

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

FY2020 First Half Marketing Campaign Summary Draft Report

Commuter Connections Regional TDM Marketing Group

December 17, 2019

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Executive Summary

Overview

This document summarizes Commuter Connections marketing activity occurring between July and December 2019. Through the regional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Mass Marketing effort, Commuter Connections delivers a brand promise as the regional solution for commuters seeking alternative transportation options within the Washington, DC region. Through the use of media and other forms of communication at high reach and frequency levels, the marketing campaign aims to persuade Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) commuters to switch to alternative modes of travel and persuade current alternative mode users to maintain and increase usage.

The marketing initiative was built on TDM research (demographic, behavioral, and attitudinal characteristics of commuters in the Washington region), past campaign experience, network and member feedback. The overall objective of the regional TDM Mass Marketing project is to meet or exceed congestion and air quality impact goals.

The regional TDM Mass Marketing initiative promotes Commuter Connections' Ridematching services and Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) programs.

Other campaigns during the first half of FY20 include the promotion of Car Free Days, incenTrip and 'Pool Rewards. Car Free Days were held on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday September 21-23, 2019 and provided an opportunity to promote alternative modes for both commute and non-commute trips and encouraged commuters and the general public to take the pledge to use car free or car-lite transportation. The incenTrip app offers alternative routes, departure times and travel modes based on real-time traffic data. Users can rack up points in the app; these points can be redeemed for cash. The 'Pool Rewards program is geared toward encouraging SOV commuters to carpool or vanpool through monetary incentives.

Mass Marketing Campaign

The FY2020 first half media campaign, promoting Ridesharing and GRH, uses advertising developed for spring FY 2019, in both audio and visual forms. Campaign creative were themed, "Why Rideshare? Why Not?" for Rideshare, and "Don't Freak Out" for GRH. Four radio ads (two Rideshare and two GRH), were produced in January 2019. The GRH campaign kicked off during the third week of October, while the Rideshare campaign kicked off during the second week of October. The campaigns ran for a total of thirteen weeks, alternating weeks between Rideshare and GRH. The total cost of the Rideshare media buy was \$54,963.60 and the total cost of the GRH media buy was \$494,169.70.

The FY2020 first half media campaign also included the promotion of GRH in the Baltimore region, using the same advertising developed for spring FY2019 radio and social media for the DC region. Two GRH radio ads ran for a total of six weeks, starting at the middle of October and running through the last week of December. The total cost of the GRH Baltimore media buy was \$24,918.

Value Add Promotions

Based on paid media spending, value add was negotiated in the form of additional media exposure. Value add included no-charge radio ads, brief promotional messages, radio personality social media posts, email blasts, and banner ads on station web sites. Value add savings for the fall campaigns was as follows: Rideshare \$16,200.00; GRH Washington, DC \$62,100.00; and GRH Baltimore \$8,960.00.

Messaging Strategy

The "Why Rideshare? Why not?" campaign informed commuters that once they register with Commuter Connections for free, they gain access to ridematch options and a host of commuting benefits and programs. Quality of life is improved, stress is reduced, and the overall effort to reduce congestion is positively impacted. Rideshare advertising was heard on a mix of music and news radio stations. Other marketing and advertising included digital and social media.

The FY19 messaging for GRH is "Don't Freak Out". This concept offers the scenario of being stuck at work without a way to get home but does so in a humorous manner. By creating a lighthearted situation, commuters are reminded that GRH can take away the "got stuck" feeling with a free ride home. By registering or re-registering ahead of time, commuters who use alternative transportation can rest assured that when unexpected issues arise, they can get home - guaranteed. GRH registration is positioned as an easy step that will pay off when the audience finds themselves confronted with late nights, illness, or unexpected emergencies. A reminder to register or renew is included in the messaging. GRH advertising was placed on a mix of music, and news radio stations, streaming TV, digital, native articles and social media.

Car Free Days

Radio, blogs, streaming radio, social media, text messages, donated transit space, and earned media were used to promote Car Free Days 2019. Pledges reached 4,756, which is a 72% increase from the 2018 event. The total cost of the Car Free Days media buy was \$44,998.75.

'Pool Rewards

Radio, Native Content and Facebook were used to promote 'Pool Rewards during the first half of FY20. The campaign started in the middle of November 2019 and ran through the end of December 2019. The campaign promoted the benefits and cost savings of the 'Pool Rewards program for carpools and vanpools. The total cost of the 'Pool Rewards media buy was \$15,490.60.

