tailoring themselves exclusively to working women, while others include child daycare services.

A positive outlook exists for teleworking, provided that ample education and training is provided to decision-makers. Additionally, pressure should be created from the bottom up with public relations stories regarding increases in productivity and quality of life due to telecommuting.

Census Bureau's American Community Survey showed that nationwide in 2017 for the first time, the number of people who regularly work from home (7.9 million) exceeded riders of public transit systems (7.6 million).

The pandemic saw many employers create telework programs that were non-existent previously, while other employers formalized previously informal telework programs.

Much of telework growth is technology related. The pandemic provided impetus for employers to invest in remote-work technology.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, telework has emerged as a larger player after more jobs have been defined as "teleworkable" and a higher frequency of telework is occurring for those who were already teleworking prior to the pandemic. It is still unclear where telework will end up in the post pandemic landscape

as employers are still assessing the ideal balance of hybrid teleworking.

Challenges

- For new hybrid workers who previously used shared commute modes prior to the pandemic; getting them back into shared modes rather than driving alone on the days they commute to the physical workplace.
- Lack of human interaction at work can lead to mental health issues.

BICYCLING/WALKING

Bicycling to work is an important aspect of commuting. Employers can encourage cycling to work by installing secure bike parking, changing rooms, showers, lockers, and by including bicycling in commute workshops. They also can provide their employees with information they need to commute by bike, including bicycle maps, locations of bike parking and/or health clubs that provide reduced memberships for cyclists. Commuter Connections assists employers with information on bicycling programs for their employees by providing general information and resources from non-profit organizations such as Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA).

According to the 2022 State of the Commute Survey Report:

- The average primary mode commute distance and time by bike each way was 4.5 miles and 25 minutes.
- The average primary mode commute distance and time by walk each way was 1.3 miles and 20 minutes.
- The average number of days per week for bicycle and walk commuting is 2.5 and 2.7 percent respectively.
- Biking/walking commuters overwhelmingly reported the benefit of getting exercise (78%) as a personal benefit of alternative mode use by primary alternative mode.
- Commuters who reported using a bike or scooter overwhelmingly (81%) rode personal bikes for their commute. About two in ten used a rented bike, either a Capital Bikeshare bicycle (18%) or a dockless bike (3%). About one in ten scooter commuters typically used either a rented scooter (8%) or a personal scooter (7%).
- Respondents whose employers offered bicycling or walking services (18%), and bikeshare memberships (16%) had used these services.
- Excluding telework and compressed work schedules, the weekly commute trip distribution for bike/scooter/walk mode share of commute trips was 3.3 percent.
- Including telework and compressed work schedules, the weekly commute trip distribution for bike/scooter/walk mode share of commute trips was 1.7 percent.
- Satisfaction with commute by primary commute mode for bike/walk was 90 percent.

Bike to Work Day has been a tradition in the Washington metropolitan region for over a decade. In 2000, Commuter Connections began to lend its support to WABA as part of its effort to encourage employers to promote bicycling to work. This grew the event from a downtown D.C. happening to a truly regional one, with more than 100 pit stop rally points for the cyclists throughout the region that included snacks, prize drawings, T-shirts, promotional items, and elected officials.

Bike to Work Day is promoted through distribution of collateral materials - radio advertising, social media, newsletter articles, email, links from the region's Rideshare program and TMA websites - and public affairs outreach (performed by COG Office of Communications and WABA). For the first time-ever, Spanish television station, Telemundo covered the Bike to Work Day event. Collateral produced for the event and distributed throughout the region included rack postcards, posters, street banners, and T-shirts. Materials were targeted to employers and cyclists in chosen target markets as well as bicycle shops.

Cash sponsorships help to ensure the visibility and success of the event. Both cash sponsors and regional bike raffle sponsors are needed. Depending on donation level, sponsors may receive radio mentions and include their logo on the T-shirt, posters, rack cards, radio mentions, and the event web site. A free catered lunch is provided to the employer randomly selected among the top five employers with the greatest number of registrants for the event. The employer challenge resumed in 2022, after not taking place in 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID pandemic.

The 2021 U.S. Census American Community Survey indicated that bicyclists represent 0.45 percent of the commuting population of the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metro Area. Bike commute share is 2.12 percent in the District of Columbia, 1.13 percent in Arlington, and 1.05 percent in Alexandria. Bicycling to work is more prevalent in the urban core jurisdictions of the District of Columbia, Arlington County, Alexandria, and inner Montgomery County, and in census tracts adjacent to major bicycle trails. Employers located in bicycle-friendly communities or near major bicycle trails are more likely to succeed in persuading employees to ride to work than employers located in areas where the infrastructure does not support cycling.

Bicycle and Pedestrian data is captured by a regional network of automatic counters located in Arlington County, City of Alexandria, District of Columbia, and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. There are counters at key points, including trails, bike lanes, bridges, and other select locations. In 2022, data was available for 40 counters. Due to technical issues, not all counters were continuously operating 365 days a year. Systemwide, there were 3,771,465 bicycle and 4,393,071 pedestrian trips captured during the year.

The Bike to Work Day Washington Region 2022 Survey indicated that it was the first BTWD event for 18% of participants, 92% of respondents said they were very likely to participate in another BTWD event, and 87% of respondents said they were very likely to recommend BTWD events to others. Six percent of participants started riding to work after their first BTWD event – these were new riders. An additional 14% of participants rode before BTWD but increased how often they rode to work. BTWD participants traveled an average of 8.5 miles one-way to work.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region, adopted in January 2015, identifies the capital improvements, studies, actions, and strategies that the region proposes to carry out by 2040 for major bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The plan is an update to the 2010 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the National Capital Region.

The plan includes 659 bicycle and pedestrian facility improvement projects from across the region, which were identified, submitted and reviewed by agency staffs of TPB member jurisdictions. If every project in the plan were implemented, in 2040 the region will have added 800 miles of bicycle lanes, 800 miles of shared-use paths, hundreds of miles of signed bicycle routes (signage without additional construction), more than 31 pedestrian intersection improvements, and 15 pedestrian/bicycle bridges or tunnels.

A new bicycle and pedestrian crossing over the Potomac would be created, at the American Legion Bridge, and bridges over the Anacostia River would be improved for pedestrians and bicyclists. In addition, 27 major streetscaping projects would improve pedestrian and bicycle access and amenities in Atlantic Boulevard, Michigan Avenue NE, Tysons, downtown Bethesda, and other locations. If it implements the projects in this plan, by 2040 the region will have over 2,300 miles of bike lanes and multi-use paths, more than three times the current total.

Prospects

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and Commuter Connections offer brown bag bicycle commuter presentations at worksites to educate employees and employers of the benefits of bicycle commuting. Bicycling is included as a commuter option in Commuter Connections' employer outreach efforts.

Bike-friendly jurisdictions such as the District of Columbia, Arlington, and Alexandria are experiencing both a real estate and a bicycling boom. Among the 70 largest cities in the US, Washington, DC has the third highest bike commute rate in the country, after Portland and Minneapolis. DC also has the third-fastest growth in bike commuting. As population and employment grow in these jurisdictions, more people will have access to better

bike facilities and services such as bike lanes, protected cycle tracks and Capital Bikeshare.

DC has also seen the emergence of a bicycle culture which promotes on-street riding for transportation, as exemplified by the themed weekly bike rides organized by city bike shops. City-style bicycles, which are intended to be ridden in street or dress clothes, are increasingly popular.

Dockless bikesharing, which was introduced to the District and Silver Spring in 2017 helps provide a solution to first and last mile challenges. As a pilot project, eighty electric-assist bikes were added to the Capital Bikeshare fleet in 2018. The e-bikes are black in color to distinguish them apart from the familiar red bikes.

In 2019, VeoRide was introduced in College Park with a fleet of 150 electric bikes (e-bikes) and 70 standard bikes at 24 different locations on the University of Maryland campus, and around the City of College Park and the Town of University Park. Bikes will be available from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

In 2019, WMATA removed its long-standing policy of not allowing full-sized bikes during peak periods. When boarding Metrorail, bicyclists are required to use the end doors of the railcar. Metro still reserves the right to disallow bicycles during special events or other where crowding is an issue.

Challenges

While progress has been made in all jurisdictions, the lack of infrastructure in the region to support cycling to work appears to be the primary reason preventing adoption of this mode. A Regional Bike plan has been adopted by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) in an effort to address improvement of bikeways and parking throughout the region.

For marketing efforts in bicycling to become more successful, commuters' attitudes must change in regard to the detriments or weaknesses of bicycling (traffic danger, logistics, employer parking, etc.).

Motorists need to be more educated on the responsibilities of 'sharing the road' with bicycles to create a more bicycling-friendly community.

While popular, Capital Bikeshare has inherent limits as a commute mode. Stations at downtown employment centers fill up in the morning, while stations in the surrounding areas are empty. The economics of bike sharing work better when trips are self-balanced, allowing each bicycle to make dozens of trips per day, not just one to work and one back. For many employers, providing secure parking and having employees use their own bicycles is a lower-cost solution. Work sites that have staggered hours, such as hospitals and universities, can make best use of bike share as a commute mode.

Bicyclists need to observe the same rules of the road as motorists, such as coming to complete stops at red lights and stop signs.

Enacted in 2009, a federal tax benefit was made available for bicycle commuters that allowed bike commuters to deduct \$20 per month, pre-tax, from their paychecks to cover bicycling related expenses. This tax benefit was discontinued in 2017.

Demand for bicycles was already high prior to the COVID pandemic, as sales were strong. High demand coupled with a global supply-chain shortage of bicycles, all at a time when the pandemic spiked the popularity of bicycling for both mental and physical well-being, caused a massive shortage of new bicycles and bicycle parts. Supply may not resume completely to pre-pandemic levels until 2023.

The Bike to Work Day 2020 event was cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. The event resumed in 2021, however only about half the pre-pandemic registrants returned. In 2022, registration began to bounce back, reaching about three-fourths of pre-pandemic numbers. In 2023, the Bike to Work Day event increased to 82

percent of pre-pandemic registration numbers.

The pandemic may have caused a loss of some Bike to Work Day participants, who are now working from home and no longer commuting.

BIKE SHARING

Bikesharing is an automated, public bicycle service first introduced by the District in 2008 under the moniker of SmartBikeDC. The success of the SmartBike program led to further demand for more bicycles and stations. In response, the District and Arlington County launched a new bikesharing service in September 2010 called Capital Bikeshare with 1,100 bikes and 114 stations throughout the District and Arlington County.

In 2023, the Capital Bikeshare system had approximately 5,000 bicycles at more than 700 stations in Washington, DC; Montgomery County, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Arlington County, VA; the City of Alexandria, VA; the City of Falls Church, VA and Fairfax County, VA. Capital Bikeshare reached 30 million trips in 2021.

The Capital Bikeshare system is operated by Motivate International, Inc, a subsidiary of Lyft acquired in 2018. Motivate also operates Citi Bike in New York City, Bluebikes in Boston, Bay Wheels in San Francisco, and Divvy Bikes in Chicago.

Capital Bikeshare launched a pilot project in 2018, adding 80 e-bikes to the fleet. The e-bikes, known as Capital Bikeshare Plus, were battery operated pedal-assist bicycles that offered another affordable solution to get around quickly and easily. The e-bikes can be unlocked using the key fob, or from the app. Capital Bikeshare received a small number of reports from riders who experienced stronger than expected braking force on the front wheel. Out of an abundance of caution, the e-bikes were removed from service. In July 2020, a new model of e-bike, developed by Lyft, was added to the Capital Bikeshare fleet. 1,000 of these e-bikes now supplement the classic pedal bikes – with 850 more expected in 2023. Unlike the piloted e-bikes, these e-bikes have integrated cable locks so they may be parked at bike racks instead of docked in stations. A service area for these bikes extends half a mile from every Bikeshare station in the entire network.

Capital Bikeshare provides residents and visitors with convenient, fun, and affordable bicycle rentals for its members. Single trip, 24-hr pass, 3-day pass, and 30-day and annual memberships are available. Members can ride pedal bikes for free for 45 minutes. Otherwise, pedal bikes are \$0.05 per minute of use, and e-bikes are either \$0.10 per minute for members or \$0.15 for non-members. This model is designed to keep the bikes in service so that they are always available for others to use. Helmets are encouraged but not required; Capital Bikeshare sells bargain priced helmets on the website. Bikes are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Severe weather may close the system if conditions are unsafe to resume service. Daily, monthly, and annual memberships can be purchased on the website at www.CapitalBikeshare.com and members are sent a key fob that allows access to all of the bikes throughout the entire system. Daily and 3-day memberships can be purchased at any station kiosk.

The Capital Bikeshare program has become a key transportation option for residents, commuters and visitors to the greater DC area, and further expansion will enable more people to use it. Capital Bikeshare offers a good solution to the last-mile problem for people commuting by transit. Employers can join as Corporate Partners of Capital Bikeshare, subsidizing their employees' memberships through the Capital Bikeshare Corporate Membership or purchasing their own station.

In 2013, for the first time, bike sharing was measured as part of the Commuter Connections State of the Commute survey. The survey indicated that 3 percent of employers offer bike sharing to their employees. Six years later, in the 2022 State of the Commute survey, that figure has tripled to 9 percent – holding steady despite the pandemic's impact on commuting.

The Capital Bikeshare app connects riders to the growing bike system in real time. The app gives casual riders the option to buy passes. It also allows customers who forget their access key, or are still waiting to receive one,

to check for available bikes and unlock one at a docking station using an access code. Bikeshare members can also keep track of their travel statistics and get docking notifications, providing confirmation that the trip is closed.

Other Bikesharing and Dockless Bikes

In 2016, the City of College Park, Maryland announced the introduction of a new bikesharing system, called mBike. The system was operated by Zagster, Inc. and offered 135 bikes at 15 stations across College Park, the University of Maryland campus, and surrounding areas. The Zagster mBike program came to a close in 2019 and was replaced by VeoRide with a fleet of 150 electric bikes (e-bikes) and 70 standard bikes at 24 different locations.

Dockless bikeshare is different from fixed-station systems such as Capital Bikeshare. Users typically find the GPS-equipped vehicles with a smartphone app and use the app to unlock the bike. Text-to-unlock services are offered for those without smartphones. Fees are charged per minute and there is typically a \$1 to start fee. Dockless vehicles allow for short-term point-to-point transportation options that take the rider directly to their destination and the location is not restricted by fixed station locations. Although dockless bikes are owned and managed by private companies, they can be picked up and dropped off in the public right of way. Each jurisdiction regulates and manages their own dockless programs. Currently the District of Columbia, Arlington, Alexandria, and Montgomery County have dockless programs.

Montgomery County debuted a pilot dockless bike program in 2017 and announced expansion in 2019 to a broader portion of the County through Lime. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation offers free Capital Bikeshare annual memberships to county residents or workers who qualify, based on income requirements.

To support the growth of dockless vehicles, DDOT began installation of off-sidewalk parking corrals in 2020, within all eight wards of the District. The parking corrals are available for both private vehicles and shared dockless vehicles. To date there are more than 120 corrals in the District.

In May 2023, Capital Bikeshare had its highest ridership month of all time with more than 428,000 rides, many of those on e-bikes. The previous record of 408,000 rides was set in September 2018.

Challenges

- Dockless vehicles do not respect jurisdictional lines and therefore inter-jurisdictional coordination and cooperation is essential.
- Theft and damage continues to be an issue for operators.
- Dockless vehicles can sometimes be parked incorrectly and can block narrow sidewalks.
- The public is often confused about whom to call when a bicycle is parked improperly even though the contact information is located on the vehicles.
- Dockless vehicles create more demand for micromobility parking, and some of the management and public relations burdens inevitably falls upon the owners of the right of way.

E-SCOOTERS

In 2017, electric or e-scooters seemingly appeared on sidewalks out of nowhere in the District of Columbia. In 2018, the latest app-driven transportation mode also emerged in Arlington County, and the City of Alexandria. E-scooters were rolled out in Montgomery County in 2019. Startup companies such as Bird, Lime, Skip, and Spin entered the market generally at about the same time. Heavyweights in the ridehailing business have joined in on the e-scooter investment gamble, hoping to turn a profit on the emerging trend. Uber introduced “Jump” e-scooters, and Lyft has brought its own e-scooters into the fray.

Users travel on e-scooters while standing and reach speeds of up to 15 mph. Since their introduction however, the District of Columbia and Arlington have mandated speed governors for e-scooters at 10 mph as a measure to improve safety. The battery-powered scooters allow riders to locate and unlock them using an app, as was done in a similar fashion with dockless bikes. With booming usage within the region in 2019 and generating more revenue than dockless pedal bikes, e-scooters have largely replaced dockless bike sharing. The cost of using e-scooters is \$1.00 a trip, plus a fee ranging between \$0.15 to \$0.29 cents per minute and are typically used for distances between .5 to 1.5 miles. Although crashes are a legitimate concern, injuries rates are expected to decline as users become more experienced and as motorists become more familiar with their presence.

To support the growing e-scooter transit option, DDOT began installation of off-sidewalk parking corrals in 2020, within all eight wards of the District. Parking corrals are available for both private vehicles and shared dockless vehicles. Six private companies operate dockless electric scooters within the District: Bird, Lime, Lyft, Razor, Skip, and Spin.

Advantages:

- Affordable.
- Helps the first-mile last-mile gap between fixed transit and final destinations.
- Expands access for low-income users and neighborhoods.
- Sometimes quicker than cars for traveling short distances in areas with a heavy concentration of traffic lights and traffic congestion.
- Fewer carbon emissions compared to fossil fuel driven transportation modes.
- Abundance of private-sector start-up capital investment.
- Privately-owned scooters are also picking up in popularity.
- Brings new jobs into the local community; without docks, workers need to re-charge scooter batteries.
- Unlike pedal bikes or walking, e-scooters allow arrival at work etc. without being drenched in sweat.
- Companies can “geo-fence” scooters by remotely locking the devices within restricted boundaries.
- Abundance of valuable data is collected through the GPS-tracked devices and could be a treasure trove for city planners (who are able to get it from the private companies).

Disadvantages:

- Scooters are susceptible to accidents, including severe bodily injury, even fatalities.
- Dangerous tripping hazard impediment to pedestrians, often left laying down instead of upright.
- Provides mobility challenges on public shared space to those with disabilities, sometimes blocking vital access to ramps.
- Due to over-saturation and safety concerns, some jurisdictions have placed caps on the number of scooters permitted.
- Clutter-blemished landscape.
- Theft and vandalism.

CAR SHARING

Carsharing is a viable alternative to individual car ownership, with positive economic and environmental benefits for communities. Carsharing companies have positioned hundreds of vehicles in neighborhoods of the greater Washington, DC area. With a fully automated online reservation and vehicle locating system, anyone with a membership can reserve and drive any available vehicle. Once reserved by a member, vehicles can be unlocked through a mobile app or a personal access card.

Carsharing can, especially when used in conjunction with public transportation, walking, or bicycling, reduce or eliminate the need for owning a personal vehicle. By reducing car ownership, carsharing reduces the total number of cars parked on the street. This creates less congestion, especially in residential areas, as many neighbors can share a single car rather than each having a car of their own.

Carshare members are less likely to own a personal vehicle and one carsharing vehicle serves between 9 and 15 people. Carshare members are more likely to choose transit than those with a vehicle, and carsharing reduces parking congestion and circling the block to hunt for a free parking space. The average Zipcar member drives 2,500 fewer miles per year, saving 219 gallons of gasoline over that period.

Reserved-space (two-way or traditional) carsharing allows customers to borrow from and return vehicles to the same reserved carsharing space. Currently, Zipcar is available in the District, the City of Alexandria, and Arlington, Fairfax, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties. Thousands of individual Zipcar members, as well as businesses, universities, and government agencies, take advantage of the convenience of carsharing. Zipcars have been available in the Washington, D.C. area since 2001.

Point-to-point (one-way) carsharing allows customers to pick up a vehicle at one location and drop it off at another. Users can end their trip on any legal parking space in the District. Car2Go was a point-to-point carsharing service until they pulled out of the North American market in 2020.

Free2Move Carsharing has operated a point-to-point carsharing service in the District since 2018. They currently have around 600 vehicles available for use. There are a number of peer-to-peer carsharing services in the DC area, like Turo and Getaround. Peer-to-peer carsharing platforms allow individuals to make their privately-owned vehicles available for sharing with other individuals. These services occasionally host small fleets of vehicles. In the District, peer-to-peer carsharing services do not operate with a point-to-point or reserved-space carsharing permit, and their vehicles are subject to the same regulations and enforcement as personal vehicles (users must pay the meter, vehicles not eligible for carsharing vehicle sticker, etc).

Strengths/Advantages

- Maintenance, insurance, fuel and parking costs are generally included in rate.
- Less expensive than car ownership, especially if used occasionally.
- Easy online reservation system quickly allows users to locate and reserve a vehicle in minutes.
- Providing service to areas with transportation needs and connecting users to transit
- Ideal for those who don't own a car or who occasionally need access to a second car.
- Carsharing vehicles can be more fuel efficient than personally owned vehicles.
- Can be less expensive for businesses than maintaining a fleet of vehicles.
- Can assist employers in augmented company-owned vehicle fleets (or help eliminate them altogether).
- Provides increased transparency and employee accountability of vehicle use.
- Can serve as a Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) alternative or augmentation for

some companies.

Prospects

- Carsharing services offer a good opportunity to partner with local jurisdictions to achieve shared transportation, equity, and sustainability goals.

Carsharing vehicles can be strategically placed to prime areas, such as Metro stops.

MANAGED LANES

HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE (HOV)

HIGH OCCUPANCY TOLL (HOT)

EXPRESS LANES

Product Profile

The first High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes in the U.S. opened in 1969 as bus-only lanes along the Shirley Highway (I-395) in Virginia. The barrier-separated lanes were known as the I-95 “Busway”. In December 1973, the Busway was opened to carpools with four or more occupants, becoming the first instance in which buses and carpools officially shared an HOV lane over a considerable distance. The Shirley Highway HOV requirement was lowered to HOV-3 in the 1980’s and extended to Prince William County in 1990’s. HOV Lanes on I-66 inside the Beltway opened in 1982 (HOV-4 then, lowered to HOV-3 and now HOV-2), and in December 2017, I-66 inside the Beltway (Exit 64 to Exit 73) and including the Dulles Connector Road between VA-123 and I-66 was changed from an HOV facility during peak flow and peak direction conditions to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) “Express” lanes (tolled eastbound 5:30 AM to 9:30 AM and westbound 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM) – all vehicles must have an E-ZPass® transponder, and those with an E-ZPass Flex transponder and two or more persons in the vehicle drive toll free. The first HOV lanes in Maryland opened on I-270 in September 1993, with the first segment on the northbound East Spur. The HOV lanes on I-270 were fully completed in December 1996. The U.S. 50 concurrent-flow HOV lanes in Prince George’s County, Maryland opened in 2002 – the only 24/7 HOV in the region.

Today in the Washington area all HOV/Express lanes include carpools, vanpools, buses, and motorcycles. There are six managed facilities that provide free access to high-occupancy vehicles (HOV) on highways functionally classified as freeways. Some of these managed lane facilities are classified as High Occupancy Toll (HOT) “Express” lanes that provide free access to HOV vehicle categories noted above with an E-Zpass Flex transponder. Truck access varies – in some corridors they are prohibited at all times, in other corridors they are open to trucks, but higher tolls are charged.

- I-95/I-395 (Shirley Highway) in the Northern Virginia counties of Prince William, Fairfax, Stafford and Arlington, and the City of Alexandria. The sections in Stafford, Prince William and Fairfax Counties are now the 95 Express Lanes, which function as reversible HOT lanes that HOV-3+ vehicles may use for free with an E-ZPass Flex transponder. The HOT lane concept was extended north along I-395 to the Virginia side of the Potomac River in November 2019 and was styled as the 395 Express Lanes. A project to extend the 95 Express Lanes about 10 miles south of the previous terminus at VA-610 (Garrisonville) to U.S. 17 near Fredericksburg was completed in Fall 2022.
- I-66, also in the Virginia counties of Prince William, Fairfax and Arlington (this HOV system includes a section of the Dulles Connector Road in McLean, connecting to VA-267’s HOV lanes (see below) (as described above, I-66 inside the Beltway and the Dulles Connector Road were converted to a HOT 2+ lane facility in December 2017 on which tolls are assessed on single-occupant vehicles in peak-flow direction in both peak periods). The portion of I-66 between University Boulevard in Gainesville and I-495 (commonly called the “outside the Beltway” part of I-66) is now complete and provides two managed lanes that normally operate 24/7 in both directions.

- I-270 and the I-270 Spur in Montgomery County, Maryland – At this time, HOV-2 lanes operate between the Spurs and I-370 (approximately) in peak-flow direction in both peak periods.
- Virginia Route 267 (Dulles Toll Road), connecting to I-66 via the Dulles Connector (HOV2+ facility in peak-flow direction in both peak periods, where carpools are required to pay tolls).
- U.S. 50 (John Hanson Highway) in Prince George’s County, Maryland (24-hour HOV2+ facility between I-95/I-495 in the west and U.S. 301/MD-3 in the east).
- The I-495 (Capital Beltway) Express Lanes (24-hour HOT lanes) in Fairfax County, which allow HOV-3 vehicles free passage with an E-ZPass Flex transponder. These lanes are being extended north to end at the American Legion Bridge.

In Northern Virginia, there are approximately 84 miles of HOV and HOT lanes, including a 38-mile two-lane reversible HOT lane facility located on Interstate I-95 and I-395 between VA- 610 (Garrisonville) in Stafford County and the Pentagon/Pentagon City area of Arlington County. These lanes are northbound between 11:00 PM and 11:00 AM and southbound between about 12 Noon and 10:00 PM. It is restricted to users of E-ZPass transponders vehicles with 3 or more persons and an E-ZPass Flex transponder may use the lanes at no charge, buses, and taxicabs. Motorcycles may use the 95 Express facility at no charge regardless of occupancy.

Interstate 66 has 11 miles of HOV inside I-495 and 21 miles outside I-495 for a total of over 30 miles. I-66 inside the Beltway is operated as a HOT lane (HOV-3 no charge with E-ZPass Flex Transponder) eastbound in the AM hours and westbound in the PM hours. The managed lanes from I-495 to US-29 at Gainesville are now open to HOV-3 vehicles, buses and motorcycles at no charge with E-ZFlex transponder. Vehicles with less than three persons must use E-ZPass and pay toll.

The lanes are for HOV-2 vehicles and feed into the I-66 facility via the Dulles Connector Road between VA-123 and I-66. The 495 Express Lanes in Fairfax County provide four lanes for vehicles with E-ZPass transponders. Carpools with three passengers and vanpools may use the lanes at no charge if they have an E-ZPass Flex transponder. The HOV-3 exemption is valid at all times that the Express Lanes are open to traffic.

Maryland has 46 miles of HOV lanes. I-270 has one lane devoted to southbound traffic in the AM between 6:00 - 9:00 A.M. and one lane devoted to northbound traffic in the P.M. (3:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.). These lanes opened in the winter of 1996.

The Virginia Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Transportation, is conducting the I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study to add managed lanes along the Capital Beltway from the Springfield Interchange (junction I-95, I-395 and I-495) in Fairfax County and City of Alexandria and across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge to Oxon Hill (junction I-95/I-495 and MD-210). A completed Complete Environmental Assessment is expected to be completed Fall 2023/Winter 2024. These lanes would have a distance of about 11 miles.

The HOV lanes on US 50 are in operation 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Maryland Department of Transportation’s Maryland State Highway Administration conducts an extensive monitoring program and has usage data. The fine for HOV violations in Maryland is \$90.00 and one point against the violator’s license. Drivers of plug-in electric vehicles, titled and registered in Maryland, are allowed to use the HOV lanes in Maryland regardless of the number of passengers, providing they obtain and display an HOV permit on the vehicle. The permit will be valid through September 2022.

Northern Virginia HOV Lane fines: First offense: \$125; second offense: \$250 plus 3 points on your driving record;

third offense: \$500 plus 3 points on your driving record; fourth offense: \$1,000 plus 3 points on your driving record.

E-ZPass customers traveling on the Express Lanes with their transponder set at the HOV ON mode and without three people could face fines of up \$1,000 if stopped by a trooper. E-Z Pass customers are given “First-Time Forgiveness”.

Customers traveling without an E-ZPass will be sent a toll invoice plus administrative fees along with an explanation of the correct way to use the Express Lanes. Failure to pay this invoice may result in escalated administrative fees, civil penalties and referral to debt collection or court; and a hold may be placed on the vehicle owner’s Department of Motor Vehicles account that must be satisfied prior to vehicle re-registration.

HOV/EXPRESS LANES IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA:

LOCATION	TYPE	MILES	USERS	HOURS OF OPERATION	COMMENTS
I-395 Shirley Hwy (395Express lanes)	I-395 Three lanes reversible	8	HOV-3, motorcycles, buses, taxis with 3 + people, emergency vehicles and law enforcement. All vehicles must have an E-ZPass transponder. To use lanes for free, vehicles must have an E-ZPass Flex transponder. Public utility vehicles are permitted to use HOV lanes when responding to emergency calls.	Northbound (NB) weekdays* 11:00 p.m. - 11:00 a.m. Southbound (SB) weekdays 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. * Operating times on weekends and holidays may vary.	
I-95 Shirley Hwy (95Express toll lanes)	I-95 Three lanes reversible (2 lanes south of VA- 294)	31	HOV-3, motorcycles, buses, taxis with 3 + people, emergency vehicles and law enforcement. All vehicles must have an E-ZPass transponder. To use lanes for free, vehicles must have an E-ZPass Flex transponder. Public utility vehicles are permitted to use HOV lanes when responding to emergency calls.	NB weekdays* 11:00 p.m. - 11:00 a.m. SB weekdays 12 Noon - 10:00 p.m. * Operating times on weekends and holidays may vary.	Lanes will be extended by end of Summer 2023 from VA-610 (Exit 143) to their ultimate south terminus near US-17/US-17 Business (Exit 133) in southern Stafford County.

LOCATION	TYPE	MILES	USERS	HOURS OF OPERATION	COMMENTS
			Public utility vehicles are permitted to use HOV lanes when responding to emergency calls.		
Capital Beltway (not including Wilson Bridge) 495Express lanes	Managed Lanes	14 miles (each way) between I-95 and north of VA-267 (Dulles Toll	HOV-3 travels free with E-ZPass Flex, SOV pays a dynamic-rate toll. All vehicles must have an E- ZPass transponder	Normally open 24/7	Project on hold in Maryland. Lanes being extended in Virginia to American Legion Bridge.
I-95/I-495 Capital Beltway at Woodrow Wilson Bridge	Managed Lanes from Springfield Interchange to MD-210 being studied (VDOT lead agency with cooperation from MDOT/SHA and others)	About 11 miles in each direction One lane each way not currently in use.	To be determined by study	To be determined by study	To be determined by study
Route 1	Concurrent-flow curb lane on Route 1 in City of Alexandria		HOV-2, motorcycles and transit buses.	NB 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. SB 4:00 - 6:00 p.m	

I-66 (Outside 495)	Two barrier-separated lanes each way now open between I-495 and US-29 at Gainesville. Free passage for HOV-3 with E-ZPass Flex Transponder	21	HOV-3 with E-ZPass Flex, motorcycles, buses, taxis with 3 or more people.	Eastbound (EB) 24/7 Westbound (WB) 24/7	
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LOCATION	TYPE	MILES	USERS	HOURS OF OPERATION	COMMENTS
VA-267/ Dulles Toll Road	Concurrent flow HOV lane from Virginia Route 28 to main toll plaza. Approx. 15 mile facility includes Dulles Connector Road segment between VA-123 and I-66.	14.8	HOV-2, buses, taxis with 2 or more people, emergency vehicles (fire, ambulance, rescue) and law enforcement vehicles. Public utility vehicles are permitted to use HOV lanes when emergency calls.	EB 6:30 - 9:00 a.m. WB 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opened December 1998
I-66 Express Lanes (inside the Beltway)	Between I-495 and Rt. 29 in Rosslyn.	9	HOV-3, on-duty emergency and law enforcement vehicles. Public utility vehicles responding to emergency calls. HOV-2 Plus is free with E- ZPass Flex. SOV can use by paying dynamic toll rate.	EB weekdays 5:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. WB weekdays 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opened December 2017 Trucks prohibited.

HOV LANES IN MARYLAND:

LOCATION	TYPE	MILES	USERS	HOURS OF OPERATION	COMMENTS
I-270 (includes 2 miles each direction on I-270 Spur)	Concurrent-flow (1 lane)	SB: 11 miles from I-370 to I-495 NB: 20 miles from I-495 to MD 121	HOV-2, motorcycles, buses, and plug-in electric vehicles, titled and registered in Maryland. Electric vehicles must display state-issued sticker on the rear.	SB: 6:00-9:00 a.m. NB: 3:30-6:30 p.m.	
US 50 (John Hanson Highway) (Md. 704 to east of US 301/Md. 3)	Concurrent flow Single lane each way	MD 704 to Anne Arundel County/Prince George's County line; 7.5 miles	HOV 2+, motorcycles, buses, and plug-in electric vehicles, titled and registered in Maryland.	24 hours/day 7 days/week	

FUTURE HOV PLANS:

Visualize 2045's financially constrained element includes High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on the northern portion of I-495 in Virginia. This project includes express toll lanes with toll-free travel for high-occupancy vehicles. Express bus service will also run on the express lanes. The financially constrained element also includes adding dynamically-priced toll lanes along I-495 in Maryland and I-270 (but project is on hold).

Maryland

Maryland plans to add four new express toll lanes to I-270, the Capital Beltway (I-495) across the American Legion Bridge and north of the bridge. The Traffic Relief Plan for these major state highways will reduce congestion for millions of drivers and mark the beginning of a transformative effort to significantly improve traffic conditions of some of Maryland's most traveled roads and highways for years to come. The P3 portion, to add four new lanes on both I-495 (Virginia boundary north of the G.W. Memorial Parkway and I-270 Spur), along I-270 Spur and I-270 will seek private developers to design, build, finance, operate and maintain the new lanes. This project has been placed on hold and could be cancelled entirely.

Virginia

Express lanes opened in December 2017 during rush hours on I-66 Inside the Beltway between Interstate 495 and Route 29 in Rosslyn. Those who drive alone may use the lanes during morning and evening rush hours, by paying a toll. Those traveling with two or more people will continue to ride free with an E-ZPass Flex, switched to the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) mode.

HOV and HOT lanes increase the average number of persons per motor vehicle using a highway over conventional (non HOV) lanes or roadways.

- Preserves the person-moving capacity of a lane or roadway as demands for transportation capacity increase.
- Enhances bus transit operations.
- Supports air quality goals.
- Serves a variety of employment centers in urban and suburban areas.
- Provides more predictable travel times, even during periods of high demand
- No cost to the HOV-3 users in VA.

Prospects

- Construction is slated to begin in 2022 for the I-495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Project (495 NEXT), a 3-mile extension of the 495 Express Lanes, south of Old Dominion Drive to the American Legion Bridge. The project will comprise of two new dynamic lanes in each direction with improved connections for the Dulles Toll Road (Greenway) and George Washington Memorial Parkway. The project is scheduled for completion in 2025.

Deficiencies

- These lanes are, for the most part, single lanes (along I-270, and VA-267). They do not allow for passing.
- Hours of operation are tailored to each corridor; they are not consistent throughout the region.
- Number of passengers required is not consistent for all HOV lanes in the region.
- HOV enforcement is partly dependent on supplemental overtime enforcement grants from state DOTs.
- SOV violations are more prevalent on HOV Lanes that lack barrier separation.
- Perception of enforced HOV rules is lax; penalties may be too low to discourage violators in MD.
- I-270 HOV lanes are “imbalanced” in length – they are much shorter in distance during the A.M. restricted period (from I-370 south at Shady Grove) than in the afternoons, when HOV restrictions apply from I-495 north to MD-121 (Clarksburg).
- In specific corridors where HOV capacity has not been reached, promote time and cost savings that result from use of HOV lanes through targeted direct mail or print ads to residential areas surrounding communities who feed into them.
- Working with traffic reporters from radio and television to advise commuters of the time and cost savings resulting from the use of HOV lanes.
- Coordinate with Maryland and Virginia on joint HOV/Express Lanes marketing campaigns.

Threats

- Crashes/overuse that will reduce time savings.
- A fraction of the general public does not perceive the time savings.
- In some instances, the public perceives that general purpose-lanes are being taken away by dedicating them to HOV.

- Slowdowns and/or traffic congestion can occur due to enforcement of the lanes.
- Performance of concurrent flow HOV lanes on I-270 are impacted by severe congestion in non-HOV lanes.
- Construction of new managed lanes on I-495 between current northern terminus of 495 Express lanes and American Legion Bridge could be disruptive to traffic (at least part of the American Legion Bridge structure must be entirely removed and rebuilt).

PARK & RIDE LOTS

Park and Ride lots support mass transit, carpools, and vanpools. With the exception of Metrorail lots and a few others, the overwhelming majority of commuter parking is free within the Washington metropolitan region. Most rail parking for MARC and VRE in the region is free, while all Metrorail parking lots require paid parking through mandatory SmarTrip® cards (or credit cards at some stations). Metered spaces are also offered at most of the Metrorail parking lots. In Montgomery County, there are discounts for monthly parking in the facilities in Silver Spring and Bethesda for carpools and vanpools. Five person carpools are given greater discounts.

Assets

- Allows for more commuters to use transit
- Safe and convenient
- Used as a meeting point for car and vanpools
- Many offer both local and commuter bus service
- Many provide bike racks and some also offer secured covered bicycle lockers

Deficiencies

- Increases the cost of commuting on Metrorail
- Some lots are at maximum capacity on a daily basis
- WMATA requires a SmarTrip card to exit most Metrorail parking lots

Prospects

- Lots can be cost effectively used as sites for commuter related promotions, i.e. GRH, Flextime Rewards, and other TDM programs and services beneficial to existing alternative mode commuters.
- Can promote carpooling or cycling to lots if advantages are given such as free parking, spaces near entrance and safe lockers
- Communicate type of Park and Ride to commuter i.e., that commuters can park in store parking lots
- As part of VDOT's Transform 66 Outside the Beltway project, new Park and Ride lots were added along the corridor.

Threats

- Will need funding to increase capacity at some stations
- Expansion typically meets with some neighborhood resistance
- Cost to commuters have been increased at some lots
- Not enough lockers for bikes at some stations
- Vandalism
- Limited Parking

PARK & RIDE LOT TABLE (DC & MD) AUGUST 2023

Jurisdiction	# of Lots	# of Parking Spaces	Avg # of Parking Spaces	Free Lots	Paid Lots	Transit	Bike Facilities
DC District of Columbia	6	2,857	476	0	6	6	6
MD Anne Arundel	23	8,888	386	21	2	16	6
MD Baltimore City	13	5,008	385	11	2	12	7
MD Baltimore	27	10,011	371	27	0	17	12
MD Calvert	10	1,182	118	10	0	6	2
MD Carroll	7	445	64	7	0	0	3
MD Cecil	2	146	73	2	0	1	0
MD Charles	10	3,674	367	10	0	9	3
MD Dorchester	1	12	12	1	0	0	0
MD Frederick	15	3,132	209	15	0	8	6
MD Harford	16	1,775	111	16	0	9	4
MD Howard	13	3,308	254	13	0	9	7
MD Kent	1	27	27	1	0	0	0
MD Montgomery	37	20,913	565	27	10	37	13
MD Prince George's	37	36,876	997	19	18	35	18
MD Queen Anne's	6	449	75	6	0	1	1
MD St Mary's	7	1,300	186	7	0	4	2
MD Talbot	1	9	9	1	0	0	0
MD Washington	10	890	89	10	0	1	4

PARK & RIDE LOT TABLE (VA & WV) AUGUST 2023

Jurisdiction	# of Lots	# of Parking Spaces	Avg # of Parking Spaces	Free Lots	Paid Lots	Transit	Bike Facilities
VA Alexandria	2	537	269	1	1	2	1
VA Arlington	4	3,637	909	2	2	4	1
VA Caroline	1	43	43	1	0	0	0
VA Clarke	2	198	99	2	0	0	0
VA Culpeper	3	77	26	3	0	0	0
VA Essex	1	15	15	1	0	0	0
VA Fairfax City	1	35	35	1	0	0	0
VA Fairfax	43	40,705	947	34	9	40	25
VA Fauquier	8	463	58	8	0	1	0
VA Fredericksburg	1	700	700	1	0	1	1
VA King George	1	50	50	1	0	0	0
VA Loudoun	21	8,459	403	19	2	15	14
VA Prince William	27	14,293	529	27	0	27	22
VA Rappahannock	2	30	15	2	0	0	0
VA Spotsylvania	4	3,241	810	4	0	2	2
VA Stafford	9	4,705	523	9	0	5	0
VA Warren	3	478	159	3	0	2	0
VA Westmoreland	2	111	56	2	0	0	0
WV Berkeley	1	81	81	0	1	1	0
WV Jefferson	2	298	149	2	0	2	0

Park & Ride Lots are either owned by states, local jurisdictions, or private entities. Data was gathered from state and local transportation agencies, web sites, and GIS services.

GUARANTEED RIDE HOME

Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) is a free service provided by COG for commuters who vanpool, carpool, bicycle, walk, or take transit to work, a minimum of two days a week. GRH is an “insurance policy” where qualifying commuters are provided up to six free rides home when unexpected personal or family emergencies or unscheduled overtime arise. Commuters must register for GRH and re-register each year to keep their registration information up to date. A “one-time exception” GRH trip is granted to qualifying commuters who have not registered. GRH provides a ride from a commuter’s work location to their home, transit station, or park-and-ride location by taxi, Uber, rental car, bus, train, or a combination of these modes. The trip service itself is free but commuters are responsible for driver gratuities and the following rental car charges where applicable: taxes, fuel, insurance, plus any damages to the vehicle. COG will reimburse commuters for their GRH transit expenses. In the event of an emergency, the commuter can call 800-745 RIDE, and request a ride from the operator from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays.

In FY11, the GRH program was expanded to include the Baltimore Metropolitan region and St. Mary’s County. The total number of FY23 GRH trips provided within the Washington metropolitan region was 581, and the number of FY23 GRH trips in the Baltimore region was 63.

According to the 2022 Guaranteed Ride Home Program Survey for the Washington region, nearly nine in ten (86%) respondents who drove alone pre-GRH and started using alternative modes during-GRH said the emergency ride home service had been important to their decision to make the change. Of respondents who increased alternative mode use, 74 percent said GRH was important to their decision, and 84 percent of respondents who maintained alternative mode use said GRH was important.

Assets

- Low-cost benefit with high perceived value by both employee and employer.
- Assists in overcoming commuter anxiety of being stranded.
- Assured ride allows greater participation in alternative transportation programs.

Deficiencies

- Commuters are allowed to use one GRH trip without registering with Commuter Connections, known as a onetime exception. Some commuters may not register knowing they can receive a first-time exception trip.

Prospects

- GRH offers a unique tool to attract SOVers to try alternative commuting, and a marketing campaign focused on its benefits would greatly enhance the level of interest in alternative commuting by SOVers and attract more current HOVers to register with Commuter Connections. GRH is also an incentive for commuters to continue using alternative commute modes and increase the frequency of using these modes.
- Uber is now being offered as a supplemental ride option where needed.
- In 2022, Commuter Connections increased the number of rides given per year from four to six.

Challenges

- Attempted fraud by commuters, although misuse of the GRH program has been rare. Under such circumstances, commuters are issued a warning, and if necessary, disqualified from the program.
- Telework

COMMUTER BENEFIT PROGRAMS

WMATA, Washington, DC - SmartBenefits Program

Product Profile

In the Washington, D.C. region, nearly 3,000 public and private sector employers provide SmartBenefits® to more than 200,000 employees (reduced numbers due to COVID-19). Employers who participate in the SmartBenefits® program include federal and local government agencies, and a broad spectrum of private sector for-profit and non-profit (association) employers.

SmartBenefits® is a web-based program that enables employers to load commuter benefit value directly into an employee's SmarTrip® card, via the Internet. SmartBenefits® eliminated the need for paper vouchers.

SmartBenefits® is used for employees who use their transit benefit to ride Metrorail, Metrobus, regional bus systems, MetroAccess, registered vanpools, commuter rail and commuter bus. The parking benefit is used to pay parking fees at Metro-operated lots. With the expansion of SmarTrip within the region and as the primary means to pay for parking at Metro facilities, SmartBenefits® has become the all-inclusive transit benefit program in the national capital region. To enroll, employers simply complete an online application at wmata.com under the SmartBenefits® tab and select from a variety of easy payment methods.

The SmartBenefits® Autoload program implemented a new process for employee transit and parking benefits. Metro's system divides commuter benefits into two "purses" on employees' SmarTrip® cards; transit and parking. Funds are parsed out based on an employee's monthly transit and parking allotments. The benefits will be accessed by presenting SmarTrip® card to a target. This process is called SmartBenefits® Autoload. Employees can add to their personal stored value purse at any time. In addition, SmartBenefits® allow employee participants to purchase passes on their SmarTrip® card using SmartBenefits® funds. In scenarios where there are deficient commuter benefit funds at the time of boarding a bus, exiting turnstiles or parking facilities, funds in the stored value purse will be used. Based on employer election, commuter benefit subsidies will be credited back to the employer should an employee not exhaust all of their monthly benefit funds. Employers who provide commuter benefits as a pre-tax option may either receive a credit for employee surplus amounts or simply let the amount rollover onto the employees' SmartBenefits® account.

With the separation of transit and parking benefits on the smart card, the WMATA SmartBenefits® program is IRS compliant. Transit benefits cannot be used to pay for parking and parking benefits cannot be used to pay transit fares.

Assets

- Convenient and flexible benefit with opportunities for tax savings for employers and employees.
- Reduces overall commuting expenses for employees.
- Encourages part-time as well as full-time mass transit use by employees.
- Helps to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution associated with the use of automobiles for commuting.
- Region-wide acceptance of the SmartBenefits® transit benefit by all types of public transportation and qualified vanpool services.
- Exceptionally valuable tool to recruit, retain and motivate employees. SmartBenefits® is a primary component of an employee's fringe benefit package.
- Commits employees to "stay with" transit for their commute, encourages car drivers to switch to transit for commuting.

- SmartBenefits®: Web-based loading of commuter benefit simplifies program administration and distribution of transit, vanpool and parking benefits.
- Combined, there are over 250 Giant Food and other merchant locations in the region that sell and reload SmarTrip® cards.
- Connector stores in Fairfax County, Commuter stores in Arlington County, and TRiPS stores in Montgomery County also sell and reload SmarTrip® cards.
- SmartBenefits can be assigned to Virtual SmarTrip cards: Use your iPhone and Apple Watch via Apple Wallet and Android device using Google Pay to pay for Metrorail and MetroBus rides.
- The SmartBenefits® AnyTime enables employers to assign benefits to an employee after the standard cutoff date so that they won't have to wait until the next enrollment period to receive benefits.

Current Promotional Strategy

Traffic congestion and automobile-generated pollution are ever-increasing problems that plague the greater Baltimore-Washington region. Employers who participate in the Commuter SmartBenefits® program are part of the solution. These employers encourage their employees to use public transportation for their work commute. This helps take cars off the road while providing a less stressful way for employees to arrive at work on time, ready to maximize their potential for productivity. WMATA markets SmartBenefits® via advertising (car cards on bus and rail, rail station posters and dioramas, bus exterior posters, newspapers, radio), seminars, and workshops for employers, the Internet, and outreach events at rail stations, bus stops, and public places throughout the Washington area.

Challenges

- Lack of private-sector employer participation and lack of perceived need to consider transportation programs as part of benefits package.
- Public perception is that they are not part of the problem and therefore, not part of the solution.
- Changes to recent IRS regulations have prompted changes to how employers will be able to distribute SmartBenefits® related to transit and parking benefits.
- SmarTrip® cards MUST be registered to participate in SmartBenefits® Autoload.
- Cost of employer-subsidized benefit for large employers can be high, if provided only as a direct (free) benefit.

In the Baltimore/Washington region, the Maryland Department of Transportation Commuter Choice Maryland commuter benefits program and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's SmartBenefits® program offer employees the ability to ride transit or vanpools to work for less than full fare utilizing tax incentives. And for Maryland employers who contribute to their employees' monthly commuting costs, they have the opportunity to take federal and state tax deductions and a Maryland Commuter Tax Credit when they contribute to the cost of employees' monthly commuting expenses.

For calendar year 2023, the IRS tax-free employee transportation fringe benefit amount for transit, vanpools, and parking was raised to \$300 per month. Federal agencies in the Washington, D.C. National Capital Region can provide employees with the same tax-free transit benefits to cover commuting costs up to the maximum allowed by law. These same federal benefits are also extended beyond the National Capital Region to employees who work for the legislative and judicial branches or for independent agencies.

Employers in Maryland can join the Commuter Choice Maryland commuter benefits program offered by the Maryland Department of Transportation. Employers in the Washington, D.C. area can join the SmartBenefits® program offered by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

As of 2023, employees can receive a Commuter Choice Maryland or SmartBenefits® tax-free transit benefit of up to \$300 monthly either as an employer-subsidy benefit, or via a pretax payroll deduction from an employee's

gross salary, or a combination of the employer subsidy and pre-tax deduction benefit. When employers provide Commuter Choice Maryland or SmartBenefits® to employees, there are opportunities for tax savings for both employers and employees.

In Maryland, the Maryland Commuter Tax Credit makes it possible for Maryland employers that pay for part or all of the eligible monthly commuting expenses of their employees to qualify for a tax credit equal to 50 percent of the cost of those expenses with a cap of \$100 per employee, per month. Eligible expenses include transit passes or vouchers, vanpool expenses, Guaranteed Ride Home program expenses, and “cash in lieu of parking” program expenses. Employers register each year to qualify for the tax credit. The tax credit can be taken against the personal or corporate income tax or the insurance premium tax.

In 2019, the Maryland Transit Administration launched CharmPass. Riders can pay for BaltimoreLink local buses (CityLink, LocalLink, and Express BusLink), Light Rail, Metro Subway, MARC Train, and Commuter Bus services directly from their smartphones, which can be shown to the train conductor or bus driver. Once activated, the secure mobile tickets appear in color, and turn gray once expired. CharmPass works with SmartBenefits and allows employees to bypass the purchase of paper tickets through a third-party service and then wait for them to arrive in the mail. For more information, visit www.mta.maryland.gov/charmpass/smartbenefits.

CLEAN AIR PARTNERS

www.cleanairpartners.net

The 2022 season included 3-day forecasts and real-time data for ozone and particle pollution for the Washington and Baltimore Metro Regions.

Available for both the iPhone and Android systems, Clean Air Partners provides a free air quality app that includes forecast and current air quality information.

Clean Air Partners launched the summer campaign with Air Quality Awareness Week (May 2022) giving a platform to engage the news media, meteorologists, and online audiences with timely air quality messages. Clean Air Partners highlighted the week with a series of social media engagement posts with influencers and on Clean Air Partners owned social media accounts.

Clean Air Partners hosted Ozone Action Month (August 2022) – a month all about the small steps everyone can take to help improve air quality during the hottest time of year when ground-level ozone is greatest. Clean Air Partners pushed eco-driving messages out through pop-up events, Eco-Driving exhibits, social media, media relations, meteorologists, and partner outreach.

As part of the Eco-Driving messaging, Clean Air Partners utilized its Emissions Demonstration exhibit, an eye-catching display that educates the public about ways to reduce vehicle emissions. The backdrop is a large campaign-branded standing wall that displays Clean Air Partners messaging and real tips on how to reduce mobile-source emissions. Alongside the wall is a head-turning visual — a big, black SUV encased in a clear plastic bubble. A large video screen invites participants to engage with the exhibit via a contactless interactive trivia quiz. The exhibit was featured at three locations including Westfield Wheaton Mall, Arundel Mills Malls, and at a Washington Nationals game.

Clean Air Partners supported Car Free Day through a sponsorship from Commuter Connections, educating people about the impact of everyday actions on air quality, with special emphasis around cleaner transportation and Car Free Day. Clean Air Partners leveraged their network of local digital ambassadors to build engagement around Car Free Day and promote the Commuter Connections pledge.

Clean Air Partners continued to cultivate a targeted list of meteorologists to pitch messaging with dedicated outreach via X. In addition to ongoing social content, Clean Air Partners posted a weekend air quality forecast throughout the summer ozone season and disseminated highly visible alerts on Code Orange days

Clean Air Partners pushed out organic content on both Facebook and X throughout the year to keep audiences engaged and up to date on the latest air quality tips and news.

To gain attention of news reporters, the Clean Air Partners team kept a constant pulse on the media landscape and adjusted messaging to be as timely and relevant as possible during the pandemic. Media materials included news releases, fact sheets, and b-roll video footage distributed to 385+ news reporters and media outlets region wide.

Strengths

The Clean Air Partners program appears to be accepted by the business community. Actions requested from employers and employees appear to be having minimal barriers of acceptance, perhaps because the behavior shift is requested for only a specified day, and they perceive their actions will provide a solution.

Additionally, information about air quality is widely available through a variety of platforms so that checking air quality during the summer is akin to checking the weather report. Therefore, air quality forecasts and alerts are a part of the region's meteorological vernacular. Marketing efforts have raised awareness and

positively affected behavior changes on simple easy actions anyone can take to improve the air, such as:

- Combining errands by vehicles
- Refueling the car before dawn or after dusk
- Ridesharing
- Taking transit
- Telecommuting
- Using gas or electric grills instead of charcoal
- Using electrical instead of gas-powered lawn & garden equipment

A variety of materials and programs have been put together by Clean Air Partners in recent years. These include media campaigns and outreach programs. Other activities include social media content, media relations, and distribution of Clean Air Partners materials through events, members, and participants.

- Ozone and Particle Pollution displays are provided on www.cleanairpartners.net in real-time to the media. The displays allow members of the media to monitor the air quality at its current state and report this information instantly to the public.
- Collateral materials, such as social media partner toolkits and print materials, to promote clean air are provided to members and partners and distributed to the public during community events.
- Services provided to participating employers and individuals include daily and real-time health e-mail notifications. Also, members of the media are notified each weekend on the status of the air quality and on all unhealthy air days.
- Daily air quality forecasts, real-time and historical data, EnviroFlash registration, air quality app and current quality information are available on the Clean Air Partners web site. The web site displays the current and next day forecasts, for Metro Baltimore, and Metro Washington.

Weaknesses

- According to the most recent Clean Air Partners survey, people believe the metropolitan Washington-Baltimore region's air quality has gotten worse even though data shows great improvements.
- Most of the population does not understand that problems from air pollution can be contained by their actions. Few have made changes to reduce pollution, with the exception of actions to save money like conserving energy.
- Much of the ozone problem is perceived as weather dependent, and not dependent on behavior.
- Most of the public is more likely to change their activities on Code Orange and Red Days to protect their health not to reduce air pollution.
- With the increased importance of climate change and equity, public messaging and calls-to-action have not kept pace with these emerging priorities.
- There is need to develop partnerships to serve communities disproportionately impacted by air quality as well as develop new partnerships across sectors such as public health and like-minded environmental organizations.

Opportunities

Clean Air Partners should commit to environmental justice to support residents regardless of race, ethnicity, income, or zip code. Board membership could be opened to include representatives from communities that are disproportionately impacted by poor air quality, and outreach could be conducted in these neighborhoods.

With stronger partnerships with groups such as, health and environmental experts, transit providers, like-

minded organizations, and schools, the year-round messaging should continue to be enhanced with a strong level of outreach and community relations.

Clean Air Partners has the opportunity to play a more significant and relevant role in climate issues considering the local and national attention climate change is receiving.

Challenges

Despite improvements in the region's air quality, challenges lie ahead. The metropolitan Washington region does not meet the current federal standard for ground-level ozone, issued in 2015. As a result, Clean Air Partners still faces some challenges in its purpose to encourage employers and individuals to take voluntary actions to improve the air. Climate change continues to be a major focus in the region with many organizations utilizing their resources to develop and implement climate plans and goals. The importance of climate issues has shifted focus away from regional air quality.

There are many organizations doing similar work and competing for the same funding. A lack of employer/private sector funding for Clean Air Partners through sponsorship donations and grants will prohibit Clean Air Partners' growth and the development and launch of new initiatives.

INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Commuter Connections offers a host of programs that provide cash and other incentives to commuters to encourage the formation of carpools and vanpools, the use of public transit, and other forms of more sustainable travel. All programs are free and each have specific rules and restrictions and require setting up a free Commuter Connections account. Maximum calendar year total payout per person is \$600 a year for all programs combined.

'Pool Rewards

Commuter Connections rolled out a carpool incentive demonstration project in October 2009 in the Washington region. The program aimed to encourage solo drivers to try carpooling through financial incentives. Underlying such programs is the belief that solo commuters are more likely to change their driving habits when offered incentives to carpool. The program branded as 'Pool Rewards offers cash to commuters who were previously driving alone to work through one of three specific corridors in the Washington region (later expanded) when they agreed to start or join a new carpool.

The initial corridors selected for trial demonstration project were I-495 from Bethesda to Tyson's Corner; I-495 from MD-295 (Baltimore-Washington Parkway) to I-270; and I-395 from Washington, D.C. to Northern Virginia. In February 2010, the boundaries restrictions were lifted, and the program was opened up to include all roadways within the region.

'Pool Rewards encourages current drive alone commuters to try carpooling and if eligible commuters earned \$2 per day (\$1 each way) for each day they carpool to work over a consecutive 90-day period as assigned by Commuter Connections. The maximum incentive for the 90-day period is \$130 in exchange for going online and logging travel information and for completing surveys about the experience.

Applicants must not have used an alternative commute mode (i.e., carpool, vanpool, transit, bicycle, walk) more than three days in the 30 days prior to applying for 'Pool Rewards. The focus is on commuters therefore students are not eligible. Participants must read all guidelines before being considered for participation.

In FY2011, the demonstration project participants were surveyed, and more than 70 percent of the initial 100-plus participants identified 'Pool Rewards as a valuable motivator to get them out of driving alone and into carpools, to and from work. In October 2010, encouraging results led to the continued use of the incentive project. New participants were also surveyed in FY12, FY13, FY14, FY17, FY20 and FY23.