Employer Recognition Awards

A nomination brochure and form were created and mailed to employers in early December 2019. The materials were also made available online.

incenTrip

Radio, Facebook, Instagram, and Google were used to promote incenTrip for the fall FY20 media buy. incenTrip is a multimodal commute planning app that provides commuters in the Washington, DC region with the best travel methods, departure time, and route based on real-time traffic prediction data and user preferences. Points are earned for taking alternative travel method with the app, and points can be redeemed for cash. The total cost of the incenTrip fall media buy was \$19,925.00.

Introduction

The FY2020 Marketing Communications Plan and Schedule, distributed to Commuter Connections' network members in September 2019, outlined marketing campaigns for FY2020. The strategy behind the campaigns reflected the state of events for the region's commuters, and builds upon findings from the following reports:

- 2019 State of the Commute Survey Report
- 2019 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Washington DC Region
- 2019 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Baltimore Region
- FY 2018 Commuter Connections Applicant Database Annual Placement Survey Report
- FY2015-FY 2017 Commuter Connections Transportation Emission Reduction (TERM)
 Analysis Report
- 2016 Bike to Work Survey TERM Analysis Report

The first half of FY2020 included the following actions:

- The continuation of the Spring FY 2019 Rideshare marketing campaign which emphasized the benefits of Commuter Connections free membership and the safety net of GRH.
- The promotion of Car Free Days 2019 to remind commuters to explore alternative transportation options to work, school, or anywhere they needed to go.
- The promotion of the incenTrip app as a useful multimodal trip planner with real-time incentives.
- The continuation of the Ridesharing incentive program 'Pool Rewards.
- Summer and Fall newsletters that provide articles on transportation updates and changes that benefit employers, including infographics for quick glances at commuter statistics.
- A "Call for Nominations" brochure and form for the 2020 Employer Recognition Awards.
- The kick-off of the Bike to Work Day 2020 sponsor drive and development of poster concepts.
- The development of a new umbrella campaign to launch in February 2020.

About Commuter Connections

Commuter Connections is a regional network of transportation organizations coordinated through the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Commuter Connections offers free commuter services to those who work in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Major services include Ridematching for carpools and vanpools in DC, and administration of the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program in both Washington and Baltimore. Through its Employer Outreach Representatives, Commuter Connections also assists employers to establish commuter benefits programs for their employees, including teleworking.

Organizations represented in the Commuter Connections Regional TDM Marketing Group include:

- Arlington County Commuter Services
- Bethesda Transportation Solutions
- City of Alexandria GO Alex
- District Department of Transportation
- Dulles Area Transportation Association
- Enterprise Rideshare
- Fairfax City
- Fairfax Connector
- Fairfax County Commuter Services
- General Services Administration
- GW Ride Connect
- LINK
- Loudoun County Commuter Services
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- Maryland State Highway Administration
- Maryland Transit Administration
- Montgomery County Commuter Services
- Montgomery County Ride On
- National Institutes of Health
- North Bethesda Transportation Center

- Northern Neck Rideshare/PDC
- Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
- OmniRide (PRTC)
- Prince George's County Department of Transportation
- Rappahannock Area Development Commission
- Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
- TransIT Services of Frederick County
- Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
- Tysons Partnership Transportation Council
- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Railway Express
- Washington Area Bicyclist Association
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Cornerstones of the Marketing Campaign

The primary services featured in the marketing campaign are GRH and Ridematching. Both are integral to growing the regional database and making it easier for commuters to find and maintain shared ride arrangements. Other areas included in marketing outreach encompassed are transit, bicycling/walking, and teleworking/compressed work schedules.