As of June 2023, 305 commuters had completed the 'Pool Rewards carpool program; 33% (101) participated during the FY 2021 – FY 2023 evaluation period and 67% (204) completed the program prior to July 2020. The 2023 survey, which was administered to both groups, found that 71% of commuters who participated during FY 2021 – FY 2023 were still carpooling and 98% were still using an alternative mode at least one day per week. These results were used to derive the long-term carpool retention placement factors: 98% continued placement and 2% temporary placement for recent participants. Among commuters who participated prior to July 2020, 54% were still using alternative modes, thus, a retained placement rate was 54% for these part participants. When these participation numbers were multiplied by the placement rates (continued, temporary, and retained), the calculation resulted in a total of 211 placements.

The carpool participant survey also was used to estimate the VTR factors and travel distances. That survey estimated a continued carpool VTR factor of 0.64, a temporary VTR factor of 0.62 (with a 50% temporary discount), and a retained VTR factor of 0.56. The one-way travel distance was 22.8 miles for both continued and temporary placements and 24.7 miles for retained placements. Applying the VTR factors and average distances to the numbers of continued, temporary, and retained placements, the calculation estimated a total

of 126 vehicle trips reduced (63 continued, 1 temporary, and 62 retained) and 2,990 VMT reduced (1,459 from combined continued and temporary placements and 1,531 from retained placements) from 'Pool Rewards carpool component.

In 2012 the program was expanded to include vanpools. A new logo was subsequently developed for 'Pool Rewards to include a new tagline and to visually encompass both carpools and vanpools. The tagline selected to accompany the logo was "It pays to Rideshare."

The 2023 TDM analysis calculated an impact for 13 vans, with 76 total passengers who participated in the program between FY 2021 and FY 2023. Seven of the vanpools started operating in either FY 2021 or FY 2022 but all were still operating in FY 2023. Thus, all the vanpools were defined as continued vanpools in the analysis.

The continued vanpool VTR factor was derived using the average number of riders in continued vanpools (5.9 riders) and assuming vanpool riders rode in the van all their work days and primarily drove to work prior to joining the vanpool. These calculations resulted in a VTR factor of 1.56 daily vehicle trips reduced for continued placements. The revenue miles data per vanpool were used to derive one-way travel distance of 35.0 miles for continued placements. When these factors were applied to the 76 total vanpool riders, the calculation resulted in 76 continued vanpool placements. Applying the VTR factors and one-way travel distance resulted in 119 daily vehicle trips reduced and 4,165 daily VMT reduced from 'Pool Rewards vanpool component.

'Pool Rewards vehicle magnets were also developed and sent to each new vanpool's coordinator along with a welcome letter.

Newly formed vanpools with seven to 15 passengers can qualify for up to \$200 per month. The funds will be used to offset monthly lease costs charged by the vanpool companies participating under contract with COG for this special program. The expanded 'Pool Rewards program offers incentives to vanpools originating from D.C., Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, or New Jersey, with a destination anywhere in the Washington metropolitan region. Enterprise Rideshare works with Commuter Connections to offer monthly van leases to vanpool groups of 7, 11, and 15 passengers. 'Pool Rewards placed its first vanpool on the road, June 2012.

The I-495 NEXT express lanes project in Northern Virginia will cause significant disruptions to the northern portion of the beltway in 2023 and in the years to come. VDOT has elected to provide a \$100 bonus to new carpools that travel along the I-495 NEXT corridor as a congestion management solution through their TMP. A carpool may earn a total of \$230 if they travel along the I-495 NEXT corridor over the 90-day enrollment period.

CarpoolNow

In 2016, Commuter Connections launched CarpoolNow, a rideshare app that gives commuters in the metropolitan Washington region the ability to carpool on-demand and in real-time, immediately connecting users who are offering a ride with those seeking a ride. It also displays routes, estimates pickup times, and confirms pick-up and drop-off locations. Unlike apps such as Uber and Lyft, Commuter Connections' CarpoolNow is free to use at no cost to the driver or passenger. In fact, drivers picking up commuters for their carpool receive a \$10 cash payment per trip. The CarpoolNow app uses real-time location data to suggest popular carpool pickup points throughout the region, via map display.

Flextime Rewards

Commuter Connections developed Flextime Rewards in conjunction with the University of Maryland and launched a pilot program in December of 2017. The Flextime Rewards system sends notifications to commuters when heavier than normal traffic congestion is detected along their route, during peak travel periods. Employers who already offer some form of work schedule alternatives are ideal to help promote Flextime Rewards.

Eligible commuters who register for the Flextime Rewards program will receive notification on days when higher-than-average traffic congestion occurs along the corridor they travel for work. In 2019, a new geolocation service on the Commuter Connections mobile app allowed for the detection of real time flexing of hours by participants. The program was subsequently migrated into the incenTrip (CommuterCash) mobile app in late 2022 as part of the ATCMTYD project. Requirements include signing up for Flextime Rewards and based on received notifications, delaying work departure time to avoid significant traffic congestion and logging their trip. Commuters who delay departure using Flextime Rewards receive CommuterCash points amounting to around an \$8 incentive per trip when their commute takes them through the five designated bottleneck corridors below:

- I-95 North and South at VA-123/Exit 160
- BW Parkway North at Powder Mill Road
- US-301 South at McKendree Road/Cedarville Road
- I-495 Inner Loop at the I-270 spur
- DC-295 heading southbound at East Capitol Street

CommuterCash (formerly incenTrip)

In 2019, Commuter Connections and the Maryland Transportation Institute at the University of Maryland launched CommuterCash, a new mobile app that allows commuters in the Washington D.C. region to save time, money, and fuel, while earning rewards for planning trips. The app recommends the best travel mode, departure time, and route based on real-time traffic prediction data and user personal preferences to help commuters avoid both day-to-day congestion and traffic jams caused by accidents, work zones, special events, and adverse weather conditions.

With the app, commuters can earn rewards points every time they plan trips to and from work, avoid traffic, or use alternatives to drive-alone commuting. Commuters who use the app during rush hours (weekdays between 6:30 and 9:30 am and between 4:00 and 7:00 pm) can redeem rewards points for cash payments of \$10 to \$50 from Commuter Connections.

Commuter Connections was awarded a grant from the Federal Highway Administration totaling \$5.95 million for the Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment program (ATCMTD) in June 2020. The ATCMTD project vision is to leverage the best available technology to integrate and expand existing TDM programs with a shared platform among all public and private-sector partners; provide personalized, timely, and accurate travel information to residents and visitors; and enhance multimodal transportation access and system performance for all user groups with rewards and gamification.

The FY2022 Commuter Connections Work Program was amended for the incenTrip mobile app for commuters traveling to worksites in Maryland outside of the Washington, DC non-attainment region as part of the expanded Mega-Region project. CommuterCash also expanded payment options by adding the following rewards: gift cards, Nift Gift, SmarTrip, and Virginia E-ZPass. In FY2023, the incenTrip application was expanded to include the Flextime Rewards Program, Corridor Challenges, and the Employer Rewards Program.

MARKETING STRATEGIES AND BUDGETS FOR REGIONAL PARTNERS

GO ALEX – CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

www.alexandriava.gov/GOAlex

Marketing Budget: \$166,000

GO Alex is the City of Alexandria's transportation program for promoting and encouraging time and money saving alternatives to travelling by Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV), with the goals of reducing traffic congestion, facilitating mobility, and improving air quality. GO Alex promotes, plans and supports mobility options to benefit quality of life, economic development and the experience of people traveling in Alexandria.

Ongoing employer outreach marketing and promotional activities include:

- **Employer Services:** Interacting with Alexandria employers and workers to discuss transportation and telework options for employees. GO Alex offers a variety of products to assist, including trip planning, transit incentives (such as Plus50) and information about City events and travel disruptions.
- **Transportation Alternatives:** GO Alex helps with many transportation alternatives, including bicycle and dockless events and education, water transportation, and others.
- **Go Alex Web site:** www.alexandriava.gov/GOAlex is the program website that offers news and tools for traveling to, from, and through the City. The site is promoted to residents, businesses, and visitors via brochures, displays, newsletters, partner websites. The site provides information about public transportation, ridesharing, walking/bicycling, telework, Guaranteed Ride Home, upcoming meetings and events, Capital Bikeshare, The Mobile Transit Store, and other information.
- **Promotional Events:** Conduct outreach at worksites and residential communities. GO Alex also participates in health and benefits fairs, and events coordinated by TMP representatives, and regional partners GO Alex organizes the Alexandria Bike to Work Day pit stop, Try Transit Week promotions and other events as needed.

Alexandria Mobile Transit Store: The City's Mobile Transit Store provides one-stop shopping for Metro, VRE, MARC, and EZ Pass Flex with the convenience of flexible but consistent locations and times all around the entire City. You can also purchase and load funds onto the standard SmarTrip cards in addition to the popular Senior SmarTrip. The Store's calendar can be found at www.alexandriava.gov/TransitStore.

ARLINGTON COUNTY

www.arlingtonva.us

Marketing Budget \$800,000 for Commuter Services broken down as follows:

Arlington Transportation Partners - \$50,000.00

Umbrella campaign - \$540,000.00

Commuter Stores, CommuterPage.com and CommuterDirect.com - \$100,000.00

Arlington Transit - \$110,000

Arlington County Commuter Services will do the following:

- Direct Mail Program to Arlington households
- Arlington cable TV (ATV) programs
- On–Board bus interiors
- Subway tunnel 2-sheets advertising
- Google AdWords, Facebook, and Instagram advertising
- Sponsorships of local community events
- Retail kiosks and point-of-purchase displays
- Transit information displays
- Street team outreach at events
- Packages for top 400 employers
- E-mail alerts and e-newsletters
- Websites, mobile tools, and apps
- Social marketing such as Facebook, X, and Instagram
- Blogs
- Videos for YouTube, ATV, and websites
- Brochures, flyers, and posters
- Spanish language brochures and websites
- Transit screens

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS

www.commuterconnections.org

The overall media budget from the Commuter Connections FY24 Work Program is \$1,574,801.00.

<u>Campaign</u>	<u>Media Buy</u>
Bike to Work Day	\$65,000
Car Free Day	\$45,000
CarpoolNow	\$15,000
Employer Recognition Awards	\$7,500
Flextime Rewards	\$15,000
GRH Baltimore	\$50,000
GRH	\$502,920
CommuterCash	\$50,000
CommuterCash (MDOT)	\$50,000
'Pool Rewards regional	\$20,000
Rideshare	<u>\$754,381</u>
Total	\$1,574,801

Below are objectives, targets, and tactics for the various marketing components for FY24:

Guaranteed Ride Home Washington, DC Region

Objective: Increase the number of applicants in the GRH database by promoting GRH as a trusted and reliable transportation rideshare benefit, eliminating a barrier to using transit, carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, and walking to work.

Target market (indicated from 2022 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Washington, DC Region):

- Ages 25-34 (4%), 35-44 (19%), 45-54 (31%), 55-64 (39%)
- Non-Hispanic White (62%), Non-Hispanic Black (20%), Asian (9%), Hispanic (6%)
- Male (54%) and Female (46%)
- Annual Household Income \$60,000+ (96%), \$100,000+ (80%), \$120,000+ (66%), \$160,000+ (42%)
- One-way commute more than 30 miles (63%)/more than 45 minutes (72%)
- Lives in Virginia (57%) or Maryland (38%) or DC (2%), another state (3%) with emphasis on Prince William (15%) and Fairfax counties (11%)
- Works in DC (59%), Virginia (22%) and Maryland (19%).

Tactics:

- Target commuters in the Washington, DC metropolitan statistical area and its exurbs, encouraging them to register.
- Incorporate new and existing digital media – Google, Facebook, social media, streaming TV, influencers, and YouTube pre-roll–into the media mix, both paid media and value add.
- Use district radio stations serving the inner core. A tag will be added to the radio ad reminding people to call or visit the website to re-register annually. Radio may also be used to reach the region's Hispanic and African American commuters.
- Use TV to visually present the message that's conveyed in radio spots.
- Evaluate digital banner ads and interactive ads geared directly toward generating registrations.

- Incorporate web with print media through interactive media to increase web traffic and reach a younger demographic.
- Evaluate print and/or transit signage to increase awareness of the GRH program.
- Leverage human interest stories on social media, e.g., a brief video to be used on the Commuter Connections website.
- Update website images to integrate with the campaign.
- Use direct mail (allocation equals 5% of Work Program budget); explore new ideas for direct mail pieces.

GRH Washington, DC Region Media Allocation: Approximately 32% of media budget.

Guaranteed Ride Home Baltimore Region

Target market for Baltimore Metropolitan region (from 2022 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Baltimore Region):

- Ages 25-34 (9%), 35-44 (20%), 45-54 (25%), 55-64 (39%)
- Non-Hispanic White (52%), Non-Hispanic Black (38%), Asian (6%) and Hispanic (4%).
- Female (62%), Male (38%)
- Annual household income \$80,000+ (73%), \$120,000+ (48%), \$160,000+ (22%)
- One-way commute 30+ miles (58%)/more than 45 minutes (52%)
- Lives in Maryland (87%), Virginia (6%), or Pennsylvania (1%), New Jersey (0%), DC (1%), Delaware (2%)
- Top home jurisdictions are Harford (21%), Baltimore City (19%), Baltimore County (18%)
- Works in Maryland (91%), DC (8%), Virginia (1%)

Tactics:

- Target commuters in the Baltimore metropolitan statistical area and St. Mary's County in Southern Maryland and exurbs, encouraging them to register for GRH.
- Use new and existing digital media – Google, social media, YouTube pre-roll –as part of the media mix and as value add.
- Focus radio advertising on stations serving the Baltimore market. A tag will be added to the radio ad reminding people to call or visit the website to re-register annually. Radio may also be used to reach the region's Hispanic and African American commuters.
- Evaluate digital banner ads and interactive ads geared directly towards generating registrations.
- Incorporate web with print media through interactive media to increase web traffic and reach a younger demographic.
- Evaluate print and/ or transit signage to increase awareness of the GRH program.
- Leverage human interest stories on social media, e.g., short video shown on website.
- Update website images to integrate with campaign.

GRH Baltimore Media Allocation: Approximately 3% of media budget.

Ridematching

Objectives: Maintain and increase awareness of shared ride modes, retain current ridership on these modes, gain new riders, and gain new applicants to the regional database.

Target market (from FY2021 Commuter Connections Applicant Database Annual Placement Survey Report):

- 35-64 years old (80%): <35 (12%), 35-44 (26%), 45-54 (25%), 55-64 (29%),
- Female (49%) and Male (51%)
- Non-Hispanic White (67%), Non-Hispanic Black (19%), Asian/Pacific Islander (9%), Hispanic (4%)
- \$100,000+ annual household income (79%)
- One-way commute of more than 30+ miles (67%)/more than 45 minutes (55%)
- Lives in Virginia (62%) or Maryland (29%); work in DC (47%), Virginia (25%), Maryland (18%)
- Works for employers with more than 100 employees (86%), works for employers with 1,000 or more employees (61%)
- Works for federal agencies (69%), private sector (20%)

Tactics:

- Increase awareness of benefits and ease of ridesharing through radio advertising.
- Consider using a Spanish-speaking radio station to reach out to the region's Hispanic population.
- Consider TV as an opportunity to visually present the message that's conveyed in radio spots.
- Use social media and influencers for real-time engagement with commuters.
- Use optimized digital banner ads on select websites to drive users to the Commuter Connections website and/or mobile Ridematching service for registration.
- Consider out-of-home components that make a direct connection between commuting options and saving money.
- Provide testimonials of ridesharing success stories and broaden awareness and registrations through public relations/media communications.
- Update website images to integrate with the campaign.
- Use direct mail (allocation equals 5% of Work Program budget); explore new ideas for direct mail pieces.

Rideshare Media Allocation: Approximately 48% of media budget.

CarpoolNow Mobile App

Objectives: Increase knowledge and activity of app use, in turn easing consumer access to ridesharing.

Target Market

- Rideshare demographics.
- Target audience will skew slightly younger than our transit average as younger individuals use mobile apps to a greater extent.

Tactics:

- Use media and public outreach to build awareness of mobile app.
- Reach commuters at carpool pick-up points with public outreach at park-and-rides.
- Focus messaging on promoting driving and the driver incentive.
- Leverage Commuter Connections brand equity in the Washington, DC Region.
- Promote awareness with influencers and a heavy digital presence to reach potential commuters.
- Evaluate radio for use as a secondary media.
- Tie CarpoolNow App to Rideshare messages to Car Free Day. For example, “...interested in Ridesharing? Check out the CarpoolNow App....”
- Investigate TV and live radio reads to generate additional interest in the program and drive people to the website for more information.
- Explore a video tutorial and optimize the features of the app such as the driver’s incentive. Value add from the mass marketing campaign may be used to expand the reach of the CarpoolNow Mobile App.
- Promote free passenger trips.

CarpoolNow Mobile App Media Allocation: Approximately 1% of media budget.

'Pool Rewards

Objectives: Recruit and retain commuters in carpools and vanpools through monetary incentives.

Target Market

- Rideshare demographics.
- Target audience will skew slightly younger than our transit average as younger individuals use mobile apps to a greater extent.

Tactics:

- Use media and public outreach to build awareness of the program and incentives.
- Use the cash incentive as the primary message. Additional messaging will promote environmental/health benefits of ridesharing, such as tons of CO₂ emissions reduced, gallons of gas saved, miles of commutes logged, vehicle trips saved, social responsibility of reducing traffic congestion, and improving quality of life through better health.
- Focus on Facebook and Instagram ads that promote awareness. Optimized digital banner ads may also be used.
- Evaluate radio as a secondary media.
- Tie 'Pool Rewards eligibility to Rideshare messages. For example, "...interested in Ridesharing? You may be eligible for 'Pool Rewards..."
- Investigate TV and live radio reads to generate additional interest in the program and drive people to the website for more information.
- Use value add from the mass marketing campaign to expand the reach of 'Pool Rewards.
- Consider opportunities to expand into Spanish radio.
- Promote the 'Pool Rewards program during the I-495 Northern Extension (495 NEXT) project for new Express Lanes which are under construction and will open in 2026. The 'Pool Rewards program will allow for \$100 in 'Pool Rewards incentives above the standard \$130 for each carpool participant, for a total of \$230.

'Pool Rewards Media Allocation: Approximately 1.5% of media budget.

Flextime Rewards

Objectives: Increase knowledge and participation in the program; help reduce peak traffic congestion by alerting commuters of flextime options.

Target Market

- Workers with Flextime and Telework availability.
- Younger demographics, 35 years old and younger.

Tactics:

- Use media and public outreach to build awareness of the program.
- Promote awareness by leveraging social media.
- Evaluate radio for use as a secondary media with a focus on radio talent to help personalize the promotions.
- Include Flextime Rewards messaging in existing campaigns with a call to action to download and participate in Flextime Rewards.
- Produce a YouTube tutorial exploring the benefits of the program as well as a tutorial of the program.
- Create a sell sheet to give to employers and hand out at events.
- Integrate Flextime marketing into the Commuter Connections website.
- Promote Flextime Rewards as part of CommuterCash.

Flextime Rewards Media Allocation: Approximately 1% of media budget.

CommuterCash Mobile App – Commuter Connections Program

Objectives: CommuterCash will address congestion, reduce energy use, and reduce emissions while improving multimodal transportation system performance along congested corridors. A key benefit of CommuterCash is the development of personalized and dynamic incentives that vary based on individual preferences and real-time traffic conditions, which significantly improve the cost-effectiveness of traveler incentives.

Target Market

- Commuters working in the Washington, DC metropolitan region, including those from the Richmond region who commute one-way an average of 17.1 miles and an average of 43 minutes.
- General public, employers, and media.

Tactics:

- Implement a marketing initiative for the launch that will ask commuters to download and use the CommuterCash app.
- The marketing initiative will include, but not be limited to radio, internet, newsprint, educational video, SEO blog posts, venue, mobile, social media and text ads.
- Update the website and social media pages to feature promotional activities and point-based incentive. Use media placements, including value-added placements, to reach the target markets.
- Design and coordinate the marketing effort with the input of COG/TPB staff, and the Commuter Connections Subcommittee.
- Promote earning points for cash, gift cards, Nift, SmartBenefits, and E-ZPass incentives to travelers who use CommuterCash.
- Promote CommuterCash for Employers that allows an employer to set up a companywide employee challenge through a customized dashboard.

CommuterCash (Commuter Connections) Media Allocation: Approximately 3% of media budget.

CommuterCash Mobile App – MDOT Program

Objectives: CommuterCash will address congestion, reduce energy use, and reduce emissions while improving multimodal transportation system performance along congested corridors. A key benefit of CommuterCash is the development of personalized and dynamic incentives that vary based on individual preferences and real-time traffic conditions, which significantly improve the cost-effectiveness of traveler incentives.

Target Market

- Commuters working in Maryland outside of the Washington, DC metropolitan region (i.e., all counties/cities in Maryland except for Prince George's, Montgomery, Charles, and Calvert counties).
- Smaller-urban areas throughout the state such as Cumberland, Hagerstown, Salisbury, and the outskirts of Wilmington.
- General public, employers, and media.

Tactics:

- Implement a marketing initiative for the launch that will ask commuters to download and use the CommuterCash app.
- The marketing initiative will include, but not be limited to, radio, internet, newsprint, educational video, SEO blog posts, mobile, social media, and text ads.
- Update the website and social media pages to feature promotional activities and point-based incentives. Use media placements, including value-added placements, to reach the target markets.
- Design and coordinate the marketing effort with the input of COG/TPB staff and MDOT staff.
- Promote earning points for cash, gift cards, Nift, SmartBenefits, and E-ZPass incentives to travelers who use CommuterCash.

CommuterCash (MDOT) Media Allocation: Approximately 3% of media budget.

Special Events

Objectives: Use Bike to Work Day, Car Free Day, and the Employer Recognition Awards events to highlight existing programs and encourage other employers and commuters to become involved, increase their ridership, or enhance their on-site programs. Increase participation in Bike to Work Day and Car Free Day, and also in employer nominations for the awards program.

Target Markets:

- Car Free Day 2023:
 - SOV drivers; car-heavy families and individuals; students
 - Ages 16-65
 - Lives/works in the Washington, DC metropolitan area
- Bike to Work Day 2024 (from 2022 Bike To Work Survey Analysis Report): Ages 25-55 (61%), 25-34 (14%), 35-44 (25%), 45-54 (22%), 55-64 (26%)
 - Male 65% and Female 35%.
 - Caucasian 82%, Hispanic (6%), Asian (5%), African American (4%)
 - Annual household income \$80,000+ (86%), \$100,000+ (79%), \$120,000+ (69%), \$160,000+ (51%)
 - Works for federal agency (36%), private sector (35%), nonprofit (18%)
 - Lives in VA (45%), DC (27%), and MD (28%)
 - Lives in Montgomery (20%), Fairfax (18%), Arlington (13%)
 - Works in DC (48%), VA (32%), and MD (20%)
 - Works for employer size of more than 100 employees (62%), 1,000+ (31%)
- Employer Recognition Awards 2023:
 - Level 3 & 4 employers in Commuter Connections Network area.

Tactics:

Car Free Day (CFD) September 22, 2023:

- Secure corporate, retailers, and other sponsorships for CFD, with a focus on consumer retailers.
- Tie-in the CommuterCash mobile app and promote the bonus points that can be realized if using the app to go car free or car-lite on CFD.
- Promote CarpoolNow mobile app
- Focus on teleworking and vanpool in addition to family-friendly messaging.
- Explore teaming with media channels to promote and cover local events.
- Expand digital and social media, explore video ads, digital radio, digital video and YouTube as primary media.
- Evaluate using radio personalities and key influencers through on-air and online/social media communications to increase awareness of CFD and drive listeners to carfreemetrodc.org to take the free pledge.
- Provide marketing collateral such as flyers.
- Use transit/outdoor signage (bus exterior and bus shelter ads).
- Use text messaging to opt-in participants.
- Send mailing to employers.
- Send email blasts to past participants, opt-in customer database, employers and Committee Members.
- Engage Transportation Planning Board members through regional Proclamation and encourage jurisdictional partners to do the same.
- Increase University Challenge participation through campus commuter programs, green groups, clubs, media, and RA Directors. Create challenges between universities and workplaces for most pledges.

- Compliment paid digital and social media with a strong earned media plan as well as outreach to employers, schools, and key influencers like bloggers and podcasters.
- Send an email after the event to all of those who took the pledge, offering congratulations, appreciation, and a list of the benefits of going Car Free or Car Lite, along with a link to the Commuter Connections website for more information on programs to sustain a car free lifestyle.
- Produce newsletter articles.
- Reach 5,000 pledges.
- Include a daily pledge leaderboard by mode on the website.

Bike to Work Day (BTWD) May 2024:

- Secure corporate and other sponsorships.
- Use an integrated mix of radio, social media, and display ad advertising to boost registration.
- Provide additional marketing collateral and advertising including t-shirts, flyers, posters, and rack cards.
- Should additional sponsor dollars become available, provide additional marketing such as pit stop banners.
- Send mailing to employers.
- Send email blasts to past participants, opt-in customer database, employers and Committee Members.
- Use earned media to reach minorities and women.
- Engage Transportation Planning Board members through regional Proclamation and encourage jurisdictional partners to do the same.
- Meet goal set by Committee (approximately 5% above previous year's number).

Employer Recognition Awards

- Coordinate the Employer Recognition Awards ceremony, June 2024.
- Provide brochure/online nomination form in support of the nomination process
- Send email blast to potential nominees.
- Include marketing collateral for the event such as invitations, program brochure, podium sign, and promotional giveaways.
- Place a print advertisement in a major business publication(s) highlighting winning employers.
- Secure earned media for the event and winners.

Special Events Media Allocation: Approximately 7.5% of media budget: 4% for BTWD, 3% for CFD, and .5% for the Employer Recognition Awards event.

Employer Outreach

Objectives: Add new employer clients, expand participation and offerings in existing employer programs, recognize existing employers who have implemented successful commuter benefits programs, increase the number of employers offering the tax-free commute benefits, increase use of SmarTrip® offered through employer programs as well as other TDM strategies such as telework, flextime, and Ridematching.

Target Market (from FY 2021 Commuter Connections Applicant Database Annual Placement Survey Report):

- Employers with more than 250 employees (75%).
- Private sector employers (20%).

Tactics:

- Update web content as required.
- Update social media applications (e.g., Facebook) for telework.
- Produce quarterly employer newsletter.
- Produce a quarterly Federal Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) newsletter insert.
- Provide images and logos to support Commuter Connections programs for use in Network Member newsletters and correspondence.
- Send email marketing and mailings.
- Continuously update Federal ETC website information.
- Develop Employer Case Studies.

Employer Outreach Media Allocation: 0% of media budget.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

www.ddot.dc.gov

www.goDCgo.com

The District's transportation demand management (TDM) program is designed to help achieve the mode share goal set forth in moveDC by implementing strategies and transportation amenities to shift travel demand and change traveler behavior. The TDM program is organized around a three-pronged approach to reduce single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel and encourage the use of public transit, biking, walking, teleworking, and ridesharing:

1. Promoting sustainable transportation options and amenities through DDOT's outreach and marketing brand called goDCgo;
2. Reducing impact on the transportation network from new development projects by helping developers right-size their TDM plans to mitigate additional vehicle trips; and
3. Advocating for and implementing smart policies and laws.

goDCgo

goDCgo became a full service TDM program in March 2010 and encourages the use of sustainable transportation including walking, biking, and taking public transit. As the leading resource for transportation information, goDCgo provides commuters, residents, and visitors with the education and assistance they need to make more informed choices about their daily travel. The program reduces single-occupancy vehicle travel, decreases traffic congestion, and improves air quality to create a better quality of life in the District.

goDCgo works with employers, schools, and multi-family buildings in the District to promote sustainable transportation by providing assistance with the development and implementation of commuter benefits programs and transportation amenities. These programs are strategically designed to mutually benefit the organization and its employees or residents. goDCgo's trained outreach specialists work one-on-one with clients to evaluate transportation challenges and identify solutions to decrease the drive-alone rate, help the organization reduce their carbon footprint, and create a commuter-friendly environment.

Complimentary client services include:

- Employee commute surveys
- Customized marketing materials
- Step-by-step guidance with implementing the DC Commuter Benefits Law
- Step-by-step guidance with complying with DC's Parking Cashout Law
- Seminars, workshops, and webinars
- Discounted Capital Bikeshare Corporate memberships
- Assistance with office relocation
- On-site tabling for transportation or health and wellness fairs

Development Review

As the District grows and attracts new developments, DDOT has implemented a plan to minimize site-generated vehicle trips. The DDOT Comprehensive Transportation Review Guidelines provide standardized TDM plans by land use, user type, and project impact for development that work in tandem with reduced parking, priced parking, and nearby transit. There are three tiers of plans, each tied to the amount of on-site parking and identified traffic impacts.

Commuter Benefits Laws

As part of the Sustainable DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2014, the Council of the District of Columbia passed a Commuter Benefits Law that requires businesses with 20 or more employees in Washington, DC to offer commuter transit benefits.

DC employers with 20 or more employees (including non-profits) are required to provide at least one of the following commuter benefit options:

1. Employee-Paid, Pre-Tax Benefit; allow employees to set aside income on a pre-tax basis to cover the cost of commuting by mass transit or vanpools, up to \$300 per month.
2. Employer-Paid, Direct Benefit; offer a tax-free subsidy for transit or vanpools, up to \$300 per month.
3. Employer-Provided Transportation; Provide shuttle or vanpool service at no cost to employees.

The DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2014 was amended to include the Transportation Benefits Equity Amendment Act of 2020. The new law requires employers with 20 or more employees who offer free or subsidized parking benefits to employees to implement one of three compliance options that encourage commuting using sustainable transportation options instead of driving to work.

Covered employers must implement one of the following compliance options:

1. Offer a Clean Air Transportation Fringe Benefit: offer the equivalent value in benefits to covered employees who do not drive to work in the form of a transit subsidy, increased compensation, and/or a healthcare contribution;
2. Implement a transportation demand management plan: create a DDOT-approved TDM plan and reduce employees' commuter trips made by car by at least 10% year over year until 25% or less of employees' commuter trips are made by car; or
3. Pay a Clean Air Compliance fee to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT): pay \$100 per employee per month who is offered a parking benefit.

DULLES AREA TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (DATA)

www.datatrans.org

Marketing/Publication Budget - approximately \$20,000

The Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA) is a transportation management association (TMA) that serves a 335-square mile area surrounding Dulles Airport. DATA works under contract, through grants and with membership investment to complement transportation demand management (TDM) efforts in eastern Loudoun County, western Fairfax County, and northern Prince William County. As a public-private partnership, DATA is able to undertake innovative approaches to congestion mitigation impractical for agencies dependent only on public funding. DATA's business connection sets this TMA apart from other like-minded, mostly government-based operations.

DATA's paid members combine with over 40 advisory members, including employers, local governments, public officials, property owners, and honorary members from government entities interested in transportation mobility in the Greater Dulles Area. The staff includes four full-time and two part-time staff members.

DATA aggressively employs social media to encourage commuters to adopt alternative modes and to promote its programs to employers and employees alike. Corollary applications include an X account and Facebook page as well community events to engage commuters in seeking information on commuting options.

DATA publishes a quarterly DATA Details, which is electronically distributed to over 1500 employers and elected officials, providing comprehensive information on DATA activities as well as general developments in the transportation field. On a more regular basis, DATA issues DATAAlerts that highlight issues, topics and subjects of immediate attention. In 2022, DATA developed a monthly publication that informs recipients of important topics that have occurred in the previous three/four weeks.

DATA continues to maintain an active seminar schedule in cooperation with peer organizations and major employers. Topics range from commuter benefits to the continuing monitoring of the opening of the Silver Line, Phase II. Partner organizations include WMATA, Committee for Dulles, and Transform 66 Outside the Beltway. DATA events like seminars and its Anniversary Celebration continue to afford DATA members and the Dulles business/citizen community access to transportation information and stakeholders.

In FY23, DATA will continue to support bilingual ridematching services to seniors, veterans, and persons with differing abilities under a Federal Transit Administration Enhanced Mobility grant. DATA will partner with organizations in its service area to recruit volunteer drivers to enable the seniors, veterans and the disabled to make doctor's appointments, shopping trips, and other commitments.

FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMUTER SERVICES

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/commuter-services

Total Budget: \$1,097,607

With a population over 1.2 million and the region's largest employment center outside of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. core, Fairfax County is committed to improving mobility for all who live, work or travel in and out of the county. The Fairfax County Commuter Services (FCCS) promotes and implements transportation demand management (TDM) strategies throughout the county to reduce traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and provide transportation alternatives to single-occupant vehicle travel. FCCS focuses its marketing and trip reduction efforts on employers with 100 or more employees, but also responds to requests from smaller employers. FCCS has implemented high-level TDM programs at 404 Fairfax County employers.

The Commuter Friendly Community Recognition Program has partnered with over 350 residential developments, multi-family complexes and associations to promote use of alternative modes of transportation. The Commuter Friendly Community Recognition Program is dedicated to encouraging people who live, work or commute in/or through Fairfax County to use transit, carpools, vanpools, walking, biking, or teleworking instead of drive alone commuting.

FCCS ridematching program assists more than 15,000 commuters each year. Some of the programs and services offered include customized commuter programs design and implementation support, SmartBenefits Plus50 Program, Commuter Connections ridematching and guaranteed ride home programs, as well as planning for telework programs, incentives, and flexible schedules implementation.

FCCS offers employee density plots, commuter surveys, Employee Transportation Champion (ETC) training manuals and general support for workplace transportation benefit programs. It also establishes Transportation Information Centers, and hosts employee fairs and workshops as well as carpool and vanpool formation meetings at major employment sites. For special promotions, such as Try Transit Week or Bike to Work Day, email blasts, posters, banners and other materials are provided to employers, for internal promotion efforts.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in partnership with the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research, has designated more than 145 Fairfax County employers as "Best Workplaces for Commuters" (BWC) since the inception of the county program in 2010. The BWC designation acknowledges employers who have excelled in implementing green commuter programs. These types of TDM programs improve mobility by reducing the number of single-occupant vehicles on the roads. By meeting CUTR's National Standard of Excellence and offering high-level commuter benefits, qualifying employers are recognized annually at a Fairfax County Board of Supervisors ceremony for the range of transportation options offered to employees.

The BWC program is a win program for all:

- Employers benefit from the recognition as a "green" workplace, and are better able to attract and keep employees;
- Fairfax County benefits from having "green" employers whose efforts reduce traffic congestion;
- Employees benefit by having commute options like transit subsidies, reserved parking for carpools, teleworking and flexible work hours.

FCCS Outreach Activities include:

- Employer/Commuter Benefit Fairs
- Large scale DOD Outreach Events
- Chambers of Commerce partnerships and events
- Special promotions around themed days/weeks:
 - Telework Week
 - Bike to Work Day
 - Dump the Pump Day
 - Car Free (or Lite) Day
 - Try Transit Month
 - Countywide Earth Day Events
- Large-scale community events such as Herndon Festival, area Farmers Markets and other events
- Annual Employer Recognition event for "Best Workplaces for Commuters" in front of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.
- District Town Meetings and other Community Meetings

Other marketing and advertising activities include:

- The SmartBenefits Plu\$50 incentive program
- In-and out-of-home (multi-pronged, scalable and geo-targeted) advertising campaigns:
 - Radio on-air and online ads, including digital providers
 - Videos on cable TV, YouTube and on our web pages
 - Social media posts and tweets, and paid social media advertising
 - Ads in local news media (traditional and new), Human Resources industry publications, military base directories, etc.
 - Direct mail to residents and employers
 - Movie theater and digital extension ads
 - Interior and exterior bus ads
 - Bus shelter ads
 - Counter-top displays, banners and posters
 - Other platforms as they become available

FAIRFAX CITY/CUE BUS

<http://www.fairfaxva.gov/transportation>

www.cuebus.org

Marketing budget for CUE Bus: \$24,950

The City of Fairfax promotes the local bus service (CUE) and other commuting options. The CUE bus marketing budget supports the purchase and distribution of bus system brochures (schedules and maps) and the purchase of promotional items (such as pens, tote bags, and lights) which are given away at events. The budget also supports CUE staff presence at select events. City staff also participate in several events such as Bike to Work Day, pop-up events to promote Car Free Day, Try Transit, and other transit-related events throughout the year, and community meetings as appropriate. CUE and other city staff collaborate with George Mason University to promote transportation options between the City and campus. CUE also began a Zero-Fare pilot program in January 2022, providing fare-free transit to all riders through at least 2025.

CUE staff maintain an active presence on X to promote CUE as a transportation option and to promote tools that make transit more attractive such as real-time passenger information. Staff also coordinate with the City communications department to promote CUE and other commuting options on the City's social media channels including X, Facebook, and YouTube as well as other communication channels such as City newsletter, City calendar and website, and alerts. The City will continue to promote transit, including direct connections to Metrorail and regional bus routes, as well as cross-promoting regional transportation options such as Commuter Connections ridematching and guaranteed ride home programs, regional events such as Car Free Day, and other regional transportation projects and programs. This fiscal year, the City's Transportation Division has contracted a public communications firm to assist with numerous communications and marketing efforts including updating the CUE website, rolling out the new CUE brand, and evaluating and updating the division's social media strategies, in addition to supporting communications for other transportation programs.

CUE completed a brand update project to transform CUE's image in the community. It includes a new logo, new color scheme, and a slight change to the CUE name, (replacing "City University Energysaver" with "City University Everyone"), which offers fresh messaging opportunities while retaining the old CUE name recognition. This update is meant to attract new riders to CUE by refreshing our brand and encouraging people to take a new look at transit as a commuting option. Efforts are underway to roll out the brand in Fall 2023 with new bus wraps, signs, uniforms, an updated website, and other updated assets.

FREDERICK COUNTY TRANSIT SERVICES

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/transit

Marketing Budget: \$54,753

To promote transit and ridesharing Frederick County will:

- Place advertisements in various local magazines, newspapers, and event programs.
- Place online ads advertising Rideshare programs and local transit services.
- Share via social media rideshare issues, events, and incentives.
- Purchase radio ads and host live remote broadcasts at commuter events.
- Purchase giveaway items for certain campaigns.
- Participate in Chamber events, including business card exchanges and other membership events.
- Attend In the Street and other community events to spread the word about transit and transportation alternatives for commuters.
- Promote Travel Training and outreach through social media and the Transit website.
- Issue press releases regarding Transit and commuter news.
- Maintain Facebook and X accounts to widen the reach of publicity regarding Transit and commuter services.
- Produce schedule brochures and informational brochures for public distribution.
- Contact employers via mailings and in person to promote rideshare alternatives and assist with implementation of transit benefits.
- Work with local media outlets to air PSAs on pertinent issues.
- Create partnerships with established businesses and other County divisions to co-market services.
- Market mobile applications for simplified ridematching, trip planning, bus arrival time and location, etc.
- Survey employers and employees to determine route changes, event success, and suggested changes.
- Update marketing materials and website language for easier and more effective readability
- Run commuter and Transit services ads via social media

LOUDOUN COUNTY

www.loudoun.gov/commute

Combined Advertising & Promotion Media and professional services budget: \$181,007

Loudoun County educates and assists the public with alternatives to driving alone through its web pages, customer service phone lines, social media, news releases, advertising, signage, community outreach and events. Activities support the mission of engaging individuals and businesses regarding travel options, information, advice and solutions.

During FY2024, Loudoun County will leverage new collateral developed in late FY2023 and will revamp the “Let’s Go” campaign while striving to increase enrollment in the Commuter Connections Ridematching System and Guaranteed Ride Home program. Marketing efforts, which will be approved by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), include:

- 1) Amplifying Commuter Connections, DRPT, and Virginia Department of Transportation campaigns.
- 2) Promoting new commuting options surrounding the Silver Line Metrorail stations in Loudoun County.
- 3) Conveying the flexibility and ease of commute alternatives regardless of how frequently one travels to work.
- 4) Attracting new residents and those who move within Loudoun County to share rides or take transit.

The Loudoun County Employer Outreach program promotes commuting alternatives to businesses and nonprofit organizations to increase employer participation levels. During FY2024, promotional efforts include:

- 1) *Commuter Shortcuts* e-newsletter – Newsletter frequency was adjusted to quarterly and reformatted to offer workplace resources for employee transportation coordinators and ready-to-share commuter news for employees.
- 2) Promote SmartBenefits Plu\$50 to encourage employers to offer transit benefits programs. Advertising for the program will include bus advertising (interior and exterior), social media, and in-person event promotion.
- 3) Support employer recognition for outstanding commuting programs through the 2023 Employer Recognition Awards and Best Workplaces for Commuters.
 - A. Conduct outreach, maintain partnerships, and pursue sponsorships with local chapters of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, Loudoun Workforce Resource Center, and Loudoun County Department of Economic Development.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION
www.mta.maryland.gov

Total Marketing Budget: \$900,000 - 1,500,000

MTA participates in a variety of community events and projects each year including:

- Sports events – Orioles baseball, Ravens football, and Preakness (horse racing), Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.
- Local Cultural Activities – Artscape Music and Art Festival, Maryland State Fair, Bike to Work Day.

MDOT's MTA offers the following products and services:

- Local Bus including CityLink, LocalLink, and Express BusLink
- Commuter Bus
- Light RailLink
- Metro SubwayLink
- MARC Train
- Mobility (Paratransit)
- Taxi Access
- All Access College Transit Pass program for participating schools in the Maryland area
- MARC Train discounts through the national Student Advantage Program
- Statewide Ridesharing Program
- Transit Advertising through current contractor Vector Media USA
- WTTZ Radio Station featuring Transit Team Reports
- MDOT MTA Commuter Connections TV Show
- CharmCard® fare payment smart card
- CharmPass mobile fare payment app
- Transit app – bus tracker
- Rider newsletters
- E-mail Service Notification system
- Online Pass Sales
- Local Pass Sale Outlets
- MDOT MTA Transit Store
- Transit Information Contact Center - 410-539-5000 or 1-866-743-3682
- MDOT MTA website – www.mta.maryland.gov

MTA Ongoing Marketing Activities:

- Ongoing BaltimoreLink marketing and branding campaigns
- Collateral materials distribution including Orioles, Ravens and Preakness information brochures
- Transit System Maps at bus shelters, Light Rail Stops, Metro Subway Stations and MARC Train stations
- Business and Community Outreach
- Smart benefits employer/employee outreach campaign
- All Access College Transit Pass campaign
- Rider newsletters Community Events Special Events: Artscape, State Fair
- Guaranteed Ride Home marketing campaign
- Safety campaign

- MDOT MTA Commuter Connections TV Show
- I-83 Outdoor Sign
- Transportation and Benefits Fairs
- Transit app Bus Tracker campaign
- Social Media
- MDOT MTA Radio Station WTTZ

COMMUTER CHOICE MARYLAND PROGRAM

Commuter Choice Maryland is the Maryland Department of Transportation Travel Demand Management Program that promotes and encourages alternatives to driving alone such as taking transit, carpool/ridesharing, vanpool, walking, biking, teleworking, Maryland Commuter Tax Credit and Guaranteed Ride Home. Commuter Choice Maryland can provide options to maximize travel choices and deliver solutions that can reduce congestion, conserve energy, facilitate economic opportunity, and enhance the life of all Marylanders.

Ongoing employer & commuter outreach marketing and promotional activities include:

- Commuter Choice Maryland website & social media: www.CommuterChoiceMaryland.com is the program website that offers resources for businesses and commuters traveling throughout the state of Maryland. This site is promoted to businesses and commuters via partner websites, MDOT & partner social media such as LinkedIn and X, brochures, displays, webinars, toolkits, and promotional items. This site provides information about public Transportation options, Ridesharing/Carpools, Vanpools, Park and Rides, Guaranteed Ride Home, Bicycling & Walking, Telework/Co-work, Parking Cash Out, Road Traffic & Toll Information, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes, Guaranteed Ride Home Program, Contact information for TDM Specialists in the State of Maryland, Maryland Commuter Tax Credit, Business Webinars on various transportation topics, and additional business and commuter resources. Website visits have also increased since the inception in 2018 with over 50,000 visits. Commuter Choice Maryland also has a strong social media presence on LinkedIn with over 700 Connections.
- Promotional Events: Conduct outreach to businesses and commuters. Commuter Choice Maryland also participates in various business events coordinated by Maryland TDM Specialists, government agencies, and partners. Commuter Choice Maryland organizes and/or markets the Get on Board Pop-up Event, Earth Day, Bike to Work Day, Car Free Day, Parking Day, and various Office of Minority Business events throughout the state and other events as opportunities arise. Commuter Choice Maryland also participates and/or is promoted at City and County events such as Artscape, The Maryland State Fair, Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference, and the Transportation Association of MD Conference.
- Business Webinars: The business webinars are administered quarterly and have included the following topics: “Learn How to Expand Your Commuter Benefits Program”, “Alternative approaches to traditional work hours and expanding employee transportation options such as telework, alternative work, schedules, and vanpool, and “The Benefits of Bike and Walk Friendly Workplaces”. There are over 7,000 businesses throughout the state of Maryland that Commuter Choice Maryland reaches out to for these webinars.
- Business & TDM Specialist Resources: Commuter Choice Maryland understands the need for businesses to have ready access to information that can help them expand or start a commuter benefits program, vanpool, and telework program. Toolkits have been developed by Commuter

Choice Maryland and are available for download on our website, made available at various outreach events, hard copies available by request, and available through our Maryland State TDM Specialists.

Business Highlights: Commuter Choice Maryland also highlights businesses who have implemented a smarter commute and are actively looking for more businesses throughout the state of Maryland to highlight.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/commute

www.rideonbus.com

www.X.com/RideOnMCT

www.facebook.com/RideOnMCT

www.youtube.com/RideOnMCT

www.instagram.com/RideOnMCT

www.rideonflex.com

www.ridetheflash.com

www.X.com/mcdotnow

www.facebook.com/mcdotnow

www.instagram.com/mcdotnow

Marketing Budget for FY 2024 is in the range of \$230,000 (Montgomery County Commuter Services and Ride On).

Montgomery County (MC) has a very large and diverse business base. It also has a large residential base. There are approximately 311,000 commuters who live and work in MC, 200,000 who travel to the County from other jurisdictions, and 216,000 who leave the county for other destinations.

Marketing activities are conducted countywide, with emphasis on those areas in Montgomery County with high concentrations of employment and transit, the Transportation Management Districts (TMDs): Silver Spring, Friendship Heights, Bethesda, Greater Shady Grove, North Bethesda, and White Oak, which recently began operations as the sixth TMD. Marketing activities related directly to promotion of the Ride On system are conducted by Ride On Marketing. Marketing activities related to promotion of transit of all types, car/vanpooling, walking, biking, bikesharing, micromobility, telework, and all other Transportation Demand Management efforts in those areas and throughout the County are conducted by Montgomery County Commuter Services.

Employer Outreach/Programs/Services:

- Employer Meetings and Presentations: Montgomery County conducts meetings and presentations with County employers to persuade them to adopt high-level commuter benefits programs and Traffic Mitigation Plans (TMPs).
- Transportation Demand Management services focused on urban centers: The County operates six TMDs: Silver Spring, Bethesda, Greater Shady Grove (which includes the Life Sciences Center), North Bethesda, Friendship Heights and White Oak. Wheaton, a Transportation Policy Planning Area, is also part of the urban network. Employer, commuter, and transit services outreach efforts are concentrated in these areas of high employment and urban development. Efforts are targeted at achieving the County's Non-Auto Driver Mode Share (NADMS) goals for employees (and in some cases, employees and residents) commuting to work from their homes in those TMDs.
- Training sessions to assist employers with SmartBenefits® and the Maryland Commuter Choice Tax Credit: MC continues to promote and provide training and support to assist employers with the use of SmartBenefits® and the Maryland Commuter Choice Tax Credit.
- Telework webinars to inform employers about the advantages of telework programs and also make the business case for telework. MC continues to promote telework and help employers implement successful telework programs. Personalized telework consulting is available to County businesses using consultants provided free of charge by Commuter Services, with funding from MWCOG. A number of these webinars were conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist both employers and employees in getting set up for and managing remote work. Additional Incentive Programs: MC gives subsidies to employers that provide a transit benefit to their employees, up to \$300 per

employee, per month, under the FareShare program as long as the employer contributes at least \$25. The County also promotes the Maryland Commuter Tax Credit and the Montgomery County Home Computer Telecommuting Incentive Tax Credit to encourage employers to adopt high-level TDM programs.

- On-Site and virtual Transportation Fairs: Commuter Services and its contractors conduct commuter information fairs at employment sites and the lobbies of multi-tenant facilities. Montgomery County conducts property management outreach campaigns, in which staff set-up large lobby displays and hold commuter information sessions at work sites throughout the county. Due to the pandemic, some of these outreach events have been held virtually. In the North Bethesda and Greater Shady Grove TMDs, where residential Non-Auto Driver Mode Share (NADMS) goals have been adopted, outreach events are also conducted at multi-unit projects.
- Commuter Survey: MC conducts biennially (every 2 years) a commuter survey of employees that work in the County. Surveys are distributed to more than 100,000 employees through more than 200 employers, concentrating on employers within TMDs and large employers elsewhere in the County. Residential surveys are also conducted on Bethesda, North Bethesda, Shady Grove and White Oak.
- Countywide and periodic area-specific e-newsletters and e-blasts: MC issues its monthly newsletter, Better Ways to Work, in electronic format, distributed to subscribers via e-mail. Area-specific electronic newsletters are distributed for the Bethesda and North Bethesda, Friendship Heights, Silver Spring and Shady Grove TMDs by those TMD contractors, and periodic e-blasts on specific topics are also issued by Commuter Services.
- Employer Recognition/Special Events: Periodically MC has conducted its Transportation Awards Ceremony and other employer recognition events to highlight businesses providing outstanding programs to address traffic congestion. Past events have featured remarks by the County Executive, the Governor of Maryland, Senators, and leading businesspeople. Other employer recognition events have included the Transportation A2CE Awards (Advocates for Alternative Commuting Excellence). These businesses are partnering with the County to address traffic congestion and air quality challenges and contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly community, while at the same time helping their employees get to work in a less stressful and more cost-effective manner. Other types of employer recognition activities are conducted each year, including articles highlighting businesses involved with TDM efforts in the Better Ways to Work monthly e-newsletter.
- ACT! for Web CRM: This database is used to track and manage contacts and relationships with over 4,000 employers in the County.
- On-line system for the filing of Traffic Mitigation Plans (TMP) and TMP Annual Reports by TMD employers: Traffic Mitigation Plans are now called Transportation Demand Management Plans for Employers (Employer TDM Plans) in recently adopted changes to the County's TDM laws. The online system for submitting plans and annual reports continues to be refined and improved. This system is periodically upgraded to adapt to changes in the law that address sizes of employers and locations that qualify them as needing to submit Employer TDM Plans, upgrades with enhanced features.
- Walk & Ride Challenge: Each year Montgomery County works with employers in Bethesda, Friendship Heights, Silver Spring, North Bethesda, Greater Shady Grove and White Oak TMDs to promote and conduct the 3-week Walk & Ride Challenge. This program encourages walking and taking transit to work. Walk & Ride Challenge is hosted on its own County Web site, www.walkandride.net

- Bicycle Swag Bag Contest during Bike Month and leading up to Bike to Work Day and Car Free Day: MCDOT Commuter Services promotes Bike to Work Day by featuring a different bike path/trail in Montgomery County each week. MC asks bike riders to submit a favorite picture of themselves enjoying their ride along the featured trail or any trail on the County to be entered into a weekly drawing. The pictures are posted and tagged on @MCDOTNow on Instagram or X, along with the hashtag #MoCoBikes to be entered into that week's drawing for a Bicycle Swag Bag prize.

Promotional Materials:

- Better Ways to Work Toolkit used in employer meetings and presentations, with contents tailored to the specific interests and needs of the business.
- Commuter Services Guide, New Employee Commuting Guide and Transit Benefit brochures used to provide businesses and employees with key information.
- Park & Ride Lot Brochure: MC produces a Park and Ride brochure with all P&R lots in Montgomery and adjoining counties, including transit services available from each lot. The guide was last updated September 2021. MC also promotes use of the Commuter Connections Park & Ride page, <https://commuterconnec.wpengine.com/park-ride-lots-in-the-metropolitan-washington-baltimore-regions/>
- "Montgomery County Bikeways Map," and "Shifting Gears" maps are created and printed. All are available in hard copy and portable document format (PDF). "Biking to Bethesda" map/brochure also available. (MCDOT's Shifting Gears bike map is also available online in an interactive format)
- Websites -- MC and the TMDs continue to upgrade and refine communication strategies via several websites: Better Ways to Work (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/commute>) and Ride On (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rideon>), Bethesda Transportation Solutions (<http://www.bethesdatransit.org/> and North Bethesda TMD (<http://www.nbtc.org>) websites. A special bikeshare website has also been created, <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bikeshare/index.html>.
- Convert existing forms, brochures, maps, etc. to easier-to-use electronic format.
- Work with marketing services consultants to develop new or revised promotional materials as needed to support employer outreach efforts.
- A Ride On User Guide has been published and distributed to help riders new to our transit system. It discusses riding the bus, accessibility, trip planning, fare media transfers and Title VI.

Advertising:

- Ads in newspapers and employer-targeted publications, and on website
- Chambers of Commerce: MC advertises its programs and services in local chamber publications, including newsletters, membership directories, dining guides, and special publications
- Use Ride On bus sides, bus stop shelters and bus interior cards to promote commuting options
- Promotions on Instagram, X, and Next Door
- Ride On also uses Facebook, X, and NextDoor.com to promote services, public forums, service changes, etc.

Commuter Outreach/Programs/Services:

- Promote Bike Transit: grants from TPB using FTA funds, and the Maryland Department of Transportation, coupled with County, City of Rockville and private sector funding, enabled MCDOT to bring the Capital Bikeshare system to Montgomery County in fall 2013, with 51 new stations opened within the following year. Commuter Services is promoting use of bikeshare through a variety of mechanisms. There are now 90 bikeshare stations in the County.

- A special program for low income bikeshare participants has been developed. CaBi For All provides a free one-year membership, free bike helmet, and free bicycle safety classes for those who qualify.
- TRiPS Commuter Store: The Silver Spring as TRiPS store – “Transportation Resources, Information and Places to See” – sells Metro and Ride On fare media, Peter Pan bus tickets, and provides transit information, maps, and schedules to commuters and visitors. Information on MARC and VRE is also available. Commuter Services and TRiPS coordinate with other agencies to provide increased information and assistance to commuters.
- Mobile Commuter Store: MC operates a Mobile Commuter Store that has scheduled stops throughout the County. The store is full-service, offering SmarTrip® cards and reloads, MARC rail tickets, Metro and Ride On bus passes, transit related items and extensive travel/commute information. Its weekly schedule is posted at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/commuter/trips/mobile-commuter-store-sched.html>
- BikeMatchMoCo: BikeMatchMoCo program is a free online service sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation; BikeMatchMoCo collects donated bicycles and distributes them to residents in Montgomery County who need bikes to travel but cannot afford to purchase one. BikeMatchMoCo allows people with extra, unused bicycles to donate their bikes using a simple online form. The same can be done by those who need a bike for commuting to work. The program was created in 2019. As of November 2023, 655 bikes have been distributed to County residents through BikeMatchMoCo, [montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/commuter/bikeshare/bikematch.html](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dir/commuter/bikeshare/bikematch.html)
- Discounted car/vanpool parking in Bethesda and Silver Spring. The Bethesda and Silver Spring Transportation Management Districts certify car/vanpools to qualify for significant parking discounts.
- Bike to Work Day. Each year over 2,000 Montgomery County bike commuters participate at one of the many Bike to Work Day Pit Stops hosted at Montgomery County locations with high employee concentrations. Locations over the past several years have included the downtown areas of Silver Spring, Friendship Heights and Bethesda, as well as North Bethesda, NIH Main Campus, NIH Executive Blvd, Marriott International, three locations in Takoma Park, FDA White Oak, and two Rockville locations (Town Center and Shady Grove/Falls Grove).
- Car Free Day. Each year since 2008, MC has participated in the promotion of the regional Car Free Day at several locations with high concentrations of transit commuters. MC features promotional item giveaways, ridesharing applications and non-SOV commuting information.
- Promote the 100 percent accessibility of the Ride On fleet to bicyclists along with the County’s series of County bike maps. Whenever possible, a Ride On bus is brought to major events to enable demonstration of how to load and unload a bike from the bus’s bike rack. The bus provides the opportunity for attendees to try the process in a low-stress setting. Broad-based community outreach is conducted periodically by Commuter Services and/or Ride On through participation at large-scale events, including the following: Earth Day, GreenFest, Senior Info Expo, Wheaton and Silver Spring Summer Concerts, Strathmore Hall Summer Concert Series, Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, Taste of Wheaton, Taste of Bethesda, Accessible Public Transportation Options Expo, Oktoberfest, Diversity Days, Health and Benefits Fairs, and Car Free Day and various ethnic festivals (e.g., Latina Heath). Capital Bikeshare promoted as a transportation option for trips of less than 3 miles, especially as a way of connecting to/from transit.
- Low-income residents and employees are able to obtain free bikeshare services (including free helmets and safety classes) through the CaBi For All (Montgomery County Low Income Bikeshare) program. Free or low-cost bike safety classes are available for members of the Capital Bikeshare system in the County, as well as for other cyclists. In June 2019, MCDOT introduced the dockless e-

scooter program to geographically defined areas in the east and west portions of the County. MCDOT conducted a demonstration project with three selected companies that deployed dockless e-scooters at no cost to the County. The initial demonstration project ran for six months and was extended in January 2020. MC currently has three vendors that deploy e-scooters and e-bikes in the approved areas of the County. They are also required to offer free training classes from Spring to Fall to encourage people to learn how to ride the e-scooters and e-bikes and the correct way to operate and park them safely.

Transit Services:

- Promote Real-Time information project to provide riders the status of their bus.
- Continue to support Montgomery College student program. With valid Student ID, Montgomery College students can ride Ride On anytime on any route.
- Promote Ride On monthly pass. Ongoing promotion of SmarTrip®.
- Promotion of Van Go Shuttle in downtown Silver Spring.
- Promotion of Bethesda Circulator in downtown Bethesda
- Promote availability of Senior SmarTrip® card now sold at MC Public Libraries.
- Promotion of Seniors and People with Disabilities Ride Free on Ride On and select Metro buses in MC at all times.
- Promote Kids Ride Free program: Kids can ride free all day every day. Campaign to increase number of riders 5 to 18 years of age; recruited Montgomery County Libraries as a partner to distribute Youth Cruiser SmarTrip® Cards which increases the number of locations from 3 to 24; recruited schools to distribute Youth Cruiser SmarTrip® Cards which has increased from 21 to 71 schools; flyers distributed to all County schools (400+), home schools (600+), libraries, recreation centers, and community centers.
- Continue to promote feeder service to MARC and Metrorail.
- Promote free transfers for MTA commuters with weekly and monthly passes.
- Promotion of new clean diesel, hybrid electric-diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG) buses with low floors.
- Promotion of our new all-electric buses.
- Promotion of our new rapid transit service called the Flash.
- Additional new buses with ramps now means Ride On is 100 percent accessible to persons with disabilities on the fixed route services.
- Promote Metro's program for MetroAccess customers who are able to ride free with a companion on Ride On and Metro buses and rail.
- Implement a comprehensive program to install upgraded bus shelters and related pedestrian access and amenities throughout the County.
- Positioning of a Ride On bus at major outreach events -- This provides an opportunity for Ride On operators to serve as "ambassadors" for the bus system, interacting on a more extended basis with current and potential future riders, as well enabling cyclists to practice loading a bike on the bus.
- Promote the Give and Ride Campaign with Manna Foods which collects non-perishable food items for needy families.
- Conduct Public Forums for Service Changes.
- Conduct Public Forum for Fare Changes.
- Post Website notices, alerts, and current events.
- Promote Dump the Pump campaign to encourage use of mass transit.
- Promote See Something Say Something transit security campaign.

- Public Outreach: Montgomery County Fair booth, Montgomery County Public Schools Back-To-School Fair booth, Customer Appreciation Days at Transit Centers and Metro Stations.
- Continuing Facebook, X, Instagram, and YouTube social media sites to keep riders better informed.
- Use GovDelivery (Granicus) email blasts and text alerts for notices and current events.
- Post regularly on NextDoor.com electronic bulletin board system for all MC neighborhoods and 272,000+ residents.
- Partner with other agencies within Montgomery County Government, including Libraries, Regional Service Centers, Public Information Office to disseminate information about transit services programs operated in the County.
- Radio and cable TV ads to promote the Ride On, Ride On extRa, Ride On Flex and Flash services.
- Promote Flash rapid transit - limited stop service along US 29.
- Promote Ride On Flex on-demand bus service in Rockville and Wheaton/Glenmont via social media, websites, newspaper ads, bus ads, bus shelter ads, mobile ads, online news digital ads, regional service centers, transportation management districts, etc.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

<https://www.nih.gov>

Since its inception, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been considered the steward of medical and behavioral research for the nation and reports to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The NIH headquarters, along with most of its workforce, is in Bethesda, Maryland, and the surrounding area. In addition to performing research, the NIH also funds myriad scientific studies at universities and research institutions across the nation and around the world.

The Office of Research Services (ORS), Division of Amenities and Transportation Services (DATS), Employee Transportation Services Office (ETSO), supports the NIH mission by providing employee transportation services to the entire NIH community. The ETSO is a centralized office where employees can obtain information about parking and alternative commuting options. The office provides information about Commuter Connections, carpooling, vanpooling, the Guaranteed Ride Home Program, and public transportation services (Metrorail, Metrobus, Ride On, MTA, MARC, VRE, etc.), as well as the NIH Transhare Program which provides a commuter subsidy up to the maximum benefit allowed by Title 26, U.S.C., § 132(f). The NIH Transhare Program is a mandated program by Executive Order 13150 that relieves traffic congestion and reduces energy and environmental concerns in the National Capital Region. The NIH Transhare Program is a key element of the NIH Transportation Management Plan and is used by approximately 30 percent of eligible employees.

The ETSO employs technology to improve, educate, and track employees who use alternative commuting methods. This includes an internally developed IT system called Commuting and Parking Services (CAPS). The system, which is linked to the agency's employee personnel database, assists the ETSO to match employees with alternative commuting options. Employees, regardless of their commuting method, can sign up for the system's Ridematching service. The service allows employees to search for and "share" rides with other NIH employees who live and work in the same area. The system also allows ETSO staff to search for employees by work locations and home zip codes to strategically reach employees by email for vanpool and carpool creation.

The NIH encourages the use of public transportation as a proactive means to reduce the parking demands on the NIH campus. Transhare, with over 5,500 participants (pre-pandemic), has been the single most effective tool in promoting and expanding the use of public transportation and vanpools.

Strategically placing carpool spaces around the NIH is another method used to limit single-occupancy vehicle trips. Spaces reserved for carpools are restricted until 11:00 a.m. when they are opened to all commuters. Vanpools may also request a reserved space in their lot of choice, which is reserved 24 hours a day.

The ORS, in conjunction with the Office of Facilities Planning (ORF), is responsible for providing shower and locker facilities in nine campus buildings and four off-campus locations, predominantly for the use of bike and walking commuters. Bicycle racks and lockers accommodate 600 bicycles. The NIH has a large and active Bike Club whose slogan reads "Non-polluter, Commuter." The NIH Bike Club members volunteer to clean bike trails and support DATS by promoting bicycling as a healthy commuter option. The NIH has led the region many times over the last ten years as the employer with the most Bike to Work Day participants. The NIH has also received several prestigious awards from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for Bike to Work Day. Also, the NIH has made dramatic improvements in recent years to offer a pedestrian-friendly campus by investing in well-lit pathways and large safety crosswalks for its walking commuters.

To promote a cordial relationship within the community, the NIH partners with the North Bethesda and Bethesda Transportation Management Districts. Our partnership goals are to: improve transit services in the area, increase ridership on public transportation, provide transit-friendly amenities, cut traffic congestion,

increase transportation capacity, reduce air and noise pollution, promote bicycle and pedestrian access, and traffic safety.

The DATS Campus Shuttle Service comprises 13 shuttle routes providing services for patients and employees who commute from off-campus government facilities. Users of this service can see real-time GPS tracking of shuttle locations to minimize wait times by using a phone app or the DATS website. DATS offers an e-mail Listserv that currently has over 1,400 employee subscribers who receive up-to-date parking and transportation information. The NIH has a program for electric vehicle charging stations with eight spaces around the campus.

To promote the NIH's employee transportation options, DATS sponsors and leads webinars and employee-targeted e-mails and contributes to the campus newsletters (NIH Record). The NIH also participates in external, monthly parking/transportation working groups with other regional partners, including the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation, Walter Reed National Medical Center, and Suburban Hospital. Throughout the year, the ETSO sponsors and/or participates in various promotional events designed to provide commuting alternatives to employees.

The NIH, DATS, and ETSO have also been recognized for the following:

- Health and Human Services Green Champion Award (2014)
- "Employer Recognition Award" (2013) – for Incentives presented by Commuter Connections.
- "Best Workplaces for Commuters" presented by The United States Environmental Protection Agency
- "Outstanding Participation and Support in the Federal Transit Benefit Program" presented by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- "Quality of Work Life" presented by the National Institutes of Health
- "Outstanding Service Award" presented by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- "Employee Transportation Coordinator of the Year" presented by the Association of Commuter Transportation
- "MWCOG 2023 Bike to Work Day Award" for the highest employee Bike to Work Day Participation presented by Commuter Connections

Further information regarding the DATS/ETSO can be found at
https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/pes/dats/parking/Pages/parking_info.aspx

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

www.novatransit.org

www.novarides.org

<https://X.com/NoVaTransit>

<https://www.facebook.com/NoVaTransit>

https://www.instagram.com/novatransit_ig/

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/northern-virginia-transportation-commission/mycompany/>

NVTC serves as a regional forum for discussion and analysis of transit issues that are critical to our economy and quality of life. Founded in 1964, in part to represent the interests of the Commonwealth of Virginia during the establishment of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Agency (WMATA), NVTC is charged with the funding and stewardship of Metro and the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), which it co-owns.

Because Northern Virginia is home to six bus systems, NVTC works across jurisdictional boundaries to facilitate improved transit service, leverage joint procurements, and coordinate emergency response to transit incidents. NVTC also is the lead agency in the administration of the Commuter Choice program, a multi-decade effort that uses toll revenues to support transit and TDM activities.

Programs and Initiatives

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

NVTC manages over \$325 million annually for Metro, VRE and five bus systems. NVTC administers the regional motor fuels tax, totaling \$22.5 million in FY 2022. NVTC has awarded \$156 million to date through the Commuter Choice program.

FINANCIAL & POLICY ANALYSIS

NVTC performs financial analyses, documents funding needs, and works with the Commonwealth to develop new funding sources to sustain federal, state and local funding for high-quality, high-capacity public transit that serves Northern Virginia.

METRO POLICY & GOVERNANCE

NVTC serves as Virginia's voice on the Metro Board of Directors and publishes an annual policy and data report on the performance and condition of Metro.

METRO REGIONAL RESPONSE COORDINATION

NVTC brings together jurisdictions and transit agencies to coordinate responses and develop alternate transit plans for service disruptions such as Metrorail station closures.

TRANSIT TECHNOLOGY

NVTC brings together regional partners and local transit agencies to explore and procure the latest technologies. NVTC is coordinating the maintenance enhancements to the regional fare-collection system that meets current needs and adapts to changing technologies.

TRANSIT RESOURCE CENTER

NVTC provides technical assistance to member jurisdictions, analyzes transit performance data from across NVTC jurisdictions, manages the Envision Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit project and collaborates on regional transit planning efforts.

COMMUTER CHOICE

NVTC manages this innovative program that uses toll revenues from I-66 and I-395/95 to fund transit and roadway enhancement projects that move more people more efficiently.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

NVTC partners with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, cities and counties in Northern Virginia, Virginia Railway Express and OmniRide to conduct regional marketing campaigns to encourage commuters to ride public transit.

OMNIRIDE

<https://omniride.com/>

Marketing Budget: \$900,000

OmniRide is a multi-jurisdictional agency representing Prince William, Stafford and Spotsylvania counties and the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park and Fredericksburg. Formerly known as PRTC, the agency has rebranded itself under the OmniRide name. Transit services that serve Eastern Prince William County and operate along the I-95 corridor are headquartered in Woodbridge, VA. The Western Maintenance Facility in Manassas, opened in August 2021, is the headquarters for services that operate in Western Prince William County, the Manassas area and along the I-66 corridor. OmniRide's local service area remains largely residential but there several large employers in its six jurisdictional regions, including Lockheed Martin, GMU, Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center, Northern Virginia Community College, Micron Technology, NOVEC, IKEA and Comcast.

The focus of the organization and its marketing program is to provide sound transportation alternatives to the SOV that meet the travel needs of Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park residents. In addition to co-sponsoring the Virginia Railway Express, PRTC operates the OmniRide family of transit services in Prince William County, Manassas, and Manassas Park. OmniRide also provides commuter bus service to Stafford County.

OmniRide Express buses transport commuters between Prince William/Stafford/Manassas and Washington DC, the Pentagon, Arlington, Tysons Corner, Reston, Herndon and Dulles Corridor. OmniRide Metro Express buses connect Woodbridge, Manassas and Gainesville/Haymarket with nearby Metrorail stations. OmniRide Local buses travel throughout eastern Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park, and are great for local activities like shopping and medical appointments. OmniRide's East-West Express buses run between Woodbridge and Manassas. The OmniRide Transit Center is the main hub and transfer center for bus services that operate in eastern Prince William County. The Prince William County Courthouse stop serves as the transfer center for buses that serve Manassas, Manassas Park and western Prince William County. OmniRide Access paratransit service operates in western Prince William and the Manassas area. In eastern Prince William OmniRide's Local buses operate on flex-routing to pick up residents at locations other than designated bus stops, within ¾ mile off the standard route, so there is no paratransit service. OmniRide Connect Microtransit operates in two portions of the local service area, serving Manassas Park and Dumfries/Triangle/Quantico. Riders can request same-day trips within the service area. The Wheels-to-Wellness program provides medical transportation to senior and disabled residents.

The OmniRide Ridesharing Program helps match commuters with carpools and vanpools that fit their needs. Through its regional database, this free, personalized ridematching service links commuters with similar work hours, origination and destination points. OmniRide also administers the Vanpool Alliance program, providing a monthly stipend to vanpools for ridership data. The program is a public-private partnership between OmniRide, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the George Washington Regional Commission.

OmniRide Employer Services is a free service available to all businesses in Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park, designed to help area employers create and expand commuter benefit programs that will help employees reduce commute-related stress and save money. It also enables area employers to expand sustainability initiatives and provides them with superior recruitment/retention tools. Employer Commute Surveys, Telework Programs, Emergency Preparedness, Transit Subsidies, Carpool/Vanpool Formation, Biking/Walking to Work, Alternative Work Schedules and Parking Management are all areas of focus for this program.

OmniRide's marketing budget funds rider education initiatives, awareness media advertisements, trial-coupon programs, employer and consumer group presentations, print and online ads, brochures, printed bus schedules in English and Spanish, an interactive website, Facebook and LinkedIn pages, transportation fairs, a wide variety of community outreach activities, and a Welcome Aboard program for new residents. In addition, OmniRide has a comprehensive youth program with targeted activities by age groups. OmniRide has established location-specific transit information displays in all bus shelters and at other keystops.

Customers can subscribe to the agency's Rider Express e-mail and text messaging service, which provides service alerts and other information. The Customer Service office provides service Monday-Friday, from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., except for some holidays.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION
www.princegeorgescountymd.gov

Marketing Budget for RideSmart Marketing Contract: \$102,000

Marketing Budget for TheBus: \$100,000

Prince George's County is working towards providing direct assistance to employers throughout the county through a coordinated Employer Outreach Program. Prince George's County will provide daily employer outreach services for employers in their service area, which will help promote voluntary commute alternatives in ways that best suit their businesses. Developing direct mail pieces to employers, organizing seminars, telemarketing and conducting on-site sales presentations to employers are a few of the many activities the County promotes. Employers are encouraged to participate in programs that include SmartBenefits, telecommuting, The Guaranteed Ride Home Program, Capital Bikeshare, ridematching and carpool/vanpool formation, and parking management. The RideSmart website at RideSmartSolutions.com provides employers with relevant information.

Goals are based on the following:

1. An extensive cumulative review of the companies and organizations in the Act! database and other economic development data sources.
2. An analysis of the Commuter Connections Programs' past performance.
3. A comparison of the provisional goals for new fiscal year versus the execution of goals of the previous fiscal year.

Objective is to implement the following measures for the Commuter Connections Program:

1. Increase employer participation in County RideSmart Commuter Solutions.
2. Maintain and increase participation level of active employers.
3. Decrease the number of single-occupancy vehicle trips by increasing employee awareness in companies participating in carpooling, vanpooling, the Maryland Commuter Tax Credit Program, flextime, teleworking, biking, and walking.
4. Formalize more telework, carpooling, vanpooling, transit, active commuting programs and commuting benefits offered by employers.

RAPPAHANNOCK RAPIDAN REGIONAL COMMISSION - Commuter Services

www.rrcommute.org

Marketing Budget: \$26,000

- Primarily a rural, residential area with a population of 200,000.
- RRRC uses regional advertising strategies via radio, digital, and print methods to promote their commuter services. They participate, support, and promote COG promotions throughout their region such as GRH. The program also uses social media to advertise promotions/contests and get feedback via their Facebook page. There are various targeted advertisements that run annually including outreach at local events.
- The region has twelve official and three unofficial park and ride lots; outreach at lots occurs annually and vanpools are offered participation in startup and/or support subsidies from their Vanpool Assistance Program.
- Marketing efforts have switched gears over the past few years to become more focused initiatives that target specific audiences using digital advertising.

TRI-COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SOUTHERN MARYLAND - Commuter Assistance Program

www.tccsmd.org

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) was formed on December 6, 1964, as a cooperative planning and development agency to foster the social and economic development of the Southern Maryland Region. In 1965, the Governor of Maryland recognized the TCCSMD as the regional planning and development organization for the Region comprising Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties. The TCCSMD's statute was established by Act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1966. The TCCSMD's enabling law was reenacted as State general legislation in 1976 (Article 20, Maryland, Annotated Code).

The purpose of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland is to serve as a forum for the resolution of region-wide issues and the attainment of regional goals. The Tri-County Council is a partnership of state and local government established more than forty years ago as the regional development and planning organization for Southern Maryland. As such, the Council provides a framework for cooperation and coordination among the elected, civic and business leaders of the Region; undertakes action programs that focus local, state and federal resources in a comprehensive strategy to enhance the quality of life of all the people of Southern Maryland; and initiates and coordinates plans and projects which foster the physical, economic and social development of the Region.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the TCCSMD serves as a source of information and data; engages in regional planning; serves as an advocate for the region's interests and priorities at the federal and State levels; qualifies the region for federal and State assistance; and develops programs to meet region-wide needs and goals. Key elements of the regional strategy:

- Diversify and broaden the economic base.
- Preserve agriculture as a viable industry.
- Restore and protect the environment.
- Implement highway improvements and expand commuter assistance services.
- Manage growth and requirements for public services.

The Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland has led the regional effort to promote the use of clean fuel and alternative transportation for commuting besides single occupant vehicles (SOV), such as public transit services, ridesharing, carpool and vanpool, telecommute/telework, private transportation companies and services, including subscription bus alternatives.

Local public transportation services are available in Southern Maryland, and this program works cooperatively with these agencies and on efforts related to public transportation initiatives. Calvert (Calvert County Public Transportation), Charles (VanGO) and St. Mary's (STS) counties provide both fixed-route and on-demand local transit services daily. The three local transit systems are connected at Charlotte Hall in St. Mary's County and Solomons in Calvert County. The three transit systems also have links with the MTA commuter bus and serve the region's park-and-ride facilities. As the region's coordinating organization, the annual total ridership has increased from 52,000 in 1988, when MDOT/MTA started the commuter bus operation in the region, to nearly 1.74 million in recent years.

Many Southern Marylanders commute to work in the Washington metropolitan area. The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) provides commuter express bus services to accommodate the rapidly growing commuter demand in the region. The MTA Southern Maryland commuter bus operation, which has the highest ridership growth rate, has been the MTA's most successful operation in the state of Maryland for a decade.

There are thirteen commuter bus routes between Southern Maryland and Washington. These eleven commuter bus routes are MDOT/MTA commuter bus # 610, 620, 630, 640 and 650 in Charles County, 705, 715, 725 and 735 in St Mary's County, Routes # 820, 830, 840 and 850 in Calvert County. Southern Maryland has recently benefited from increased roundtrip runs. It is important to keep in mind that about 71 percent of Calvert and Charles county residents commute outside their home counties to work (only about 28 percent of St. Mary's residents commute outside the county borders.) Of the region's estimated 160,000 commuters (U.S. Census Bureau 2000), 57,957 are traveling outside of the region for employment, typically to the District of Columbia, Prince George's County, Virginia, or elsewhere. These trends will continue to stress the importance of high occupancy vehicle modes of transportation and the Council's Commuter Assistance Program.

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland's Commuter Assistance and Employer Outreach Program goals include increasing the awareness and highlighting the benefits of traveling by non-single occupancy vehicles. The programs obtain these specific goals through educating the region's major employers, employees and residents through a number of marketing and campaign efforts.

Major activities include:

1. Develop an overall strategic outreach plan to educate employers about the benefits of participating in and offering employer-sponsored commute alternatives or Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs at their worksites. The particular focus of this plan will be educating employers about Maryland Commuter Tax Alternatives, Smart Benefits, Clean Commute Month Services, and other TDM programs. The primary outreach method will be through site visits; conducting on-site seminars; participating in local fairs; and mail/email campaigns. There will also be a strong focus on a thorough follow-up plan.
2. Work with TCC's DBED program outreach specialists to coordinate outreach efforts to the area's employers.
3. Market the availability of Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program to area commuters and employers.
4. Develop formalized partnerships for shared marketing events with local health care professionals and human service organizations.
5. Provide coordination and assistance to the development of new vanpools, including information on available financial subsidies, rider agreements and vanpool marketing efforts.
6. Conduct seminars in the Southern Maryland region which enable participation from other metropolitan area coordinators, particularly the areas where Southern Maryland commuters travel, including, but not limited to DC, Baltimore, Annapolis and Prince George's counties.
7. Advertise on local radio stations that provide information about commuter alternatives and employer TDM Programs.
8. Advertise on local cable (television) programs that introduce and share benefits of high occupancy vehicle modes for commuters and TDM Programs for area employers.
9. Utilize special days (Air Quality Action Days and Bike to Work Day) to coordinate events that call attention to the need and importance of commute alternatives.
10. Revamp and distribute a newsletter targeted for Vanpool Owner/Operators that highlights van pool best practices and information on safety, marketing and successful vanpooling techniques.
11. Revamp and distribute quarterly newsletter for Southern Maryland Commuters (distributed through the area's commuter buses) that highlights areas of interest to the Southern Maryland commuter bus passengers on the MDOT/MTA sponsored routes.
12. Revitalize partnership with Clean Air Partners, who works with Southern Maryland regional public and private schools to highlight the benefits of clean air through high occupancy vehicle modes and biking.

13. Seek to re-engage commuters who have allowed their records to expire through the use of traditional and email campaigns.
14. Participate on the Southern Maryland Regional Transportation Coordination Committee.
15. Promote MDOT's new Commuter Choice program.
16. Promote and help write policies for Telework/Flextime and Alternative work schedules.
17. Promote Commuter Connections' new mobile app, CommuterCash.
18. Promote the new Southern Maryland Vanpool incentive program, funded by the RMC.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Northern Virginia District

<https://www.virginiadot.org/>

https://www.virginiadot.org/travel/parkride/resources_commuter_resource_agencies.asp

Many of VDOT's TDM and multimodal promotion activities are coordinated through our Northern Virginia District, in coordination with VDOT Central Office and other agencies and partners, to meet the diverse needs of this region's travelers and reduce congestion on roadways.

While the following programs are often coordinated through Transportation Planning section(s), VDOT's various divisions are all continually focused on multimodal needs and the benefits of demand management strategies.

TDM and Multimodal Marketing Activities include:

- Funding of and active participation in the following programs: Commuter Connections, Clean Air Partners, and Employer Outreach at the local level (all programs include marketing).
- Megaproject Transportation Management Plans (TMPs) aimed at reducing SOV travel in construction corridors through marketing and incentives. Strategies include TDM/transit incentives, marketing campaigns, and employer outreach – from the inception of the project through construction.
- Park & Ride Program: VDOT builds and/or maintains many P&R lots in the region with amenities for transit and ridesharing. VDOT also inventories usage and demand for lots and associated multimodal amenities. See [interactive map](#) for Park & Ride lots statewide. Marketing occurs through signage, ribbon cuttings, and promotion from transit/rideshare agencies.
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Program: VDOT plans and promotes non-motorized amenities and travel (including developing maps and constructing new bike/pedestrian facilities) as well as a focus on safety/crash reductions and participation in regional Street Smart marketing campaign.
- HOV and Express Lanes: VDOT and partners operate HOV and high-occupancy toll lanes in Virginia complete with marketing campaigns – to promote free HOV travel on lanes and fast, reliable trips for transit and ridesharing.
- Commuter Parking Information System (CPIS): the CPIS system, a program element of the Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P), will entail static, historical, real-time, and predicted data to support app-based parking availability information dissemination, including at WMATA, VRE, and other P&R lots in the Northern Virginia and the metropolitan Fredericksburg areas. Marketing efforts will include promotion of third-party apps receiving and disseminating CPIS parking information to commuters.
- Dynamic Incentivization: Dynamic Incentivization, another program element of RM3P, will offer incentives to the public for changing mode, route, or departure time in ways that lessen the overall impact of congestion and incidents via an app. The program includes a marketing component; additional outreach to employers and commuters will also occur.

VDOT planning and construction projects have various advertised meetings and public outreach initiatives throughout project development and implementation where citizens and stakeholders are engaged and invited to provide feedback. VDOT shares project details and plans with the public via websites, online surveys, social media, news agencies, and regional partners, among others.

VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

www.VRE.org

Marketing Budget: \$425,000

Marketing Strategy

The primary goal of our marketing strategy is to boost ridership and attract new riders who need to become more familiar with our services. To achieve this, we will capitalize on the success of Fare Free Friday. The promotion, from May 29 to September 4, was combined with a comprehensive marketing campaign.

- **Fare Free Friday Promotion:**
 - Continue offering Fare Free Fridays throughout the specified dates. { May 29 to September 4 }
 - Encourage riders to bring friends and family for a hassle-free introduction to our services.
 - Collect and analyze data on ridership during these Fridays to measure the campaign's success.
- **Digital Advertising:**
 - Implement a targeted digital advertising campaign, including ads on local websites and streaming radio stations.
 - Focus on prime-time placements for maximum visibility.
 - Create engaging and informative ad content that highlights the benefits of our services.
- **Social Media and Geo-Targeting:**
 - Utilize paid social media ads on platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and X to reach a wider audience.
 - Implement geo-targeting to promote our services to users in specific geographic areas.
 - Partner with SXM for additional advertising exposure.
- **Local Partnerships:**
 - Collaborate with local businesses to create partnerships that promote our services.
 - Offer special discounts or joint promotions with these partners to incentivize new riders.
 - Display promotional materials in partner establishments.
- **VIP VRE Monthly Digital Newsletter:**
 - Launch the first VIP VRE monthly digital newsletter to engage with current riders and inform them about service updates and exclusive offers.
 - Include exclusive content, such as rider stories, service highlights, and special promotions.
- **Direct Mail Campaign:**
 - Send direct mail to over 10,000 households within our service area.
 - Use eye-catching and informative materials to introduce our services.
- **Data Collection and Analysis:**
 - Continuously collect data on ridership, engagement with digital ads, and the success of partnerships.
 - Use this data to make informed adjustments to the marketing strategy throughout the campaign period.
 - Measure the return on investment to ensure that the allocated resources are used effectively.

- Ongoing Promotion:
 - Maintain a consistent online presence with regular social media updates, paid advertisement, marketing emails, and engaging content.

By combining the Fare Free Friday promotion with a multifaceted marketing approach that leverages digital, social, local partnerships, and direct mail, we aim to increase ridership and introduce our services to new riders. The continuous collection and analysis of data will allow us to adapt our strategy for optimal results.

WABA - WASHINGTON AREA BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

www.waba.org

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) empowers people to ride bikes, build connections and transform places. Our vision is a just and sustainable transportation system where biking, walking, and transit are the best ways to get around.

WABA's programs from youth and adult education to grassroots community organizing, engage residents in Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, and Washington, DC. More than six thousand dues-paying members have helped WABA transform bicycling in the region again and again over its 50-year history.

Key Goals & Strategies Needed to Pursue the Mission & Vision

We have identified four strategic goals and related strategies and objectives to guide progress toward our Vision and Mission over the next five years (2021-2025)

Goal 1: Empower People to Engage & Take Action

- Expand WABA's role as a thought leader in the region
- Develop and grow volunteer leadership
- Deepen engagement through creativity and innovation
- Provide additional opportunities for people to shape WABA's direction
- Invest in community-led initiatives

Goal 2: Generate Broad Public Support for Bicycling

- Normalize bicycling and actively promote a more inclusive bicycling community
- Serve as the stewards of bicycling education in the region
- Expand our engagement in existing coalitions
- Embrace issues aligned with our work

Goal 3: Build Political Power

- Encourage supporters to run for and win elections
- Elected officials champion our issues
- Train and support volunteer advocates to plan, lead, and win campaigns

Goal 4: Strengthen and Sustain WABA

- Membership and Fundraising strategy
- Make WABA a great place to work

TDM Calendar of Events for FY 2024

September 2023	50 States Ride DC Bike Ride TDM Week Park(ing) Day Car Free Day
October 2023	Commuter Connections Regional TDM Fall Campaign Open Streets DC – Georgia Avenue NW Rideshare Month Walk & Ride Challenge Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day
November 2023	The Cider Ride
February 2024	Commuter Connections Regional TDM Spring Campaign
April 2024	Earth Day
May 2024	Bike to Work Day
June 2024	Employer Recognition Awards Ceremony Dump the Pump Day

CURRENT PROFILE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Inner Core	District of Columbia
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitol Hill • Capitol Riverfront • Columbia Heights • Downtown DC • Dupont Circle • Farragut Square • Friendship Heights • Georgetown • McMillan / Old Soldiers Home • Monumental Core • NoMa • Rhode Island Ave • Southwest Waterfront • St Elizabeth's • U / 14th Corridor • Walter Reed • Westend
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brookland • Capitol Heights/ Addison Rd Metros • Fort Totten • H St • Minnesota Ave • New York Ave Corridor • Poplar Point • Stadium Armory
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benning Road • Congress Heights
Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-395/I-295 • I-66 (Roosevelt Bridge) • Rt. 50 (New York Ave) • Rt 1 (Rhode Island Ave & 14th St) • Woodrow Wilson Bridge • East Capitol Street • All Major Arterials
Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpools • Car Sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zipcar ○ Free2Move ○ GetAround

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commuter Rail- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VRE ○ MARC ○ Amtrak • Bicycling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Capital Bikeshare ○ Bike racks on sidewalks ○ Bike racks on buses ○ Bike on rail ○ Bike lanes & trails ○ ADA bike ramps ○ Bike Map • Micromobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shared dockless e-scooters ○ Shared dockless e-bikes • Telework/Hybrid • Flextime Rewards • HOV lanes • Rental cars • Transit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bus-only lanes ○ Local and express buses ○ Metrobus ○ Metrorail • Vanpools • Taxicabs • 'Pool Rewards • Walking • Mobile Commuter Stores
Current Marketing Conducted Locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly Newsletter • Employer Email Blasts Promoting goDCgo Services • Employer webinars by goDCgo • goDCgo Transportation All-star program • Try Transit and Bike Incentives • Bicycle friendly businesses • WMATA Cooperative Marketing for Special Events • Car Free Day • Bike to Work Day • goDCgo.com • Marketing collateral disseminated through direct mail & events • Social Media

RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Inner Core	District of Columbia
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycling • Micromobility (e-bikes and escooters) • Capital Bikeshare • Carpools • Mass Transit: bus, commuter rail, Metrorail, commuter bus • DC Circulator • goDCgo.com • goDCgo Employer Services • SmartBenefits • Vanpools • 'Pool Rewards • CommuterCash
Target Audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Owners/Managers • Chamber/Trade Organizations • Schools • Private Sector Employers with 100+ employees • Residents in high SOV zip codes • Tourists/Visitors
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate interest by employers for the productivity gains from adopting various transportation benefits in their organization • Generate interest in the wide variety of transportation options in the District encourage greater use
Recommended Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Commuter Connections with Bike to Work Day event • Advertising programs will focus on goDCgo.com, Capital Bikeshare, and other sharing (carsharing, sharing the road). • Regular marketing to employers in the District through e-blasts and direct mail. • Monthly e-newsletter to employers and general public. • Direct work with partner organizations to market program. • Public relations effort and promotions to improve awareness of commuting alternatives and the safety net of GRH and success stories achieved by enrolled users. • Rotate radio ads for fall and spring campaign that focus on the overall services of Commuter Connections as well as the specific services including ridesharing, GRH and Transit. • Web Banners on several sites • Promote CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, CommuterCash, and 'Pool Rewards incentive programs.