The objectives of the marketing campaign are to:

- Promote the benefits of ridesharing, through simple, direct messages.
- Promote the time saving benefits of using HOV and Express Lanes.
- Capitalize on the Commuter Connections mobile Ridematching and real-time ridesharing capabilities.
- Promote Commuter Connections as the trusted, convenient regional provider of commuter services for over forty years.
- Increase the number of participants in Car Free Day based on set committee goals.
- Promote incenTrip, the multimodal trip planning app that rewards points for each commute trip you plan.
- Draw upon the additional savings of 'Pool Rewards as further incentive.
- Promote Guaranteed Ride Home as a safety net, available to commuters in case of unscheduled overtime, or an unexpected personal or family illness or emergency.
- Promote Guaranteed Ride Home to alternative commute mode users in both the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan regions, plus St. Mary's County.
- Promote employer efforts to ease regional commuting issues through earned media placements and the employer newsletter.
- Prepare human interest stories of commuters using alternate commute modes and/or employers offering outstanding commuter benefits.
- Increase reach to younger, Spanish, and African American audiences.
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled and work trips.
- Promote CarpoolNow, the real-time on demand Ridematching app.
- Encourage Flextime Rewards participants to log trips.
- Encourage employers to submit nominations for the 2020 Employer Recognition Awards.

Brand Character

Commuter Connections is a network of organizations working to improve commutes. Through Commuter Connections' online Ridematching system, commuters registering for the service will be given direct access to others who are looking to carpool and vanpool, along with an access to commute routes and other alternative mode options such as transit, bicycling, and teleworking. As more people share the ride to work, they positively affect air quality and mobility for the region.



Car Free Days 2019

Car Free Days were celebrated on Saturday, Sunday and Monday September 21-23, 2019. The event promoted alternative travel modes for both commute and non-commute trips, by encouraging commuters and the general public to take the pledge to use car free or car-lite transportation. The total number of 2019 Car Free Days pledges reached 4,756.



Media Objectives

The Car Free Days campaign promoted use of alternative transportation modes and raised public awareness. Car Free Days challenged drivers to leave their cars home for the day and go car free or car-lite.

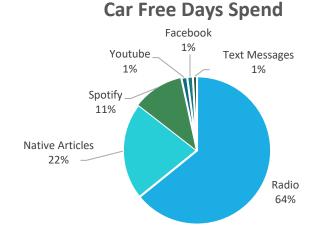
In addition to paid media of radio, text messaging, radio promotions, posters, banner ads on radio station websites, social media, an earned media effort was created to bring attention to the event and drive people to www.carfreemetrodc.org to take the pledge. In addition, many transit agencies provided complimentary ad space to promote Car Free Day.

Target market:

All SOV drivers

Geographic Targeting

Washington D.C. DMA



Car Free Days Budget	MWCOG Cost	Gross Dollars	Impressions
Radio (iHeart stations)	\$28,878.75	\$33,975	1,379,900
Native Articles	\$9,600	\$11,188.24	898,800
Spotify	\$4,995	\$4,995	378,563
YouTube	\$570	\$570	TBD
Facebook	\$555	\$555	107,941
Text Messages	\$400	\$400	1,650
Totals	\$44,998.75	\$51,683.24	2,766,854+

Value Add

A total of \$8,000.00 in value add was negotiated for Car Free Day.

Car Free Days Poster

Messaging requested drivers to "Drop it For a Day" with a call to action to take the free pledge to use transportation alternatives. The poster was distributed to colleges, employers and stakeholders.



Radio

Radio encouraged the single occupant vehicle driving public to go car free or car-lite on Sept 21-23. Two :30 recorded spots were aired on five iHeart stations: Big 100 (100.3), Hot 99.5, WASH-FM (97.1), WMZQ (98.7), and DC101 (101.1). The media spend for radio totaled \$28,878.75, which was 64% of the total Car Free Days budget.

Stations also provided :15 personal endorsements that were recorded by the DJs inviting listeners to participate. iHeart Radio ran a contest to giveaway five bicycles from Brilliant Bicycle Co to listeners who took the Car Free Day pledge.



Car Free Days Social Media

Social Media was used to keep friends of the event up to date on activities and sponsor donated prizes for the Car Free Day raffle. Car Free Days is "liked" by over 4,650 Facebook fans.





Paid Social Media Facebook Boosted Posts Ads





Spotify

An estimated 378,563 impressions were delivered using Spotify. For Car Free Days, two :30 radio spots ran concurrently with display advertisements.

Spotify Display Ads



Native Articles

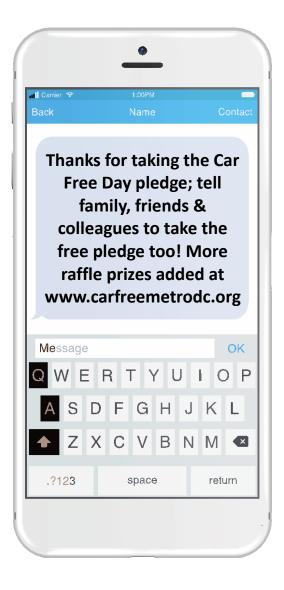
Paid sponsored articles on wtop.com and PoPville, a popular local blog chronicling D.C. area neighborhood happenings, were utilized to help reach local audiences. WTOP.com yielded 810,000 impressions, while PoPville had 88,800 impressions.





Text Messages

When event registrants took the Car Free Days pledge on carfreemetrodc.org, they could opt-in to receive text messages about the event. Three messages were sent throughout the campaign. The first message was sent to current registrants to thank them for taking the pledge and to encourage family and friends to take the pledge. The second message was sent to people who took the pledge in 2018 reminding them to take the pledge. The last message encouraged registrants to take the pledge and download the incenTrip app to get 200 free reward points if they used incenTrip during Car Free Days to plan and log a trip.



Transit Signage

Complimentary transit ad space was donated by Arlington Transit (ART), Prince George's TheBus, Fairfax Connector, Metrobus and Montgomery County Ride On. Signage included:

- Arlington Interior Bus Cards
- Prince George's County Bus Shelters and Benches
- Fairfax County Connector Bus Tails
- Metrobus Interior Bus Cards
- Montgomery County Bus Exteriors





Clean Air Partners

Weather and Traffic Sponsorships

The Commuter Connections Clean Air Partnership \$10,000 sponsorship for FY2019 helped purchase one-week of radio advertising that ran on twenty-two radio stations in the greater metro Baltimore-Washington region. 125 weather and traffic reports were bookended by a 5-second "sponsored by" tag and a 15-second campaign message, reaching area residents more than 2.1 million times.

Week of July 8 – Driving Cleaner

This traffic {or weather} report is sponsored by Clean Air Partners, Commuter Connections, and WGL.

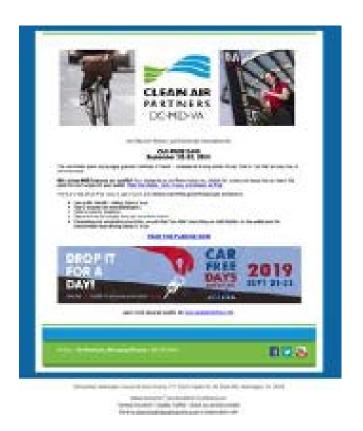
{REPORT}

Keep tires properly inflated to reduce air pollution and save money on gas! Or better yet, ride with a friend or take public transit. Find more Breathe Easy tips at CleanAirPartners.net.

Co-branded advertising included 399 interior cards on buses and transit shelters across the Baltimore-Washington region, with an estimated advertising value \$22,705.

TRANSIT AGENCY	QTY	DURATION	ESTIMATED IMPRESSIONS	ESTIMATED VALUE
Arlington County's ART Buses	70	3 months	NA	\$6,176
WMATA's Metro Buses	200	1 month	965,200	\$5,882
University of Maryland's DOTS Buses/Shelters	30	3 months	NA	\$2,647
Prince George's County's THE BUS	74	3 months	NA	\$6,529
Frederick County's TransIT Buses	25	2 months	NA	\$1,471
TOTALS	399		-	\$22,705

In June, Clean Air Partners included the Commuter Connections logo on a Summer Camapigne-blast to 7,000 email subscribers. In addition, another e-mail blast went out in September to promote Car Free Days. Fourty-seven people clicked through to the Car Free Day website ro complete the car free day pledge. The Commuter Connections logo was included on nine graphics that were distributed to partners to post on their social media channels, as well as on the Clean Air Partners Twitter and Fecebook pages. A focus was on promoting alternative transportation in September and Car Free Days. There were more than 8,250 impressions generated on Twitter from this camapign.



Clean Air Pertners (PC) con Air Partner - Sep 15

Car Free Days are September 11-231 Abernative transportation https:

reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Walk, oke or take transiti blace the free pledge carbinemetrade.org/mio.com/mio.p., giCorFreeMetroCC



Clean Air Partners (#CleanAirParmor - Sep 10)

September 21-23) Take the pleage and win prizest

Join Clean Air Pertners and @CarFreeMetroDC for Car Pree Days

Clean Air Partners Ambassador teams also conducted grassroots outreach at ten farmer's markets in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia and highlighted the Car Free Days event.