	Commuter Connections Mass Marketing TDM Program Element <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directory listings in print and online phonebooks • Quarterly newsletter to employers and Federal agencies • Strategic Plan update in Fall • Updating all collateral with changes throughout year • Web site marketing
Language(s)	English and Spanish
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIDs • COG • MARC • VRE • VDRPT • WABA • WMATA
Evaluation	TDM Impact Report for goDCgo

CURRENT PROFILE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Inner Core	City of Alexandria
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beauregard • Braddock Road Metro Area • Carlyle / Eisenhower East • King Street / Old Town • Landmark / Van Dorn • Potomac Yard
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Landing • Mark Center • Cameron Station
Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rt. 1 • George Wash Pkwy • I-95/I-395/I-495 • Duke Street • King Street • Seminary Rd. • Woodrow Wilson Bridge • Glebe Road • Mount Vernon Ave
Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOAlex program • Web site: www.alexandriava.gov/GoAlex • Alexandria Mobile Store • AMTRAK • Bike Paths • Bike Racks/Lockers • Capital Bikeshare • CaBi For All • Community Partners Program • Carpools/Vanpools • DASH • Fairfax Connector • HOV lanes • WMATA SmartBenefits • Plu\$50 • Metrobus/Metrorail • Metroway • Paratransit • Telework assistance • VRE • Walking paths

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trip Planning • Free King Street Trolley
Current Marketing Conducted Locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook, Instagram, X • Facebook Ads and post boosting • GOAlex collateral materials • Bus interior ads • Chamber of Commerce networking • Community outreach at local events • GOAlex and e-News • Newsletters • Local government access cable channel • Transportation fairs • Literature Display campaign • Grass Roots Marketing Campaign • Bus Ride Guides

RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Inner Core	Alexandria City
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go Alex program • www.alexandriava.gov/GOAlex • Old Town Transit Shop • AMTRAK • Bike Paths • Bike Racks/Lockers • Capital Bikeshare • Carpools/vanpools • CarpoolNow • DASH • Fairfax Connector • HOV lanes • Literature displays at community facilities • Metrobus/Metrorail • VRE • Walking paths • Display campaign • eNews • Trip planning • CommuterCash • E-bike charging • E-Bike rebate • E-Bike Library
Target Audiences	<p>Work End: Businesses with emphasis on private sector employers with 100+ employees</p> <p>Home End: Residents in high SOV zip codes</p> <p>Other: Visitors</p>
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with employers on implementing or expanding a transportation benefits program to decrease the number of SOV commuters to worksite.
Recommended Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike to Work Day event • Advertising programs will focus on multiple modes including telework, transit, walking/bicycling, vanpooling and carpooling and the time-saving benefits of HOV

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public relations effort and promotions to increase awareness of transportation options and supplemental programs, such as GRH and Carshare Alexandria! • Collect testimonials from those using alternative transportation and supplemental programs for use in marketing material, web sites, and media campaigns. • Promote CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, CommuterCash, and 'Pool Rewards incentive programs • Create strategies for measuring impact, including those that leverage the use of such technologies as Streetlight and TDM ROI calculators
Language(s)	English, Spanish, Amharic
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) • COG • Commuter Connections • DASH • DRPT • Jurisdictional TDM representatives • Numerous business and civic representatives • NVTC • VDOT • VRE • WABA • WMATA
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate based on ridematches • Evaluate web visits for commuterconnections.org • Evaluate web visits on Go Alex web site • Survey commuters who register with Commuter Connections • Annual Survey of Transportation Management Plan sites • Brochure tracking • Pledge tracking • Customer Engagements at events • Facebook statistics • Rideshare Database matches

CURRENT PROFILE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Inner Core	Arlington County
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballston • Clarendon • Court House • Crystal City • Pentagon • Pentagon City • Rosslyn • Virginia Square
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailey's Crossroads / Western Gateway • City of Falls Church • Columbia Pike Town Center • Columbia Pike Village Center • Shirlington
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Landing
Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-66 • U.S. Rt. 1 • I-395 • Rt. 29 • Rt. 50 • Columbia Pike
Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commuter Stores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ballston ○ Crystal City ○ Rosslyn ○ Shirlington ○ Mobile Commuter Stores • Metrobus • Arlington Transportation Partners employer, residential, developer, and hotelier services • ART- Arlington Transit • Capital Bikeshare • Scooters/bikeshare • Bike/Walk Paths • Bike Racks/Lockers • CommuterDirect.com • CommuterPage.com • CarFreeDiet.com • CarFreeNearMe.com • Carpools

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CarpoolNow • Carshare – Zipcar • HOV lanes • Metrorail • Slug lines • Vanpools • VRE • ‘Pool Rewards
Current Marketing Conducted Locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Apps • Telework • Transportation fairs • Arlington cable TV • Metrobus collateral • ART promotion • ATP collateral • Direct Mail Program • Email alerts • Blogs and websites • Videos • Newspaper ads • On-Board bus interiors • Quarterly newsletter and packages for employers • Retail kiosks and point-of-purchase displays • Sponsorship of local community events • Subway tunnel 2-sheets advertising • Postings on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and X • Car Free Day • Bike to Work Day • Walk and Bike to School Day • Facebook, YouTube, Instagram & Google ads • Street Team events • Transit Displays

RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTER/CLUSTERS	
Inner Core	Arlington County
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ART Bus/Metrobus/Metrorail/VRE • Bicycling and walking • Capital Bikeshare • Scooters and Bikeshare • The Commuter Stores in Ballston, Crystal City, Rosslyn, and Shirlington • Mobile Commuter Stores at Courthouse, Pentagon, Pentagon City, Clarendon, Walter Reed Drive, and Ashton Heights • Carshare vehicles – Zipcar • Slug lines • Vanpools/Carpools/HOV • 'Pool Rewards • CarpoolNow • Flextime Rewards • CommuterCash
Target Audiences	<p>Work End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers and their employees <p>Home End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in high SOV zip codes
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate interest by employers for providing Commuter Benefits to their employees and generate interest in employers with existing programs to provide more benefits and move up a level. • Inform residents, employees, and visitors about transit and TDM options.
Recommended Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use ATP's web site, CommuterDirect.com Corporate Services and Brochure Service to supplement sales force to work with employers • Champions program • Bike to Work Day event • Walk at Lunch Day event • Advertising programs will focus on multiple modes including telework, using transit, bicycling, walking, carsharing, vanpooling and carpooling and the time-saving benefits of HOV • Public relations effort and promotions to improve awareness of commuting alternatives and the safety net of GRH and success stories achieved by enrolled users • Web banners on several sites

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media Postings • Promote CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, CommuterCash, and 'Pool Rewards incentive programs <p>Commuter Connections Mass Marketing TDM Program Element</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly e-newsletter to employers and federal agencies • Strategic plan update in fall • Updating all collateral with changes throughout year • Web site marketing
Language(s)	English
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arlington County Department of Economic Development • ART - Arlington Transit • Capital Bikeshare • COG • Local Business Groups including Rosslyn BID, Clarendon Alliance, Ballston BID, Crystal City BID, National Landing BID and Columbia Pike Partnership • NVTC • NVTa • WMATA and all local transit and commuter bus providers • VDOT • VDRPT • WABA

CURRENT PROFILE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Northern Virginia	Fairfax Co/Fairfax City/Falls Church
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailey's Crossroads / Western Gateway • Beltway South • Centreville • City of Falls Church • Dulles East • Dulles South • Fairfax Center • Fairfax City • Fairfax Innovation Center • Fort Belvoir • Fort Belvoir North Area • Herndon • McLean • Merrifield Dunn Loring • Reston Town Center • Springfield • Tysons Central 123 • Tysons Central 7 • Tysons East • Tysons West • Wiehle-Reston East
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annandale • Beacon Groveton • GMU • Huntington / Penn Daw • Hybla Valley / Gum Springs • Seven Corners • Vienna
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burke • Chantilly • Dulles/Route 28 • Fair Oaks • Greensboro Station Area • Lorton • McLean Station Area • Mount Vernon • Springhill Station Area
Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braddock Road • Columbia Pike • Dulles Toll Road • Fairfax County Parkway

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-66 • I-66 Express Lanes • I-395 • I-495 • 495 Express Lanes • I-95 (HOV) • 95 Express Lanes • Rt. 1/Richmond Highway • Rt. 123 • Rt. 236/Little River Turnpike • Rt. 28 • Rt. 29/Lee Rt. 50 • Rt. 7/Leesburg Pike Highway
Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike Fairfax Program • Capital Bikeshare • Carpools • CarpoolNow • Casual Carpools (slugs) • Fairfax City CUE Bus • Fairfax Connector • Metrobus • REX bus • TAGS bus • Metrorail • VRE • ShuttlePools • GIS density plots • SmartBenefits Plus50 Program • Commuter Friendly Communities Program • Best Workplaces for Commuters Program • DATA E3Calc • 'Pool Rewards • Flextime Rewards • Park and Rides • Bike and Ride • Kiss and Rides • Bike & Pedestrian trails • Casual carpooling (slug lines) • Ridematching • Reserved parking for car & vanpools • Telework/Co-working Centers • TMA partners (DATA, LINK, TAGS, TYTRAN) • Six Connector Transit Stores • Free Student Bus Pass • Connecting VA (previously Telework!VA) Tax Credit • Regional GRH • Vanpools

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanpool Property Tax Relief
Current Marketing Conducted Locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of suite of program brochures • Subscription TDM alerts/ announcements • Bus interior and exteriors • Cable TV ads • Radio ads • Movie theater ads • Videos online & on county cable • Gas Station Ads • Streaming Services • Social media advertising • Digital advertising (i.e. Google partner/pay per click) • Text/email alerts • Vanpool formation presentations • E-mail newsletter • Local community fairs & events • Special promotions for Try Transit Week, Car Free Day, Dump the Pump, Bike to Work Day, etc. • Social media posts/tweets • Website pages • HOV model display • Membership meetings • News releases/Media pitches • Print ads in local newspapers • Direct mail to households near park & rides, bus routes • Posters and Tri-fold Tabletop posters • Distribution of bus schedules • Presentations to business groups • Best Workplaces for Commuters ceremony in front of County Board of Supervisors • Transportation fairs • Employer events • Open houses/town meetings/public mtgs Ads in Fort Belvoir directory • DATA Live More Commute Less SM website & publications • DATA employer Council and EC Blog

RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Northern Virginia	Fairfax County/Fairfax City/Falls Church
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpools and vanpools • Best Workplaces for Commuters • Bicycling, Bike Fairfax, Capital Bikeshare • CarpoolNow • DATA and Fairfax County services • Flextime Rewards • Guaranteed Ride Home • HOV Lanes • 'Pool Rewards • ShuttlePools • SmartBenefits Plus50 • Teleworking • Connecting VA (previously Telework!VA) tax credit • Transit - VRE, Metrobus, Fairfax Connector, Metrorail, Medical • Center Shuttle to Metrorail Station • CommuterCash
Target Audiences	<p>Work End:</p> <p>Chamber/trade organizations</p> <p>Dulles International Airport</p> <p>New businesses located in the region</p> <p>Private sector employees</p> <p>University Center</p> <p>Westfield's International Center</p> <p>Home End:</p> <p>Residents in high SOV zip codes</p>

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate interest from employers for benefits of offering TDM strategies to employees • Entice SOV residents/employees to try alternative modes • Generate interest of employers for the productivity gains from adopting Commuter Connections' "benefit package" including GRH, SmartBenefits, and teleworking. • Generate interest in surveying and subsidies to save on parking costs and assist employees with solution to traffic congestion • Increase awareness of benefits of HOV/Express Lanes
Recommended Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage partner organizations/cross-marketing opportunities • GRH targeted employer promotion • SmartBenefits Plus50 Incentive Program • Multi-pronged, scalable in-and out-of-home advertising campaigns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Movie theater, gas station, and digital extension ads ○ Geo-targeted social media ads, posts and engagement ○ Traditional media advertising including print, radio (on-air), TV ○ Digital advertising including Google, pay-per-click ○ Outdoor advertising including bus ads, bus shelter ads, digital displays, etc. ○ Other platforms as they become available • Recognition by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to employers who qualify for Best Workplaces for Commuters • Bike to Work Day events • Promotions for Try Transit Week, Car Free Day, Dump the Pump Day, Earth Day • Participation in community and business fairs and events • Promote CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, CommuterCash, and 'Pool Rewards incentive programs <p>Operations Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly newsletter to employers and federal agencies • Strategic plan update in fall • Updating all collateral with changes throughout year • Web site marketing
Language(s)	English, Spanish, Korean

Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Legion • Best Workplaces for Commuters (NCTR) • COG • DATA • ENTERPRISE VANS • FABB • Fairfax County Commuter Services • Fairfax CUE • Fairfax County Employer Services • Health fair schedulers/coordinators LINK • MEGA PROJECTS • MWAA/Dulles Rail Partners NVTC • TAGS • Tysons Partnership • Springfield Mall • VDOT • VDRPT • VRE • VRide
Partner Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commuter Benefit Programs • Vanpooling Efforts • GRH service • Local Transit Services • Match Program • Incentive Programs • Promotional Materials • Ridematching Services
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate call reports for 800-745-RIDE • Evaluate web hits for commuterconnections.org • Evaluate web hits for www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation • Evaluate ridership figures from providers

CURRENT PROFILE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Northern Virginia	Loudoun County
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashburn • Ashburn Station • Dulles Town Center • Leesburg • RT 28 Central • RT 28 South
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arcola • Loudoun Gateway Station • RT 28 North
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brambleton • Dulles South • North of Dulles Airport • One Loudoun • Sterling
Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rt. 7 • Rt. 9 • Rt. 15 • Rt. 28 • Rt. 50 • Dulles Greenway • Loudoun County Pkwy
Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpool • Commuter Connections Incentive programs • Employer Services • GRH • Loudoun County Transit (local fixed route service, commuter bus service, paratransit) • Park & Ride Lots • Silver Line Metro • Bike to Work Day • Best Workplaces for Commuters • Employee Density Maps • Bicycle locker rental program • SmartBenefits Plu\$50 (for employers) • Connecting VA (previously Telework!VA) • TransitApp • SmarTrip®
Current Marketing Conducted Locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email alerts to bus passengers • News releases

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transportation fairs• Community events• Web site• Transportation informational displays• Posters at park and ride lot bus shelters• Facebook page• Best Workplaces for Commuters• Commuter Shortcuts• e-newsletter• Individual employer events• Workforce Development Month presentations
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RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Northern Virginia	Loudoun County
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpool • Loudoun County Transit • Vanpool • Bicycle commuting • Silver Line Metro • Guaranteed Ride Home • Commuter Connections Ridematching Service • Best Workplaces for Commuters • SmartBenefits®
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase enrollment in Commuter Connections and GRH • Increase transit ridership. • Reduce drive-alone commuting to and from Loudoun County
Recommended Marketing Strategy	Expand awareness to increase ridership on local transit with 21 new bus routes implemented in mid-FY23. Expand awareness of all commuting options in Loudoun County. Awareness will increase through paid media campaigns including print, digital, radio, events, etc.
Language(s)	English/Spanish
Partners	COG Loudoun Workforce Resource Center Loudoun County Economic Development Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce VDOT VDRPT WMATA
Evaluation	LCCS will quantify the number of new Commuter Connections accounts and new Guaranteed Ride Home registrations in Loudoun County. LCCS will track the number of customer calls and emails regarding transit and shared rides. Loudoun County Transit ridership and park and ride lot use will be evaluated.

CURRENT PROFILE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Northern Virginia	Prince William County/Manassas/Manassas Park
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Manassas • City of Manassas Regional Airport • Gainesville • Innovation • Potomac Town Center / Potomac Mills
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manassas Park • North Woodbridge • Potomac Shores • Yorkshire
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Mason University Prince William Campus • Haymarket • Local Hospitals • Manassas Mall • Old Town Manassas • Quantico Marine Corps Base • Route 1 Corridor
Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rt. 234 • Rt. 294 • Rt. 1 • I-95 • I-66 • Rt. 28 • Rt. 29 • Rt. 15 • Rt. 17
Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpool • CarpoolNow • Casual carpooling – “Slugs” • Cycling to Park & Ride; PW Parkway Trail • OmniRide Employer Services • GRH • Express lanes • SmartBenefits • OmniRide Express • OmniRide Metro Express • OmniRide Local • OmniRide East-West Express • OmniRide Access Paratransit • OmniRide Connect Microtransit

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OmniRide's Ridesharing Service • On-The-Go travel training program • Wheel-to-Wellness medical transportation program • Park & Ride • 'Pool Rewards • Flextime Rewards • Vanpool Property Tax Relief • Vanpool • Vanpool Alliance • VanSave/VanStart • VRE
Current Marketing Conducted Locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community papers • Hispanic church bulletins • Hispanic newspaper • Direct mail • Employer outreach • Highway signage • OmniNews newsletter • News media – print and online • Poster in employer sites • Press release • New Rider kits to new homeowners • Messages on phone hold service • Articles in jurisdictional and HOA newsletters • Hispanic radio ads • Online ads on hyper local websites • On-board Notices • Special promos: Bike to Work Day; Dump the Pump Day; various transit fairs; community outreach events; Senior community presentations; Youth outreach programs targeted to children ages 4-19; PWC new teacher orientation day; Transition fairs for parents of disabled children • Web site • Rider Express e-Alert system • Facebook and LinkedIn

RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Northern Virginia	Prince William County/Manassas/Manassas Park
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casual Carpools (Slugs) GRH HOV/Express Lanes I-95 and I-66 NuRide OmniRide Local & OmniRide East-West Express for local bus travel OmniRide Express & OmniRide Metro Express for commuters OmniRide Access paratransit OmniRide Connect Microtransit Wheels-to-Wellness medical transportation program Park & Ride lots 'Pool Rewards CarpoolNow Flextime Rewards Rider Express e-mail service Ridesharing, vanpools, carpools: OmniRide Ridesharing
Target Audiences	<p>Home End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents in high SOV zip codes <p>Work End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employers of 100 or more employees
Objective	Increase brand recognition, awareness of ridesharing, benefits of GRH, time savings of I-495 Express lanes and I-95 HOV
Recommended Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike To Work Day event Direct mail programs in fall and spring will focus on Commuter Connections overall services with an emphasis on ridesharing with the support GRH. Program will target specific zip codes. Public relations effort and promotions to improve awareness of commuting alternatives and the safety net of GRH and success stories achieved by enrolled users Rotate radio ads for fall and spring campaign that focus on the overall services of Commuter Connections as well as the specific services including ridesharing, GRH and Transit Web banners on several sites Outreach to Hispanic community Interaction through social media -- Facebook Promote CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, CommuterCash, and 'Pool Rewards incentive programs <p>Operations Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directory listings in print and online phonebooks Quarterly newsletter to employers and federal agencies Strategic Plan update in fall Updating all collateral with changes throughout year Website marketing

Language(s)	English and Spanish
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COG • NVTC • OmniRide Local • OmniRide Express • PRTC • VDOT • VDRPT • VPSI • VRE
Partners Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free rides on OmniRide services • Free rides on VRE
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate call reports for 800-745-RIDE • Evaluate Web hits on commuterconnections.org • Evaluate applications received for ridesharing information through Commuter Connections and OmniRide Ridesharing programs. • Evaluate activity of Customer Service call center. • Area residents participate in the State of Commuter survey. • Annual surveys on OmniRide buses and VRE trains.

CURRENT PROFILE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Suburban Maryland	Frederick County
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Frederick • Fort Detrick • Francis Scott Key Mall
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brunswick • East Frederick Rising • Golden Mile • Jefferson Tech Park • Urbana
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballenger Creek/Route 85 Corridor • Emmitsburg • North Frederick (Dearbought, Homeland, Waterside, Wormans Mill) • Middletown and Myersville • New Market/ Oakdale area • Walkersville
Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-270 • I-70 • U.S. 15 • U.S. 340 • MD 26 • MD 85
Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transit Connector and Shuttle Services • Transit-plus Paratransit Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TAP-Taxi Access Program • Four Frederick County MARC Stations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brunswick MARC line ○ Transit Meet-the-MARC Shuttles (Point of Rocks and Walkersville) • Commuter Buses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MTA 505 & 515 ○ MTA 204 to College Park • Intercity Bus and Regional Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Park & Ride Lots ○ Bay Runner Shuttle • Medical Assistance Transportation through the Frederick County Health Department • Commuter Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vanpool Incentive Program ○ Transportation Fairs & On-Site Ridematching Services ○ Maryland Commuter Choice Tax Credit ○ Guaranteed Ride Home Program ○ Trip Planning Services • Employer Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carpool and Vanpool ○ Bicycling

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alternative Commutes and Active Transportation ○ Automated Vehicle Location App • Internal Tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Voiance phone call translation service ○ Velocity credit card system
Current Marketing Conducted Locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State Legislative Reception- Annapolis ○ Design-An-Ad campaign with middle/high school students from Frederick County Public Schools • Spring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ft. Detrick's Earth Day Celebration ○ ThermoFisher Scientific Earth Day Celebration ○ AstraZeneca Earth Day Celebration ○ Frederick County Commuter Appreciation Event ○ Frederick Community College Transitioning Fair ○ Get On Board Day ○ Bike to Work Day • Summer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Block parties ○ School supply drives and distributions ○ Back to school outreach ○ Local Radio Stations 99.9 & 103.1 morning and afternoon traffic sponsorship • Fall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pledge Promotion for Car Free Day ○ In the Street Community Fair ○ Frederick County Fair ○ Frederick Community College table display ○ Hood College Graduate Fair ○ Business Appreciation Week ○ Annual holiday bus • Throughout the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Television ads on County's public access channel for transit ○ Daily online ads on social media and other online platforms for Transit and Rideshare ○ Print/Radio Ads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Publications distributed to Department of Aging and Independence, Frederick County Guide, Fort Detrick visitors, and new staff ○ Community Outreach Events ○ Online ads promoting GRH, rideshare and vanpooling ○ Mobile ad scroll ads focused on events and programs ○ Transit bus interior cards for Guaranteed Ride Home

RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Suburban Maryland	Frederick County
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpool formation and rideshare • Public Transit • Telecommuting/Teleworking • Vanpools with an Incentive Program
Target Audiences	<p>Work End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers with 100 or more employees • Employers with second or third shift employees <p>Home End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residences along existing or planned Transit routes • Residents who have recently moved to area • Residents in high SOV zip codes
Objective	Increase awareness of benefits of GRH, vanpool subsidy, and accessibility, safety, reliability, and convenience of transit
Recommended Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike To Work Day event • Online advertising and digital ads in fall and spring will focus on Commuter Connections' overall services with an emphasis on ridesharing with GRH support. Program will target specific zip codes and demographics. • Public relations effort and promotions to improve awareness of commuting alternatives and the safety net of GRH and success stories achieved by enrolled users • Rotate radio ads for fall and spring campaign that focus on the overall services of Commuter Connections as well as the specific services including ridesharing, GRH, Telework and Transit • Web banners, social mirrors, digital natives on several sites • Promote incentive programs like CommuterCash <p>Federal, state, and local employer presence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly newsletter to employers and Federal agencies • Updating all collateral with changes throughout year • Website marketing <p>Telework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support via newsletter • Lunch and learn event for HR coordinators and benefits representatives

Language(s)	English, with numerous materials in Spanish
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWCOG • Commute with Enterprise • Frederick County and the City of Frederick • MDOT, MTA • Association of Commuter Transportation • Transportation Association of Maryland
Partner Contributions	In-kind advertising, including GRH promotional materials on Transit
Evaluation	Evaluate calls, impressions, CTR, and web page view reports

**CURRENT PROFILE OF
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS**

Suburban Maryland	Montgomery County
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethesda • Friendship Heights • Gaithersburg – Central • Gaithersburg – Kentlands • Gaithersburg - Metropolitan Grove • Germantown • Kensington • King Farm / Rockville Research Center • Life Sciences Center / Gaithersburg-Crown • NIH / Walter Reed National Military Medical Center • Olney • Rock Spring • Rockville - Montgomery College • Rockville - South / Twinbrook • Rockville - Town Center • Silver Spring • Wheaton • White Flint • White Oak / FDA
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarksburg • Glenmont • Grosvenor • Rockville - Tower Oaks • Takoma Park
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route 29 Corridor
Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-270 • I-495 • US-29 • MD 117 • MD 118 • MD 124 • MD 185 • MD 193 • MD 355 • MD 410 • MD 650 • MD 97 • MD 200

Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information regarding six Transportation Management Districts (TMDs): Silver Spring, N. Bethesda, Bethesda, Friendship Heights, Greater Shady Grove (including Life Sciences Center), White Oak • Biennial employee surveys • Bike Trails • Bike Racks • Capital BikeShare Stations • Dockless Bikeshare pilot project in defined areas of the County • MARC stations • Carpool parking and discounts in County- operated facilities in Silver Spring, Wheaton & Bethesda • TRiPS Commuter Store at Silver Spring Metro Station • TRiPS Mobile Commuter Store (circulates to various locations around the County daily) • Express Buses • FareShare employer transit subsidy program • Flash rapid transit service • Flex Microtransit – On-Call serving two areas: Wheaton/Glenmont & Rockville using booking app • GRH Program • HOV lane on I-270 • Metrorail • Park & Ride Lots • Personalized ride matching, trip planning, & follow-up • 'Pool Rewards • Ride On local bus service • Ride On extRa limited stop service • Downtown Circulators in Silver Spring and Bethesda • Telework Consulting: Free use of professional telework consultants for employers • MD Commuter Tax Credit for Employers: 50% tax credit for cost of transit/vanpool subsidies to employees • MC Home Telecommuting Tax Credit • Transportation Fairs & Commuter Information Days • Traffic Mitigation Agreements with Developers for New Projects • Employer TDM Plans for Employers in TMDs
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<p>Current Marketing Conducted Locally</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>August</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ethnic Heritage Event ○ Customer Appreciation Day at Metro station or transit center ○ Germantown Community Day • <i>September</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Car Free Day ○ Outdoor Ad Campaign ○ Customer Appreciation Day at Metro station or transit center ○ Park-ING Day • <i>October</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Walk & Ride ○ Biennial Commuter Survey (At times may be conducted in Spring vs. Fall) ○ Ride On Rodeo ○ Radio Ads on GRH ○ Customer Appreciation Day at Metro station or transit center ○ Ride On extRa and Flash anniversaries • <i>March</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ride On anniversary • <i>April</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Earth Day, Earth Week, Earth Month ○ Annual Food Drive • <i>May</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Works Week ○ Bike to Work Day ○ GreenFest • <i>June</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clean Air Partners ○ Customer Appreciation Day at Metro station or transit center • <i>Throughout the year:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ride On bus interior cards, bus exteriors, bus shelter ads ○ Chamber ads ○ Chamber events: Business Expos and networking events; ○ Street Banners, Posters ○ Employer worksite events, including Commuter Information Days, benefit fairs, special theme events ○ Community Outreach Events ○ Capital Bikeshare promotional events ○ Social media ○ Advisory Committee Meetings – for all TMDs ○ Carsharing parking spaces (39) ○ Social Media Postings ○ Web site – changing features ○ E-Newsletter – issued monthly for commuter services and Bi- monthly for Ride On ○ Events in multi-unit residential complexes ○ Bike training classes ○ E-scooter training classes ○ FareShare transit/vanpool subsidy matching
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RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Suburban Maryland	Montgomery County
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycling • Bikesharing • Carpools/Vanpools • Commuter Services Section • TRiPS Commuter Store in Silver Spring Metro Station and Mobile Commuter Store at various locations around the County daily • HOV lanes • Public Transit - Metrorail, Metrobus, Ride On, MARC rail, VanGo Shuttle, Bethesda Circulator • Silver Spring TMD (SSTMD) • Friendship Heights TMD (FHTMD) • Greater Shady Grove TMD (GSGTMD) • North Bethesda TMD (NBTMD) operated by TAP under contract to County • Bethesda TMD (BTMD) operated by BUP under contract to County • Maryland Commuter Tax Credit • Smart Benefits Programs • 'Pool Rewards • Telework/telecommuting • FareShare • CommuterCash
Target Audiences	<p>Work End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chamber/Trade Organizations • Private employers with 100+ employees; Private employers with 25+ employees • Real Estate and relocation companies • Office building management/leasing agents • Major retailers • Human Resources departments & associations • Commuters at CIDs and other events