Earned Media

Working closely with MWCOG's Office of Communications, outreach was conducted that included press releases that raised awareness and promoted the benefits of going car-free or car-lite for CFD 2019. The following press releases were developed, distributed, and pitched to print, broadcast, and social media (see appendix for media placements):

- Press Release #1: August 13, 2019 "Drop your keys for Car Free Days—Take the free pledge today!" The press release announced that pledging was open. Press Release #2: September 12, 2019 "Commuter Connections, American Lung Association, and American Heart Association Want You to Go Car Free on September 21, 22, or 23" The press release announced the partnership with the associations to promote Car Free Day as an opportunity to improve health. Press Release #3: September 20, 2019 "Last Chance to Pledge to Go Car Free Drop Your Keys on September 21, 22, and/or 23" Press release announced the last chance to take the pledge and participate in Car Free Day.
- Created and submitted calendar listings to 76 local calendars and had placements on 18 calendars.

- A College Campus Challenge promotional tool kit included email templates to members, students, faculty and staff; newsletter/website content; social media recommendations; a Car Free Days flyer and logo. The kit was distributed to 60 Sustainability and Transportation coordinators at 25 regional colleges through digital outreach, follow up phone calls and the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area. Almost 300 pledges (6% of all Car Free Day pledges) were made through .edu email domains. The top three institutions in order were Georgetown University, American University, and University of Maryland.
- For the third consecutive year, Commuter Connections partnered with the American Lung Association to support CFD's initiative of improving the region's air quality and health. The American Lung Association provided a quote for the Car Free Day press release and shared CAR FREE DAYS promotional posts and articles on their social media pages.
- Commuter Connections partnered with the American Heart Association for the second year to spread the CFD message about health and air quality. In addition to providing a quote for the Car Free Day press release, the American Heart Association distributed the release and information about CFD to its media list and stakeholders; created a blog post about CFD; and promoted the event and its materials through CFD social media.

Prizes

Each event registrant who pledged to go car free or car-lite received a \$30 Nift Gift card to use with local participating businesses in the DC area. Registrants were also entered into a raffle for a chance to win sponsor donated prizes. Social media posts also mentioned businesses that donated prizes. iHeart radio provided additional value add to Car Free Days 2019 and offered 4 Brilliant Bicycles to be raffled.

- \$30 Nift Gift (neighborhood gift), (given to all who take the pledge) courtesy of Nift
- D.C. United Pair of Tickets, courtesy <u>D.C. United</u>
- Newseum Pair of Tickets, courtesy <u>Freedom Forum Institute</u>
- Capital Bikeshare annual memberships, courtesy goDCgo
- Samsung Galaxy Tab A, courtesy <u>Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland</u>
- KIND Healthy Snacks gift bag, courtesy KIND, #bekindtoyourself
- SmarTrip cards with \$25 in fare, courtesy <u>Washington Metropolitan Area Transit</u>
 Authority
- Free T-shirt and annual membership, courtesy East Coast Greenway Alliance
- Grocery Store gift cards of \$25 value, courtesy Giant Food
- Pair of single ride tickets, courtesy <u>VRE</u>
- Annual memberships, courtesy Washington Area Bicyclist Association
- A free crepe of your choice, courtesy <u>Crepeaway</u>
- George Washington's Mount Vernon tickets for four, courtesy <u>The Mount Vernon</u>
 Ladies' Association of the Union
- International Spy Museum pair of tickets, courtesy the International Spy Museum
- Nando's PERi-PERi, Full Platter at DC, Maryland, or Virginia locations, courtesy <u>Nando's</u> <u>PERi-PERi</u>
- Winery Tour Tasting for Four, courtesy <u>City Winery Washington</u>, <u>DC</u>
- Heurich House Museum The Brewmaster's Castle Two tickets to a public program, courtesy <u>Heurich House Museum</u>
- Brilliant Bicycles 4 bikes, courtesy of iHeart Radio





































incenTrip Campaign

The incenTrip campaign launched in October and runs during the fall Rideshare weeks.

Messaging Strategy

The messaging strategy for incenTrip is to communicate how using the commute planning app can save time, fuel, and money while also reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality.













Media Objectives

The incenTrip campaign raises awareness of the multimodal commute planning app and aims to increase number of users. Media included radio ads on WTOP, social media posts on Facebook, and Instagram, and digital ads with Google.