	<p>Home End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents in high SOV zip codes proximate to transit throughout the County, especially Silver Spring/Takoma Park, Wheaton, North Bethesda, Shady Grove/Life Sciences Center; I- 270 & Rt. 29 Corridors Residents in multi-family residences in NBTMD, BTMD, GSGTMD (where residential as well as employee goals have been set) and in transit/activity centers.
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve traffic congestion and address climate change, air quality and other environmental concerns in Montgomery County by encouraging employers to adopt high-level commuting benefits and complete an Employer Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan, and by encouraging alternative transportation use among SOV commuters. Generate interest by employers in the recruitment/retention/productivity gains from adopting County/Commuter Connections' "benefit packages" including GRH, transit subsidies, ridematching, and teleworking. Generate interest in surveying and subsidies to save on parking costs and assist employees with solutions to traffic congestion Increase awareness of benefits of GRH, time savings from HOV lanes and convenience and cost-savings of transit, pooling, other alternatives including telework
Recommended Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bike to Work Day event Bikesharing Promotions Bike 2 College Day Public relations effort and promotions to improve awareness of commuting alternatives and the safety net of GRH, and success stories achieved by enrolled users Rotate radio ads for fall and spring campaign that focus on the overall services of Commuter Connections as well as the specific services including ridesharing, GRH and Transit Ride On bus exterior ads, interior cards and bus shelters Monthly WMAL 30 second Ride On radio spots Web Banners on several sites Social media postings Print and digital media ads Strategic Plan update in fall Updating all collateral with changes throughout year Web site marketing Radio spots Updated collaterals Bi-monthly <i>Better Ways To Work</i> e-newsletter to employers and federal agencies Walk & Ride Car Free Day Promote CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, CommuterCash, and 'Pool Rewards incentive programs

Partners	City of Gaithersburg City of Rockville City of Takoma Park Glenstone Museum MARC MDOT M-NCPPC MTA Ride On Vanpool companies WABA WMATA Chambers of Commerce
Language(s)	English, Spanish, Chinese; other languages to be considered
Partner Contributions	SmartBenefits Promotion of Commuter Connections Ridematching system by outreach teams GRH promotional materials on Ride On & MARC, plus by outreach teams Ride On bus exteriors, interior cards, bus shelters
Evaluation	Evaluate web, email and call reports – Direct & 311 Commuter surveys – Results & comments

**CURRENT PROFILE OF
REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS**

Suburban Maryland	Prince George's County
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowie • College Park • Landover Mall • Largo Town Center/ Morgan Blvd • National Harbor • New Carrollton • Port Towns • Prince George's Plaza • Suitland Metro
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowie MARC • Branch Ave • Capitol Heights/Addison Rd Metros • Greenbelt • Konterra • Landover Metro • Langley Park • Naylor/Southern Metros • Oxon Hill • West Hyattsville Metro • Westphalia
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accokeek • Joint Base Andrews • Bowie State University • Bowie Town Center • Fairlands Sports and Aquatics Complex • Fort Washington • Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center • Howard B. Owens Science Center • NASA/ Goddard Space Flight Center • National Wildlife Visitor Center • Prince George's Community College • Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex • Riverdale Park • Rosecroft • Six Flags America • Southern Area Aquatics and Recreation Complex • University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center Largo • Upper Marlboro • Watkins Regional Park • Woodmore Towne Center

Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-495 • I-95 • MD 5 • MD 410 • U.S. 50 • U.S. 301 • BW Parkway • US Route 1 • MD Route 210 • MD 458 • MD 202 • MD 4 • MD 450 • MD 193 • MD 214
Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike Trails and paths • Carpools • Capital Bikeshare • Vanpools • Express Buses • GRH • MARC (Camden & Penn Line) • Metrorail, Metrobus • Park and Ride Lots • Personalized Ride Matching • 'Pool Rewards • CarpoolNow • CommuterCash • Flextime Rewards • Telework Centers • <i>TheBus</i>- County Local Bus Service with free/reduced fares for youth, seniors, and people with disabilities • Real-time bus tracking (PGC Connect) • MTA 640 & 650 Bus to National Harbor and Washington DC • MTA 204 Bus to College Park • RTA routes 301, 302, 409, 502, 503 • Call-A-Bus and Call-A-Cab paratransit programs • PGC Link on-demand microtransit and TransLoc real-time tracking • Transportation fairs and on-site commuter events • MD Commuter Tax Credit • PGC Trip app • SchoolPool

<p>Current Marketing Conducted Locally</p>	<p>January-June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio commercials digital ads in apps, gas station and retail advertising <p>February: Love your commute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Winter Bike to Work Day (new for 2023) <p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Day Community Partner's Event • Distracted Driving Awareness • Get on Board for Transit <p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike to Work Day / Bike Month, • National Public Works Week <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Youth Employee's Orientations, <p>June- August:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Outreach events (Baysox, bike rodeos) • August • National Night Out, Back-to- School Events <p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County/State Fair, Hispanic Festival, Senior Picnic & Fitness Day, PARK(ing) Day, Car Free Day <p>October: Walktober</p> <p>October/November:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employer Benefits Fairs • Try the Bus fall promotion <p>Throughout the Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly incentives for new Commuter Connections/CommuterCash/CarpoolNow accounts • Capital Bikeshare promotional events • Website • SmartBenefits • Community Partner Meetings • Rider Advisory Committee • The Bus route marketing • Employer Outreach Events • E-News letters • Print/ Radio Ads • Digital ads on websites • Social media • Community Transportation Fairs • The Bus interior cards and digital screens & Bus Shelter ads • EDC/Chambers of Commerce Employer Outreach events • Housing Expo • Vendors Fair for Seniors • County Council Town Hall Meetings • County Executive Listening Sessions • Direct mail campaigns
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RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Suburban Maryland	Prince George's County
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpools • 'Pool Rewards • CarpoolNow • Flextime Rewards • Public Transit/pre-tax/subsidy/SmartBenefits • Telecommuting/Teleworking • Vanpools • Park & Ride Lots • CommuterCash • Guaranteed Ride Home • Bike commuting and Capital Bikeshare • Maryland Commuter Tax Credit
Target Audiences	<p>Work End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers with 100+ employees • Multi-tenant/business park employer centers • Employers located near transit centers and bike facilities • Employers moving into County • Employment supporting groups (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, Employ Prince George's) • Municipalities <p>Home End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents living in proximity of <i>TheBus</i> and Metro bus routes, transit stations, and Capital Bikeshare • Residents in or relocating to Impacted Activity Center Areas • Residents in high SOV and low <i>TheBus</i> ridership zip codes • Municipalities and community groups • Residents living in Equity areas
Objective	Increase awareness of commuting options, increase use of non-SOV modes, and increase awareness of and participation in GRH, ridesharing, and incentives by commuters and employers
Recommended Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events: Bike to Work Day, Car Free Day, Earth Day, Get on Board for Transit, Walktober, Distracted Driving Awareness Month, National Public Works Week, Clean Air/Ozone Action Days, Bike Rodeos and community bike events, Community Walks • Public relations effort and promotions to improve awareness of commuting alternatives and the safety net of GRH and success stories achieved by enrolled users

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising campaigns on radio, digital media (web banners and banner ads in apps), and print ads at gas stations and retail food locations to promote Commuter Connections as well as the specific services including ridesharing, GRH, Telework and Transit Web Banners on several sites Social media posts (occasional promoted posts) Promote CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, CommuterCash, and 'Pool Rewards incentive programs Direct marketing to employers through calls and mail campaigns Quarterly promotions to encourage transit use, ridesharing, and Commuter Connections app use Presentations to and participation in community/public events Hosting employer-focused roundtables <p>Operations Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly e-newsletter to employers Monthly e-newsletter to DPW&T <i>The Dispatch</i> subscribers Strategic Plan update in Fall Updating all collateral with changes throughout year Website marketing Print and digital ads on bus shelters and <i>TheBus</i> onboard digital screens and interior car cards <p>Telework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support via e-newsletter Promote Commuter Connections and Commuter Choice MD telework guides
Language(s)	English, Spanish, French
Partners	MwCOG Commuter Choice Maryland WMATA Capital Bikeshare Economic Development Groups PGC Departments (HR, Health Department, Housing and Community Development, Dept. of Environment) and M-NCPPC Employ Prince George's Municipalities and HOA/Civic Associations Universities Property Managers Employers
Partner Contributions	Co-present at commuter information sessions Share RideSmart program information through digital and print platforms Host events and offer opportunities to share RideSmart information

Evaluation	<p>Phone calls and email inquiries</p> <p>Website traffic</p> <p>Click-through rates on ads</p> <p>Click-through rates on e-newsletter links</p> <p>Number of program enrollments and re-enrollments</p> <p>Number of Capital Bikeshare members</p> <p>Number of employers using SmartBenefits (or TPA)</p> <p><i>TheBus</i> and other transit ridership</p>
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CURRENT PROFILE OF REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Southern Maryland	Charles County
Top Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Plata • Waldorf
Other Regional Activity Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a
Other Areas of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calvert County
Impacted Corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US 301 • MD 228 • MD 5
Available Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTA Commuter Buses • Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) Program • Vanpools • Carpools • Teleworking • 'Pool Rewards • CarpoolNow • Flextime Rewards • School Pool • Park and Ride Lots • VanGO • CommuterCash
Current Marketing Conducted Locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web site • Bike to Work Day • Car Free Day • Clean Commute Month • Employer Outreach • Maryland Commuter Tax Alternative • Smart Benefits • Seminars • Local fairs and events • Mail/email campaigns. • Local radio advertising • Local cable TV ads • Air Quality Action Days and Bike To Work Day • Clean Air Partnership school outreach • BRAC focus

RECOMMENDED MARKETING STRATEGIES FOR REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS	
Southern Maryland	Charles County
Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDOT/MTA Commuter Buses • Guaranteed Ride Home Program • Vanpools • Carpools • Teleworking • 'Pool Rewards • CarpoolNow • Flextime Rewards • School Pool • Park and Ride Lots • VanGO • CommuterCash
Target Audiences	<p>Work End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employers with 50 or more employees <p>Home End:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residences along service routes • Residents who have recently moved to area • Residents in high SOV zip codes
Objective	Increase awareness of benefits of GRH, vanpool subsidy, and convenience of transit
Recommended Marketing Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike to Work Day event • Direct mail programs in fall and spring will focus on Commuter Connections overall services with an emphasis on ridesharing with the support of GRH. Program will target specific zip codes. • Public relations effort and promotions to improve awareness of commuting alternatives and the safety net of GRH and success stories achieved by enrolled users • Rotate Comcast TV ads for fall and spring campaign that focus on the overall services of Commuter Connections and specific services including ridesharing, GRH, Telework and Transit • Web Banners on several sites • Promote CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, CommuterCash, and 'Pool Rewards incentive programs <p>Operations Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly newsletter to employers and Federal agencies • Strategic Plan update in Fall • Updating all collateral with changes throughout year • Web site marketing

	Telework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support via Newsletter
Language(s)	English
Partners	MWCOG, MDOT, MTA, SHA, MDTA, MVA, RMC, MDOC, MDP, Calvert, Charles, and St Mary's Counties

TDM RESEARCH SUMMARIES

Available research regarding information on alternative transportation products in the Washington metropolitan region and about behaviors and attitudes towards alternative transportation have been summarized and analyzed in the following section.

In order to design an effective marketing plan, we must first build the profile of our audience -- their commuting preferences based on their perceptions and their environment. Following are highlights from available research conducted from 2018 to current.

The summaries and analyses of the following research served to develop and refine the marketing strategy adopted for each impacted activity center and corridor previously described in this document.

RESEARCH SUMMARIES LISTED IN THIS SECTION:

- State of Public Transportation Report 2018
- Employer Satisfaction Survey 2019 (October 2019)
- Vanpool Drivers Survey Report 2020 (July 2020)
- GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey Report Baltimore Region FY20 (March 2021)
- GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey Report Washington, DC Region FY20 (March 2021)
- Applicant Database Annual Placement Survey Report FY21 (May 2021)
- Retention Rate Survey 2021 Report (July 2021)
- Congestion Management Process Technical Report (July 2022)
- GRH Applicant Survey Report 2022 Baltimore Reg and St. Mary's Co. (September 2022)
- GRH Applicant Survey Report 2022 Washington, DC Region (September 2022)
- Bike to Work Survey Analysis Report 2022 (May 2023)
- State of the Commute Survey Report 2022 (June 2023)
- TDM Analysis Report FY 2021 – FY 2023 (November 2023)

STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION 2018
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

In 2018, the TPB researched and wrote a report that provides an overview of the state of regional public transportation in the National Capital Region and presents the relationship that public transportation has with the region.

The State of Public Transportation 2018 study checked in with 34 of the region's transit providers to get an up-to-date look at their services.

Report Highlights

- % Of all public transportation rides delivered by WMATA: 85%; a majority of these rides were on Metrorail, followed by Metrobus
- % Of all public transportation rides delivered by local bus operators: 10%
- % Of all public transportation rides delivered by commuter rail and commuter bus: 5%
- Metrobus is the sixth busiest bus agency in the United States, with a fleet of more than 1,500 buses operating on 325 routes in DC, Maryland, and Virginia
- Most of Arlington Transit's buses operate on clean-burning natural gas
- The City of Fairfax City-University Energysaver (CUE) bus system provides regularly scheduled service to George Mason University, shopping centers and other locations within the City of Fairfax, as well as the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metrorail Station
- The DC Streetcar runs one 2-mile route in the city's Northeast quadrant; the free service is designed to reduce inner-city auto trips and parking demand, among other benefits
- Fairfax Connector is the largest local bus system in the Northern Virginia region with 89 daily routes
- "The Bus" is Prince George's County transit system network, with 28 bus lines covering over 10,000 miles throughout the County
- The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) provides commuter rail service from the Northern Virginia suburbs to Alexandria, Crystal City and downtown Washington, D.C
- WMATA's MetroAccess service is the 5th largest paratransit service in the country, transporting 2.1 million passengers each year
- Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Commuter Bus connects Maryland's suburbs to jobs in in Baltimore and Washington D.C., operating during the weekday morning and evening rush hours
- The Regional Transportation Agency of Central Maryland (RTA) operates an efficient public transportation system across Central Maryland, covering 4 separate jurisdictions
- Visualize 2045 is the federally mandated, long-range transportation plan for the National Capital Region. In addition to projects that the region's transportation agencies expect to be able to afford between now and 2045, the plan includes aspirational projects, programs, and policies that go beyond financial constraints.

EMPLOYER SATISFACTION SURVEY 2019
OCTOBER 2019
COMMUTER CONNECTIONS

The employer satisfaction survey is a random sample of employers that participate in the Employer Outreach program whose organizations were included in Commuter Connections' regional Employer Outreach ACT! Customer Relationship Management database. The primary purpose of conducting this survey was to collect data to document the attitudes, opinions and satisfaction of employers toward the products and services provided by Commuter Connections and local member organizations that are part of the Commuter Connections employer and commuter assistance network in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. The primary focus of the Employer Outreach program is on non-governmental employers. There were 3,844 employers selected for the survey; a total of 105 interviews were completed by telephone and 199 surveys were completed online.

Company Background

Work Location - The greatest number of respondent worksites were in Montgomery County, MD (37%), Arlington County, VA (24%), and the District of Columbia (13%).

Employer Size - Almost 60 percent of the respondents said their company employed fewer than 100 employees in the Washington region; 28 percent said the firm employed between one and 25 employees and 31 percent employed between 26 and 99 employees. About a fifth had between 100 and 250 employees and 20 percent employed 251 or more employees.

Employer Type - The vast majority (78%) of respondents worked for a private company, while 14 percent worked for or a non-profit organization or association. Only eight percent worked for a government agency.

Primary Business - Four industry types accounted for about half of the employers in the sample: non-profit or advocacy firms (14%); business services / consulting (11%); financial, insurance (9%); government/public administration (8%); and legal/accounting, architecture/engineering (10%).

Number of Worksites - Over half (51%) said they had only one site in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. Almost a quarter (22%) had between two and four sites. Only 23% had five or more sites.

Number of Commute Programs Managed - Eighty percent of respondents who had more than one worksite in the Washington, DC region said they managed the commuter program only for the site where they worked, and the remaining one-fifth said they managed commuter services for multiple sites.

Roles or Functions in the Organization - Respondents designated as the representative to contact about commuter services at the worksite held varied organizational roles. The most common roles were within human resources, cited by about four in ten respondents and general management or office management, named by 26 percent of respondents. Fourteen percent said they were senior managers and 10 percent said their role was facilities management.

Worksite Commute Services Offered

Information and Support - The services that were most commonly made available by the employer were primarily in the information and support category. Five in ten (59%) respondents said employees had access to general commute info, 53% said train schedules were available, and 28 percent cited Guaranteed Ride Home. Over a fifth named Air Quality Action information (22%) and 20 percent indicated ridematching.

There also is substantial additional potential for these services. In almost all selections for information and support there was at least 20 percent interest in providing some type of service for their employees.

Financial Incentives - More than half of the employers (57%) said they currently offered SmartBenefits. Other services that were commonly available now were SmarTrip cards, offered by (42%) employers, and pre-tax accounts, offered by four in ten (41%). About 21 percent of respondents said carpool and vanpool subsidies were available to their employees now. Eleven percent said they currently offered bike or walk incentives and two percent said they provided assistance with vanpooling.

Nearly all of these services exhibited significant potential for greater application. An additional 17 percent said they might consider offering SmartBenefits service to employees, 19 percent said they would consider offering SmarTrip cards, 25 percent would consider allowing employees to set-aside a portion of their salary in a pre-tax transportation account, and 13 percent would consider providing a carpool/vanpool subsidy. Interest in a bike/walk incentive was relatively the same as with the last survey.

Onsite Facilities - The most common onsite facility made available by employers at the worksite was free parking, at 70 percent. Two other on-site facilities, bike racks and showers/personal lockers, were named by at least six in ten respondents. The remaining facilities on the list, preferential parking for carpools and vanpools, promotion of carsharing, and shuttle to transit stop or station, were available to at least 20 percent of respondents. Additional potential was modest for most of these services. But 37 percent of respondents said they might consider promoting carsharing and 25 percent said they might consider offering preferential parking.

Work Schedule Options - Finally, respondents were asked if they made any of three work schedule options available. Over half, (68%) said employees at their worksite were permitted some flexibility in their work start and stop times. More than seventy percent said employees at their location were permitted to telework and over 40 percent said compressed work schedules were available. These schedules, however, might not be made available to all employees at the location.

About 20 percent of respondents said they might consider implementing a compressed work schedule, but fewer than 9 percent of respondents said they would consider either flextime or telework.

Duration of Commute Service Involvement - Companies or respondents were typically long-time participants in both offering commute services to employees and their involvement with the Commuter Connections Employer Outreach. A great majority, 87 percent of respondents' companies had offered commute services three years or longer, and 7 percent offered commute services for at least two years. Only two percent said they started offering commuter services within the past year.

Respondents personally had a long-term history with the Commuter Connections Employer Outreach network; 69 percent had been involved with Commuter Connections for three years or more and 16 percent had participated for at least 2 years.

Awareness and Satisfaction with Commuter Connections' Network Representative

Respondents' Involvement with Worksite Commuter Services - More than seven in ten respondents said they had been involved in or responsible for managing or delivering commuter services at their worksite for at least two years. One in ten respondents said they were quite new to this responsibility, with less than one year of experience.

Respondents' Awareness of Commuter Connections Representative - Despite respondents' relatively long

association with commuter services, only 28 percent could name their Commuter Connections network representative. The remaining 72 percent said they did not know the name of their representative.

Level of Contact with Commuter Connections Representative - Over 50 percent of respondents said they had some form of communication with their Commuter Connections representative in the past year, including telephone, postal mail, email, or personal visit. A surprising number (41%) said they had never had any contact with their representative.

The large majority (71%) of respondents said they were satisfied with the level of contact that they had with their Commuter Connections network representative, rating it “about right”. About five percent said the number of contacts was either somewhat or much more than they wanted. Twenty three percent said they wanted a higher level or greater frequency of contact.

Respondents’ ratings on their satisfaction with the level of contact differed by how much contact they had with the representative. For example, 88 percent of respondents who had at least one contact per month and 71 percent of those with at least one contact during the year said they thought the level of contact was “about right.” By contrast, 5 percent of respondents who had not had a contact in the past year said the level of contact was less than they wanted. But the fact that 71 percent of these respondents said having no contact was “about right” indicates that some respondents did not feel it necessary to hear from or see their representatives.

Preferred Form of Contact with Commuter Connections Representative - Respondents were asked the form of communication they would “most prefer” for contacts with their representative. Over 80 percent of respondents said they would prefer email for communications with/from their Commuter Connections network representative. The remaining employers were divided between postal mail (8%), and phone (4%).

Ratings for Customer Service Features - When asked to rate their Commuter Connections network representative on a variety of features, respondents gave uniformly high marks for all customer service features. At least eight in ten respondents rated their representative a 4 or 5 (excellent) on a 1 to 5 point scale for professionalism (93%), willingness to help (93%), timeliness of service delivery (90%), responsiveness to their requests/questions (91%), enthusiasm about commuter Connections and its products and programs (92%), knowledge of Commuter Connections and/or local ridesharing and transit products (93%), their ability to provide information that is helpful to the company and employees (90%), and their knowledge of local transportation and air quality issues (87%).

Use of and Satisfaction with Commuter Connections Services

Overall Satisfaction - At least seven in ten respondents said they were satisfied overall with the services they received from Commuter Connections; 51% gave an overall rating of “5” on a 5-point scale (very satisfied) and 24 percent gave a rating of “4.” About two in ten (19%) rated the service a “3.” Only six percent said they were unsatisfied with Commuter Connections’ services (rating of 1 or 2). When asked why they gave the ratings they did, respondents reported reasons pertaining to little or no contact with the program and/or its representatives. A small percentage of respondents reported neutral or negative reasons, as listed below:

Positive Reasons

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • Representative is prompt, responsive, available | 8% |
| • Representative is helpful, knowledgeable | 5% |
| • Representative is pleasant, enthusiastic, professional | 6% |
| • Representative keeps me informed, up to date | 7% |
| • Generally good program, good service | 8% |
| • Program offers useful information, informative service | 42% |

- Program offers information for employees, employees like it 4%

Neutral/Negative Reasons

- Have little contact with program / just get newsletter 17%
- No contact with representative 21%
- Service is okay or just adequate 6%
- Few employees can use alternative modes 3%

Most of the reasons focused on customer service features exhibited by the Commuter Connections network representative, such as being helpful, prompt, responsive, enthusiastic, and professional. Respondents also noted that the service was useful to their company or to their employees.

Likely to Recommend - More than half of respondents were likely to recommend Commuter Connections services to Another Employer; 30 percent said they were very likely, and 27 percent said they were somewhat likely. Only five percent said they were unlikely or very unlikely.

Desired Improvements – Below are a few specific suggestions cited by respondents for program improvements they believed would enhance Commuter Connections’ effectiveness in promoting commuter programs and in assisting organizations to develop commuter programs:

- No suggestions 83%
- More communication with employers 4%
- Transit improvements 10%
- Conduct more marketing 3%
- Use email more for contacts 3%
- Offer more materials, tool kits 2%
- Provide commute subsidy enhancements 4%

Use and Usefulness of Individual Services - Respondents were asked to indicate which of seven Commuter Connections services and how useful the services they had used had been to their worksite commuter program. Three services had been used by at least 40 percent of the organizations: info brochures (53%), website (49%), and special events (53%).

Employee Commute Survey - One service offered by Commuter Connections is the employee travel survey that employers can use to identify how employees travel to work. Commuter Connections assists the employer by summarizing the survey data and assisting employers to interpret the data and apply the results to develop worksite commuter services.

About one in ten (8%) respondents said their organizations had used a Commuter Connections employee survey in the past year. Employers in Fairfax, Montgomery, Arlington, Frederick, and Prince William Counties were the respondents who stated they had conducted an employee commute survey. Over 25 percent related that they received a copy of their statistical summary of the employee travel survey, and 30 percent mentioned that they used the survey as a means of implementing worksite commuting alternatives.

Interest in Training Opportunities Sponsored by Commuter Connections

Respondents were asked how interested they would be in workshops, seminars, or other training opportunities offered by Commuter Connections, by rating each topic on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 meaning “not at all interested” and 5 meaning “very interested.”

Around a third of employers expressed substantial interest (rating of 4 or 5) in training on: general information on commute program management (35%), information on Commuter Connections services that were available to employers and commuters (42%), legislative and tax issues related to travel and commuting (36%), and transit financial incentives (34%). About two in ten respondents said they had moderate interest (rating of 3) on each of these services.

A second tier of services garnered varying levels of support from respondents. These topics included telework (26%), Air Quality Action days (28%), Carsharing (20%), Bicycling/Bikesharing (33%), Monitoring/Evaluation (17%), Marketing (20%), Parking Management (16%), and Vanpool formation (21%). Another two in ten respondents reported moderate interest in these topics.

Usefulness of Services - Over 72 percent of employers who used Commuter Connections' services found them to be useful in developing or implementing commuter services at their worksites. Eighteen percent said they had not been useful.

When asked what features about the services made them useful, respondents cited the following factors listed below. Several focused on individual services provided by the program (materials, brochures) while others focused on the results the employer was able to achieve (saved money, keeps me informed).

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Good information | 17% |
| • Employees can use or benefit from the information | 11% |
| • Offered new ideas, tips, suggestions | 8% |
| • Keeps me informed | 7% |
| • Offers bus schedules | 5% |
| • Saved us money | 5% |
| • Offers information materials / brochures | 3% |
| • Provides information on Smart Benefits | 8% |
| • Provided assistance on pre-tax | 9% |
| • Answered my questions | 4% |

VANPOOL DRIVERS SURVEY TECHNICAL REPORT 2020
JULY 2020
COMMUTER CONNECTIONS

The 2020 Vanpool Drivers Survey was conducted to collect data on current vanpool operations for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Transportation Demand Management planning purposes. The findings of the survey also assisted Commuter Connections and their network partners in program and service development.

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

The survey sample was derived from the vanpool databases of Commuter Connections, GWRideConnect, and OmniRide/Vanpool Alliance. Commute With Enterprise, which leases a large number of area vans, coordinated recruitment of survey respondents in its program. Emails with a survey link were sent to 1,636 vanpool drivers/coordinators and 361 surveys were completed for a response rate of 22%

Key Findings:

- Average duration of vanpools: 6.0 years
- Average time driving the vanpool: 4.9 years
- Average number of riders in the vanpool: 6.7 riders; 5.7
- % Surveyed vanpools that leased from a leasing company: 81%
- % Surveyed vanpools originating in Virginia: 72%
- % Surveyed vanpools originating in Maryland: 26%
- % Surveyed vanpools that make 1 pickup stop: 75%
- % Surveyed vanpools with riders who work at 1 location: 66%
- % Surveyed vanpool drivers who leave home before 6:00AM: 76%
- % Surveyed vanpools that use an HOV lane or Express Lane: 79%
- % Surveyed vanpools who received vanpool assistance from their employer: 48%; 10% received assistance from another organization
- % Respondents who received one or more commute services or benefits: 97%; 72% received a vanpool subsidy
- % Surveyed vanpools that paid insurance through their van lease: 79%
- % Surveyed vanpools with free parking at work in D.C.: 80%; 42%; 26% reported paying \$200+ per month
- % Surveyed drivers interested in using a self-driving van: 52%
- % Surveyed drivers interested in an electric/hybrid van: 78%
- The top three issues that concern vanpool drivers: finding new riders, congestion in HOV/Express lanes and finding back up drivers

**GUARANTEED RIDE HOME CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY BALTIMORE REGION FY20
MARCH 2021
COMMUTER CONNECTIONS**

Commuter Connections' Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) provides a free ride home in the event of an emergency, sickness, or unexpected overtime. GRH serves commuters who use transit, carpooling, vanpooling, or bicycling to get to work at least 2X per week. Four free rides are available to qualifying commuters each year.

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

In FY20, the 273 commuters registered for GRH in the Baltimore region took 68 trips, with an average of 1.4 trips per unique user of the service. A survey link was emailed the day after each GRH trip; the 7 surveys received back contributed the survey data.

Pre-pandemic, the average number of FY20 monthly GRH trips (July 2019 to February 2020) was 195.

During the pandemic (March to June 2020), the average number of monthly GRH trips was 144.

GRH received high marks from riders. One hundred percent of the survey respondents rated the service as excellent/good. The GRH trip reservation staff also received an "excellent" grade from 100% of the riders.