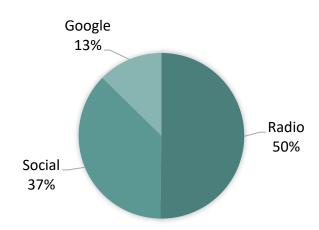
Target market:

All drivers

Geographic Targeting

Washington D.C. DMA

FY20 INCENTRIP MEDIA



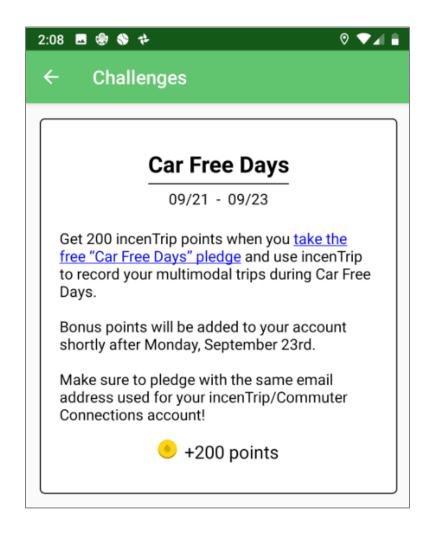
incenTrip Budget	MWCOG Cost	Gross Cost	Estimated Impressions
Radio	\$10,004.50	\$11,770.00	627,500
Social	\$7,400	\$7,400	TBD
Google	\$2,520	\$2,520	TBD
Total	\$19,925	\$21,690	627,500+

Value Add

A total of \$13,150.00 in value add was negotiated for incenTrip.

Car Free Day Promotion

As part of the 2019 Car Free Day event, all who took the pledge were incentivized to use the incenTrip app to plan and track trips during Car Free Days, in exchange for earning 200 rewards points.



Ridematching Campaign

Messaging Strategy

The first half of the FY2020 Ridesharing campaign used the same creative from Spring FY2019. The "Why Rideshare? Why Not?" campaign uses factoids in an infographic-like design to showcase the benefits of alternative mode commutes in a fun way. The campaign informs commuters that once they register with Commuter Connections for free, they gain access to ridematch options and a host of commuting benefits and programs. Quality of life is improved, stress is reduced, and the overall effort to reduce congestion is positively impacted.







Media Objectives: Rideshare

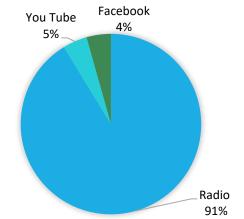
The fall FY2020 media campaign promoted the Ridematching program using radio, YouTube and Facebook, to increase awareness of shared ride modes, and gain new applicants into the regional database to use ridematching services. Ridesharing is an ideal commute alternative for longer distance trips, especially along HOV/Express Lanes corridors due to highway congestion and fewer transit options.

Target Market

From the FY 2018 Commuter Connections Applicant Database Annual Placement Survey Report:

- Weekly Commute Trips by Mode Share: takes transit (45%), Carpools/Vanpools (26%), Teleworks/CWS (15%)
- **Gender:** Female 54%, male (46%)
- Age: 45-64 (61%)
- Arrives at Work: between 6:00 7:59 a.m. (63%)
- Ethnicity/Race: Caucasian (57%), African-American (22%)
- Commute Distance Average (One-Way): 35.1 miles
- Commute Distance (One-Way): 20+ miles (81%), 30+ miles (62%), 40+ miles (39%)
- Lives: in Virginia (57%), Maryland (40%)
- Works: in D.C. (50%), Maryland (25%), and Virginia (25%)
- **Works:** for employers with 101+ employees (79%), work for employers with 1000+ employees (48%)
- Works: for federal agency (66%), private sector (21%)
- Works: as computer-engineering-science (26%), business-financial operations (24%), office administrative support (15%), management occupations (13%)

FY20 RIDESHARE FALL MEDIA



Geographic Targeting

Washington D.C. DMA

Rideshare Fall Budget	MWCOG Cost	Gross Cost	Estimated Impressions
Radio	\$50,163.60	\$59,016.00	2,982,300
YouTube	\$2,400	\$2,400	TBD
Facebook	\$2,400	\$2,400	TBD
Totals	\$54,963.60	\$63,816.00	2,982,300+

Rideshare Fall by Radio Station	MWCOG Cost	Gross Cost
WAFY	\$10,240.80	\$12,048.00
WBQB	\$11,551.50	\$13,590.00
WFLS	\$12,444.00	\$14,640.00
WFMD	\$3,978.00	\$4,680.00
WFRE	\$11,949.30	\$14,058.00
Totals	\$50,163.60	\$59,016.00

Value Add

A total of \$16,200.00 in value add was negotiated for Rideshare.

Radio

Radio was the anchor media for the Rideshare campaign, with a mix of station formats including music and news.

WAFY (103.1 Top 40)
WBQB (101.5 Adult Contemporary)
WFLS (93.3 Country)
WFMD (930 AM News/Talk)
WFRE (99.9 Country)

The below ads promoted the Ridematching program. Live :10 and :15 reads were secured as value add to promote the program as well.

Rideshare: 30 Recorded Spot "Why Rideshare? Why Not?" Male

Bob loves carpooling to work. Why? He gets some much needed social interaction, destresses, and saves a bundle. Why rideshare? Why not? Join Bob and join 10% of Americans who share a ride, reducing traffic congestion and leading to a happier life!

Register today for free at Commuter Connections.org and join the happy 10%! That's Commuter Connections.org or 800.745.RIDE.

Rideshare: 30 Recorded Spot "Why Rideshare? Why Not?" Female

Jane loves carpooling to work. Why? She knows that her commute affects her happiness. That's right. With 18% of a monthly budget going to owning and operating a car, carpooling saves her a bundle. Who wouldn't be happy with those savings? Join Jane and join the 10% of Americans who are happy to save by sharing a ride each day!

Register today for free at Commuter Connections.org and join the 10%! That's Commuter Connections.org or 800.745.RIDE.

Social Media Advertising

Social Media advertising on Facebook promoted the Ridematching program. Geo-targeting capabilities allowed Ridematching messages to reach audiences in the region. Sponsored posts were placed for six weeks.







RS

Finding someone to carpool with is easier than you think! Simply visit commuterconnections.org/ridesharing or call 800.745.RIDE to share the ride.

Sponsored by Commuter Connections.

Some restrictions apply.

RS

Save time, save money, save wear and tear on your car when you rideshare!
Start ridesharing by visiting commuterconnections.org/ridesharing or by calling 800.745.RIDE. Sponsored by Commuter Connections. Some restrictions apply.

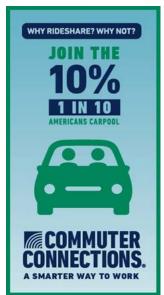
RS

You save more than just your time and money when you rideshare, you also save your nerves! Get happy when you sign up to rideshare. Visit commuterconnections.org/ridesharing or call 800.745.RIDE to start. Sponsored by Commuter Connections. Some restrictions apply.

Online & Digital Advertising

The Rideshare campaign alternated every other week from October through December. The campaign included digital banner ads, and :15 second YouTube videos.

Banner Ads





Guaranteed Ride Home Campaign

Messaging Strategy

The first half of the FY2020 GRH campaign used the same creative from Spring FY2019. The "Don't Freak Out" campaign uses a humorous idiom headline to appeal to that inner anxiety we feel stranded and need to get home. By creating a lighthearted situation, commuters are reminded that, with GRH, they can avoid "freaking out" with a free ride home. By registering or reregistering ahead of time, commuters who use alternative transportation can rest assured that when unexpected issues arise, they can get home - guaranteed.







Media Objectives:

Guaranteed Ride Home Washington DC Region

The campaign is focused on raising awareness of the unique GRH program among commuters and increasing registration and re-registration. GRH leverages alternative transportation by removing one of the perceived barriers: how to get home in case of an unexpected emergency.

Target market

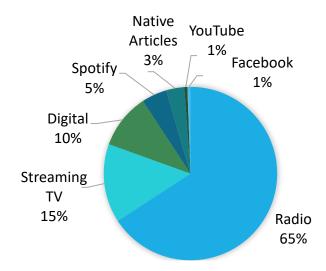
From the 2019 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Washington DC Region:

- **Gender:** Male (54%), female (46%)
- **Age:** 45-64 years (67%), 35-64 years (87%)
- Ethnicity/Race: Caucasian (61%) and African-American (22%)
- **HH Income:** \$120,000+ annual (60%)
- Commute Distance/Time Avg One-Way: 67 mins, 31+ mins (90%), 46 mins (72%)
- Lives: Virginia (55%) or Maryland (41%), emphasis on Prince William Co. (17%) and Fairfax Counties (12%);
- Works: DC (63%), Virginia (21%), Maryland (16%)