Other highlights include:

- 86% of riders gave the taxi or rental car service an "excellent" grade
- Response time was rated "excellent" by 100%; 57% waited for their ride for less than 15 minutes
- Overall service rating was rated an "excellent" by 100%
- 43% of riders took the GRH trip for a personal illness; 29% used it to get to a sick child; 21% cited a sick child as the reason for the ride

All 7 of the respondents gave a written comment, 7 gave a compliment:

- "It was a very pleasant experience"
- "The Reservation staff was so helpful in calling back and letting me know when my ride would be arriving. I thank her for her excellent customer service"
- " Staff was excellent. took care of me and setup everything. called me back if there were any issues and called me Fri afternoon to ensure my safe arrival at home."

There were no complaints.

**GUARANTEED RIDE HOME CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY FY20 WASHINGTON, DC REGION
MARCH 2021
COMMUTER CONNECTIONS**

Commuter Connections' Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) provides a free ride home in the event of an emergency, sickness, or unexpected overtime. GRH serves commuters who use transit, carpooling, vanpooling, or bicycling to get to work at least 2X per week. Four free rides are available to qualifying commuters each year.

Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

In FY20, the 6,296 commuters registered for GRH took 1,707 trips, with an average of 1.3 trips per unique user of the service.

A survey link was emailed the day after each GRH trip; the 165 surveys received contributed the survey data. Pre-pandemic, the average number of FY20 monthly GRH trips (July 2019 to February 2020) was 195. During the pandemic (March to June 2020), the average number of monthly GRH trips was 144. GRH received high marks from riders. Ninety-seven percent of the survey respondents rated the service as excellent/good. The GRH trip reservation staff received an "excellent" grade from 91% of the riders.

Other highlights include:

- 165 surveys were returned (10% response)
- 81% of riders gave the taxi or rental car service an "excellent" grade
- Response time was rated "excellent" by 88%; 81% waited for their ride for less than 15 minutes
- Overall service rating was rated an "excellent" by 86%
- 42% of riders took the GRH trip for a personal illness; 21% cited a sick child as the reason for the ride
- GRH has received an excellent/good grade on GRH since FY11

Of the 127 riders who gave a written comment, 85 gave a compliment:

- "What an amazing service; I couldn't be happier with the service provided
- One-word comments were also provided: Responsive, Quick, Kind, Outstanding, Reliable
- "My daughter was in a car accident and air lifted to a hospital. I was in a panic. You guys were awesome. Thank you for being there"

And 11 had complaints:

- "The address provided to the driver was incorrect. Otherwise, it was an excellent experience and I'm very appreciative of this service."

**APPLICANT DATABASE ANNUAL PLACEMENT SURVEY FY 2021
MAY 2021
COMMUTER CONNECTIONS**

The FY 2021 Applicant Database Annual Placement Survey highlighted Commuter Connections' commuter transportation assistance services and their impact on the DC metro area's commutes. Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

The July-September 2020 commuter applicants were divided into two groups: Recent applicants and Incentive applicants. Recent applicants were those who used Commuter Connections' services between July 1 and September 30, 2020. Incentive applicants participated in one of Commuter Connections' incentive programs" CarpoolNow, Flextime Rewards, and CommuterCash, regardless of when they had registered or used the programs. Some of the applicants fell into both groups. The survey was conducted via phone interviews.

Demographics Characteristics

- Female (49%) and Male (51%).
- <35 (12%), 35-44 (26%), 45-54 (25%), 55-64 (29%).
- Caucasian (67%) and African American (19%), Asian (9%), Hispanic (4%).
- \$100,000+ annual household income (79%).
- Average one-way commute distance 39.2 miles. Avg one-way commute time 54 minutes.
- One-way commute 30+ miles (67%) / >45 minutes (55%).
- Lives in Virginia (62%) or Maryland (29%); work in D.C. (47%), Maryland (21%), or Virginia (25%).
- Works for employers with more than 100 employees (86%), work for employers with 1,000 or more employees (61%).
- Works for federal agencies (41%) and private sector (33%).

Commuter Connections' applications were dramatically impacted by the pandemic: 5,000+ applicants in a normal 3-month period pre-pandemic, falling to 2,166 between July and September in 2020. Phone interviews were completed with 282 Recent applicants and 145 Incentive applicants.

Key Findings (surveyed November-December 2020):

- Applicants placed in alternative modes: 1,344
- Applicant placement rate: 62%
- Continued placements: 44%
- Daily vehicle trips reduced: 264
- Continued placements: 228
- Daily tons of emissions reduced: 0.0020 tons
- Daily gallons of gasoline saved: 326 gallons
- Annual commuter cost savings per placement: \$301.00
- Average one-way commute distance: 39.2 miles
- % Of respondents who said they were teleworking three or more days per week: 77%
- Respondents who said they were teleworking full-time: 65%
- % Of respondents who shifted to an alternative mode from driving alone: 24%
- % Of respondents who made a commute change who indicated that information they received from Commuter Connections influenced or assisted their decision to make the change: 15%
- % Contacted Commuter Connections via 28% employer/employee commute survey; 27% word of mouth referrals; 17% Internet

- % Who receive commute services from their employer at the worksite: 90%
- % Of respondents who work at a federal agency: 69%
- % Of respondents who worked in the private sector: 20%

RETENTION RATE SURVEY TECHNICAL REPORT

JULY 2021

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS

Each of the 1,316 DC metro commuter customers surveyed used a service from Commuter Connections between July 1, 2012, and June 30, 2018. Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

Demographics Characteristics

- Gender: Female (62%), Male (38%).
- Annual Household Income: <\$60K (8%), \$60K - \$99,999 (21%), \$100K - \$139,999 (24%), \$140K - \$179,999 (21%), \$180K or more (26%).
- Age: 25-34 years (9%), 35-44 years (23%), 45-54 years (31%), 55-64 years (31%), 65+ years (6%).
- Race/Ethnicity: White (58%), Black (22%), Asian (11%), Hispanic (7%), Other/Mixed (2%).

The survey measured the share of these commuters who shifted to an alternative mode, and the share of *these* commuters who continued to use an alternative mode years later.

The survey participants all used one or more Commuter Connections services, including:

- carpool/vanpool services—used by 51% of respondents
- regional Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program, a commuter incentive program—used by 67% of respondents
- commute information and assistance from the Commuter Connections website or mobile application

Thirty-five percent of respondents identified themselves as essential workers. Others said they worked in government (20%), healthcare (5%), or transportation (2%).

The survey was done in February 2021. A majority of the commuters who participated in the survey were teleworking/working remotely for 80% of their weekly commute trips. Their remaining work trips were made by driving alone (12%), transit (5%), or carpool or vanpool (3%).

In February 2020, 23% of respondents' weekly commute trips were eliminated by telework. The remaining commute trips were made by another alternative mode: 32% by bus or train, 14% by carpool or vanpool, and 1% by walking or bicycling. Respondents drove alone for 30% of weekly commute trips.

Once the pandemic ends and they return to the office, 53% of those surveyed planned to drive alone one or more days per week. Thirty-eight percent expect to telework one or more days each week. Sixty-six percent of respondents revealed that they would use another alternative mode: 49% transit, 19% carpool or vanpool, and 8% bike or walk. Sixty-six percent exceeds the 59% who reported using these alternative modes before the pandemic.

Twenty-eight percent of pre-pandemic alternative mode users named "the alternative mode I was using was the easier or most convenient mode" as the reason for sticking with their commute choice. Other reasons given included saving money, reducing wear on their vehicle, enjoying the transit ride/ bike ride/ or walk, avoiding traffic congestion; speed; and wanting to help the environment.

Across all 2021 Commuter Connections Retention Rate survey respondents, the overall alternative mode retention rate was 47%.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS TECHNICAL REPORT 2022
JULY 2022
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

Purpose of Study

The purpose of the Technical Report is to document and provide technical details of the four components of the Congestion Management Process (CMP), including:

- Monitor and evaluate transportation system performance
- Define and analyze strategies
- Compile project-specific congestion management information
- Implement strategies and assess

Key Highlights

- Travelers in the Washington region typically will need to budget about two times the free flow travel time during peak periods to ensure on-time arrivals (TPB)
- Beginning in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had substantial impacts on travel and transportation in the Washington region including dramatic increases of telework, reduced transit ridership, increased freight movement, and increased home delivery of goods
- Top Bottleneck in 2021: I-95 N&S @ VA-123 / Exit 160 (UM CATT Lab)
- Without rail fleet expansion, most rail lines and stations would be even more congested by 2025 (WMATA, Strategic Plan 2013-2025)
- Between 2018 to 2045, the region is forecasted to be home to 23% more residents and 29% more jobs in 2045; to accommodate that growth, 8% more lane miles of roadway and 42% more high-capacity transit miles are planned to be constructed; the overall amount of driving is expected to increase by 20% (TPB, Visualize 2045 Documentation, October 17, 2018)
- Travel Demand Management (TDM) continues to be an important tool for day-to-day congestion management; the Commuter Connections program is the centerpiece to assist and encourage commuters in the Washington region to use alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle
- Increasing connectivity in the bicycle and pedestrian network will continue to increase walking and bicycling in the region
- Disruptive technologies (such as automated vehicles and enhanced mass transit systems) and the integration of these technologies with ride-hailing services, along with changes in travel behavior will potentially transform the transportation industry and may alter future travel trends predicted by existing models and assumptions

Select Recommendations

1. Continue the Commuter Connections program
2. Continue to encourage integration of operations management and travel demand
3. Management components of congestion management for more efficient use of the existing transportation network
4. Pursue sufficient investment in the existing transportation system
5. Continue to encourage transit in the Washington region and explore transit priority strategies including signal priority for buses
6. Continue to encourage access to non-auto travel modes, including biking and walking
7. Monitor impacts of Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) such as Uber and Lyft (although data for regional analysis remain scarce)

About the Report

The Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a component of the federally required regional long-range plan (in the Washington region, called Visualize 2045). The CMP Technical Report, a background document to the

official CMP in Visualize 2045, includes data, strategies and regional programs that found the basis of the area's congestion management efforts.

GUARANTEED RIDE HOME APPLICANT SURVEY REPORT BALTIMORE REGION AND ST. MARY'S COUNTY SEPTEMBER 2022 COMMUTER CONNECTIONS

Purpose of Survey

Commuter Connections conducted the GRH survey to:

- Examine commute and demographic characteristics of commuters participating in GRH
- Collect data needed to estimate reductions in vehicle trips, vehicle miles traveled, and emissions reduced through commuters' participation in the GRH Program

Characteristics of the Survey Respondents

- Home location: Maryland (87%); Virginia (6%); District (1%); other state (3%)
- Work location: Maryland (91%); District (8%)
- Annual Household income: \$80,000+ (73%); \$160,000+ (22%)
- Age: under 35 (11%); 35-54 (45%); 55+ (44%)
- Ethnicity: Non-Hispanic White (52%); Non-Hispanic Black (38%); Asian (6%); Hispanic (4%); Other/Mixed race (0%)
- Commute length: average one-way distance 32.1 miles, about twice the 16.7 miles traveled by the average commuter in the Washington metro region
- Commute time: average 55 minutes, longer than the average 37 minutes for all commuters in the region
- Average time in GRH registration database: 45-47 months (current and past, respectively)
- Current commute mode: Telework (6% current registrants, 38% past registrants); Bus (49% current registrants, 15% past registrants); Carpool/Vanpool (23% current registrants, 6% past registrants); Train (17% current registrants, 5% past registrants); Drive Alone (0% current registrants, 34% past registrants); Bike or Walk (5% current registrants, 2% past registrants)
- 85% of all respondents said they had an account with at least one of the social media apps
- 41% of respondents used an app that tracked transit schedules or provided next bus/train arrival times; 16% used a public traveler information display or screen
- 38% used a ride-hailing service such as Uber or Lyft, referred to as Transportation Network Companies (TNCs)

Key Findings

- 17% teleworking in 2020 before the pandemic, 43% teleworking at the time of the survey (GRH eligibility rules require commuters to travel to an outside work location and use an alternative to driving alone at least two days per week)
- Reasons why past registrants did not re-register: pandemic/teleworking (50%); forgot (10%); didn't know they had to re-register (4%)
- How they heard about GRH: word of mouth/referrals (27%); employer (19%); radio (2%); internet/social media (10%); other rideshare/transit organization (12%)
- Heard or saw GRH advertising: 40% in 2022 vs. 45% in 2019; in 2022, 19% who heard these ads were persuaded by them to register
- 40% primarily drove alone before they registered for GRH; after they registered, 30% of these respondents shifted to carpooling and 56% shifted to transit
- Prior to registering for GRH, respondents used an alternative mode an average 2.7 days; after they registered, this rose to 4.3 days per week
- 94% of current and 28% of past registrants were using alternative modes at the time of the survey
- 34% started using a new alternative mode when they registered; 58% maintained but did not increase their use of alternative modes; 3% increased their use of alternatives
- 85% of respondents who drove alone prior to joining GRH said that GRH was important to their

- decision to start using an alternative
- Many respondents reported using Commuter Connections services in addition to GRH, including transit information (30%), Park & Ride lot information (13%), special event information (18%) and a ride match list (9%); 43% received only GRH
- 34% noted that other factors besides commute services influenced them to shift to alternative modes including saving money (13%), convenience (5%) and parking issues (6%)
- 30% said they had taken a GRH trip; this was similar to the 2019 survey
- Illness was the reason cited for 86% of GRH trips (self-47%, family member-25%, child 14%)
- An overwhelming majority (85%) of respondents who took a GRH trip were satisfied with the trip; respondents waited an average of 36 minutes for their ride; 38% reported that the ride provider arrived within 20 minutes, but 28% waited more than 45 minutes

How the Survey was Conducted

The survey database of 579 records yielded 52 completed internet surveys and 44 telephone interviews of commuters who have participated in the Baltimore and St. Mary's County Regional GRH Program supported through the Maryland Transit Administration and operated through Commuter Connections. The program was introduced in 2010. The database consisted of commuters who registered for or participated in GRH between March 2019 and March 2022; some of these commuters let their registration lapse and are identified as "past/inactive participants" in the report. The survey was conducted in April-May 2022. The level of confidence for the study was calculated using the finite population correction factor, an approach used when the sample size is large relative to the total population. Completion of 96 interviews from a population of 579 resulted in a level of confidence of 95% + 9.1 percentage points for the 2022 GRH survey. This was greater than the 95% + 5.6 percentage points for the 2022 survey, due to the smaller sample of interviews collected in 2022 (96) when compared with 2019 (241). The respondent data were weighted to align the survey results with the total database population of GRH participants. The report notes that the 2022 database population of 579 (16.7% current and 83.3% past registrants) was just 50% of the 2019 survey database of 1,154 (38.6% current and 61.4% past registrants).

GUARANTEED RIDE HOME APPLICANT SURVEY REPORT WASHINGTON, DC REGION SEPTEMBER 2022 COMMUTER CONNECTIONS

Purpose of Survey

Commuter Connections conducted the GRH survey to:

- Examine commute and demographic characteristics of commuters participating in GRH
- Collect data needed to estimate reductions in vehicle trips, vehicle miles traveled, and emissions reduced through commuters' participation in the GRH Program

Characteristics of the Survey Respondents

- Home location: Virginia (57%); Maryland (38%); District (2%); other state (3%)
- Work location: Virginia (22%); Maryland (19%); District (59%)
- Annual Household income: \$120,000+ (66%); \$200,000+ (23%)
- Age: under 35 (4%); 35-54 (50%); 55+ (46%)
- Ethnicity: Non-Hispanic White (62%); Non-Hispanic Black (20%); Asian (9%); Hispanic (6%); Other/Mixed race (3%)
- Commute length: average one-way distance 37.0 miles, more than twice the 16.7 miles traveled by the average commuter in the Washington metro region
- Commute time: average 66 minutes, longer than the average 37 minutes for all commuters in the region
- Average time in GRH registration database: 47 months
- Current commute mode: Telework (35% current registrants, 75% past registrants); Bus (22% current registrants, 5% past registrants); Commuter Rail (16% current registrants, 3% past registrants); Vanpool (11% current registrants, 1% past registrants); Carpool (8% current registrants, 2% past registrants); Drive Alone (3% current registrants, 12% past registrants)

Key Findings

- Drop in registrations in 2020 and 2021 due to coronavirus; 65% teleworking in 2020, 40% teleworking in 2021 (GRH eligibility rules require commuters to travel to an outside work location and use an alternative to driving alone at least two days per week)
- Reasons why past registrants did not re-register: pandemic/teleworking (53%); forgot (10%); didn't know they had to re-register (9%)
- How they heard about GRH: word of mouth/referrals (29%); employer (15%); radio (7%); internet/social media (4%); other rideshare/transit organization (4%)
- Heard or saw GRH advertising: 44% in 2022 vs. 58% in 2019 and 2016; in 2022, 25% who heard these ads were persuaded by them to register
- Excluding telework, the share of alternative mode use has changed only slightly over the past nine years
- 26% primarily drove alone before they registered for GRH; after they registered, 35% of these respondents shifted to carpooling and 49% shifted to transit
- Prior to registering for GRH, respondents used an alternative mode an average 3.3 days; after they registered, this rose to 3.7 days per week
- 23% started using a new alternative mode when they registered; 72% maintained but did not increase their use of alternative modes
- 86% of respondents who drove alone prior to joining GRH said that GRH was important to their decision to start using an alternative
- Many respondents reported using Commuter Connections services in addition to GRH, including transit information (22%), Park & Ride lot information (20%), special event information (19%) and a ride match list (18%); 44% received only GRH

- 34% noted that other factors besides commute services influenced them to shift to alternative modes including saving money (9%), convenience (5%) and saving time (4%)
- 40% (528) said they had taken a GRH trip; this was similar to the 2019 survey and a bit higher than in 2016
- Illness was the reason cited for 75% of GRH trips (self-33%, family member-29%, child 11%)
- An overwhelming majority (97%) of respondents who took a GRH trip were satisfied with the trip; respondents waited an average of 19 minutes for their ride; 37% reported that the ride provider arrived within 10 minutes

How the Survey was Conducted

This is the eighth GRH technical survey since the program was introduced in 1997. A 2022 database of 11,476 commuters yielded 1,370 valid internet surveys and telephone interviews. The database consisted of commuters who registered for or participated in GRH between March 2019 and March 2022. The survey was conducted in April-May 2022. A level of confidence of 95% \pm 2.5 percentage points was achieved in 2022, just over the 2019 level of 2.0. The database consisted of commuters who registered for or participated in GRH between March 2019 and March 2022; some of these commuters let their registration lapse and are identified as “past/inactive participants” in the report. The report notes that the 2022 database population of 11,476 (14.7% current registrants) was just over half the 2019 survey database of 20,416 (46.5% current).

BIKE TO WORK DAY SURVEY REPORT 2022

MAY 2023

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS

Purpose of Survey

The 2022 Bike to Work Day (BTWD) Survey was done to identify the experience of the riders and assess participants' use of a bike for commuting before and after the event. The survey was conducted by Commuter Connections, a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

Characteristics of Survey Respondents

Respondents' characteristics included:

- **Bike Type:** 90% rode a traditional bike; 9% rode an electric bike
- **Commute Length:** average 8.5 miles one-way to work; 25% of survey respondents commuted 10+ miles to work
- **Age:** 60% of BTWD participants were 45 years of age or older, compared with 44% of all regional workers
- **Gender:** 35% female, 65% male
- **Home Location:** 45% Virginia, 28% Maryland, 27% District of Columbia
- **Work Location:** 32% Virginia, 48% District of Columbia, 20% Maryland
- **Employer Type:** 35% private sector, 36% Federal government agencies, 18% nonprofit organization, 11% state/local agencies
- **Employer Size:** 41% fewer than 100 employees, 27% 1,000 or more employees

How the Survey was Conducted

The survey was conducted by COG in November 2022

COG e-mailed a survey invitation to 12,943 commuters who registered for the 2022 event. All event participants registered through the Washington Area Bicyclist Association's web site. The questionnaire was programmed for on-line administration and the email invitation -;

COG received 2,659 completed interviews, for a response rate of 21.2%.

Key Findings

- 2022 was the first BTWD event for 18% of participants
- 27% of respondents said their favorite part of the event was sharing the bike lanes with other; 19% reported preferring their pit stop
- 25% rode with other cyclists increased food
- 86% of participants rode to work at least occasionally before BTWD; 86% rode to work in the summer after BTWD, 82% were still riding at the time of the survey (November 2022)
- 94% of riders said they rode a personal bike on BTWD; 5% rode a Capital Bikeshare
- 86% of participants rode to work at least occasionally before BTWD; 86% rode to work in the summer after BTWD, 82% were still riding during the survey period (November 2022)
- respondents who rode to work before BTWD rode an average 2.2 days per week
- 20% either started biking or increased biking in the summer after BTWD 2022
- 18% of BTWD riders said the 2022 event was their first; 82% said they had participated in a BTWD event before 2022

- 92% said they were very likely to participate in BTWD again
- 19% had used Capital Bikeshare during the past year to commute to or from work
- 79% said their employers offered some type of commute assistance information, services, or facilities for employees who biked to work; in 2019, 83% mentioned access to bike services
- Services included bike racks (offered by 60% of employers), secure bike storage (42%), showers (58%), personal lockers (32%), route information (11%), financial incentive for bicycling to work (9%), access to a Capital Bikeshare membership at work (8%)
- 600 riders surveyed suggested improvements including more prices and better giveaways, better bike lanes and trails, more bicycling to work promotion, more pit stops and extend pit stop hours earlier/later, off-peak hours

STATE OF THE COMMUTE REPORT 2022

NOVEMBER 2023

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS

Purpose of Survey

The State of the Commute (SOC) survey has been conducted every three years since 2001. The SOC survey:

- examines commuting travel to and from work in the region
- identifies and follows commuting trends over time
- explores workers' awareness and use of transportation infrastructure (highways, transit, express lanes) and commuter services
- collects commuters' opinions about current transportation initiatives

The survey was conducted by Commuter Connections, a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)

The report noted "the pandemic has upended many aspects of commuting and 2022 will serve as an interesting new baseline for future SOC surveys."

Characteristics of Survey Respondents

Survey participants reported the following characteristics:

- **Age:** 32% under 35, 46% age 35-54, 22% 55+
- **Race:** 43% Non-Hispanic white, 23% Non-Hispanic Black, 15% Asian/Pacific Islander, 5% Mixed Race/Other
- **Gender:** 51% female, 49% male
- **Income:** 74% more than \$80,000, 53% more than \$120,000
- **Household Members:** 67% adults only, 15% one child, 18% two or more children under 18
- **Household Vehicle Ownership:** 93% at least one vehicle, 40% two vehicles, 18% three or more vehicles
- **Home Location:** 45% Virginia, 43% Maryland, 12% District of Columbia
- **Occupation:** 46% professional, 17% executive/managerial, 12% administrative support, 10% technician and technical support
- **Work Location:** 37% Virginia, 34% District of Columbia, 26% Maryland
- **Employer Type:** 48% private sector, 26% Federal government agencies, 16% nonprofit organization, 10% state/local agencies
- **Employer Size:** 41% fewer than 100 employees, 27% 1,000 or more employees

How the Survey was Conducted

Wherever possible, questions used in previous SOC surveys were replicated to allow for trend analysis. A few questions were deleted from the 2019 survey to make room for new questions related to the pandemic and teleworking. The 2022 survey questionnaire included input from a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Evaluation Group that included representatives from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Postcard invitations were mailed to 279,000 households to ensure a final sample that reflects the population's geographic dispersal. The postcard included a link and a unique password to complete the survey. A second password was included in case another employed adult in the household wished to take the survey. The mailing

produced 8,396 completed Internet responses

Key Findings

- Telework replaced nearly half of daily commute trips in 2022
- Driving alone rose 14 percentage points between 2019 (65%) and 2022 (78%)
- Driving alone and telework, combined, accounted for 90% of all commute days in 2022
- Transit use declined as a primary commute mode, from 30% in 2019 to 16% in 2022
- Telework comprised 48% of weekly commute days in 2022; in 2019, it was 10%
- Commute Services at the workplace were reported in 2022 by 56% of respondents, just below the 60% reported in 2019
- 66% of regional commuters teleworked at least occasionally; this represents more than 2,137,000 commuters
- 10% of commuters had used an HOV lane; 14% used an Express/Toll lane—more than 75% of them drove the Express/Toll lane alone
- More than half of respondents who had an Express/Toll Lane available had used it in 2022
- 70% of commuters reported having free worksite parking in 2022; 60% did in 2019
- Commuters without free parking drove alone less (60%) than those with free parking (87%)
- Respondents with access to services at work drove alone less (67%) than those without services (87%)
- 78% of respondents who had access to a flexible schedule had used it
- 76% of respondents who carpooled at the time of the survey rode with family members; in the 2019 survey, 56% of carpoolers reported household carpooling
- 27% of all respondents said they had seen, heard, or read advertising about commuting in the year prior to the survey, a decrease from 2019 (45%)
- 35% of respondents who took an action to change their commute said the advertising they saw or heard encouraged the action
- Commuters who had heard of Commuter Connections reported higher awareness of regional commute resources (43%) than commuters who were not aware of Commuter Connections (24%)
- 40% of commuters, when directly asked if they have heard of an organization in the Washington region called Commuter Connections, knew of the program; in 2019, 48% were aware
- 81% of Federal workers said they had at least one of these services. Six in ten (60%) respondents who worked for nonprofit organizations had access to services. Respondents who worked for state/ local agencies and private employers were least likely to have access; about half (48%) of state/local government employees and 42% of private sector employees reported access to commuter benefits/services.

TDM ANALYSIS REPORT FY 2021 – FY 2023
NOVEMBER 2023
COMMUTER CONNECTIONS

Purpose of the Analysis

The TDM Analysis Report evaluates four voluntary regional TDM program elements implemented by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) Commuter Connections program at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). It documents transportation and air quality impacts generated between July 1, 2020, and June 20, 2023.

The four TDM program elements covered by this analysis report include:

- **Maryland Telework Assistance** provides information and assistance to Maryland commuters and employers
- **Guaranteed Ride Home:** free rides home in the event of an unexpected personal emergency or unscheduled overtime
- **Employer Outreach:** regional outreach to encourage large, private-sector and non-profit employers to voluntarily implement commuter assistance strategies
- **Mass Marketing:** large-scale, comprehensive media campaigns; incentive programs and promotional events

The following travel and emissions impacts were analyzed:

- Vehicle trips (VT)
- Vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Nitrogen Oxides (NOx)
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)

It should be noted that the emission factors used in this evaluation were lower than those used in previous analyses due to a cleaner vehicle fleet. In addition, commute disruptions related to the coronavirus pandemic were a significant factor in the overall impact results presented in the report.

Key Findings

- Program impacts are based on actual use of the programs; except for Telework-Maryland Assistance, which exceeded its 2023 goals, each of the three other elements missed their 2023 goals by 37%-44%
- Outreach to employers reduced the highest number of annual tons of CO₂ at 119,083; Telework-Maryland Assistance reduced 48,460 tons; Mass Marketing reduced 6,223 tons and Guaranteed Ride Home reduced 4,529 tons
- The TDM program elements, plus the Commuter Operations Center (COC) generate daily cost savings of \$519,807; much of this amount, \$317,846, is comprised of a reduction in excess fuel used
- The number of Maryland telecommuters estimated for the program element was 85% over the number of telecommuters expected from this element; this element also exceeded the reduction goals for vehicle trips (109%) and VMT (103%)
- The transportation benefit of the Maryland Telework program element was a reduction of 12,851 vehicle trips and 248,702 daily vehicle miles travelled more than the 2023 goal
- The environmental, or emissions, benefits of NO_x and VOCs were just under the 2023 goal for the Maryland Telework program element

- Maryland Telework's impact of nearly 60,000 participants is nearly twice the 2023 goal
- Use of Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) dropped from 13,000 participants in FY 2018-FY 2020 to 3,308 in FY 2021-FY 2023; 41% of past registrants named working from home as their reason for not renewing their GRH registration
- 573 employers from the 2020 TDM evaluation dropped out of the employer outreach program; those employers who left were entirely replaced by new employer outreach customers
- Employer outreach customers were added in all of the Commuter Connections jurisdictions; Arlington County, VA (+137), Fairfax County, VA (+514) and Montgomery County, MD (+211) added the highest number of employer outreach customers
- Employer outreach for bicycling was also analyzed by the researchers; 142 employers added new bike strategies in 2023
- Mass Marketing including regional advertising, events like Bike to Work Day and Car Free Day and Commuter Connections' incentive programs ('Pool Rewards for both carpools and vanpools and the incenTrip mobile app); using a calculated factor of 0.437%, almost 9,000 commuters were placed in alternative travel options after hearing a mass marketing campaign ad
- The incentive programs were found to keep commuters using alternative travel modes, resulting in a net retention of 211 placements for carpool and 76 for vanpool passengers; incenTrip accounted for 782 placements on alternative travel modes
- Mass Marketing results were below the 2023 goal in all areas: participation (37% below goal), vehicle trip (67%) and VMT (64%) reductions
- Commuter Connections' Commuter Operations Center (COC) saw 5,615 new program applicants during the evaluation period
- The four TDM program elements combined fell about 17% short of the collective goal for vehicle trips reduced and 13% short of the goal for VMT reduced