Geographic Targeting

Washington D.C. DMA

FY20 GRH FALL SPEND



GRH Fall Budget	MWCOG Cost	Gross Cost	Estimated Impressions
GRH Fall Budget	MWCOG Cost	GIOSS COST	Estimated impressions
Radio	\$325,722.45	\$380,127	10,157,000
Streaming TV	\$75,555.75	\$88,395	826,666
Digital	\$50,787.50	\$59,750	5,500,000
Spotify	\$23,304	\$23,304	1,765,452
Native Articles	\$16,800	\$19,447.06	1,015,000+
YouTube	\$2,400	\$2,400	TBD
Facebook	\$2,400	\$2,400	TBD
Total	\$494,169.70	\$573,023.06	19,264,118+

Value Add

A total of \$62,100.00 in value add was negotiated for GRH Washington, DC.

Radio

Radio was the primary media for the GRH campaign. Station formats included a mix of news and music:

- iHeart (Hot 99.5, 97.1 WASH, 98.7 WMZQ)
- WAFY (Key 103.1 Top 40)
- WAMU (88.5 Public Radio)
- WFMD (930 AM News/Talk)
- WFRE (99.9 Country)
- WLZL (El Zol 107.9 FM Spanish)
- WTEM (The Team 980 & 95.9 AM Sports)
- WTOP (103.5 News/Talk)

The :30 recorded spots below promoted GRH. Live :10 and :15 reads were secured as value add to promote the program as well.

Guaranteed Ride Home :30 "Don't Freak Out" Male

Feeling like you might freak out?

Try Guaranteed Ride Home from Commuter Connections. If you rideshare to work, you are eligible to receive a couple of free rides home each year, guaranteed. Why freak out about getting home in case of illness, unexpected emergencies, or unscheduled overtime?

Register or renew today for free at commuterconnections.org or 800.745.RIDE. That's commuterconnections.org. Some restrictions apply.

Guaranteed Ride Home: :30 "Don't Freak Out" Female

Feeling like you might freak out?

Try Guaranteed Ride Home from Commuter Connections. If you rideshare to work, you are eligible to get a couple of free rides home each year, guaranteed. Why freak out about getting home in case of illness, unexpected emergencies, or unscheduled overtime?

Register or renew today for free at commuterconnections.org or 800.745.RIDE. That's commuterconnections.org. Some restrictions apply.

Spotify

:30 audio for Spotify was used to advance the GRH fall messaging.

Social Media Advertising

Social Media advertising on Facebook promoted Guaranteed Ride Home. Geo-targeting capabilities allowed messaging to reach audiences throughout the region. Sponsored ads were posted for six weeks.



Online & Digital Advertising

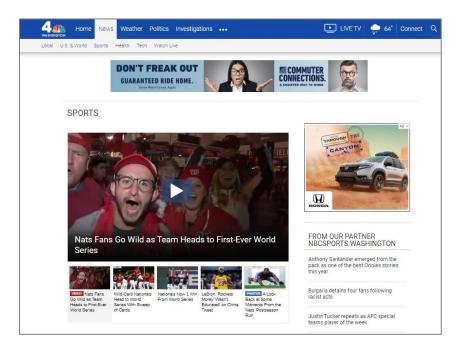
The primary digital buy for the GRH Fall Campaign consisted of 10% of the budget at \$50,787.50. The digital campaign included a Facebook Live sponsorship, podcasts, ticker messaging, homepage takeovers, news page takeovers, 1 million impressions in display advertising. A Good Day DC page sponsorship was achieved through value add.

Banner Ads

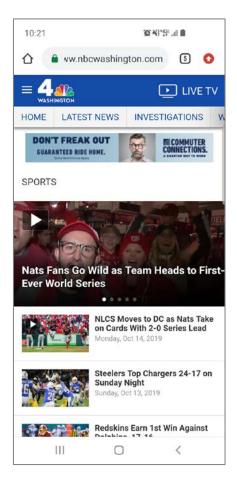


Streaming Service Videos

Streaming TV with NBC4 was purchased for \$72,755.75, which was 15% of the GRH Fall campaign budget.

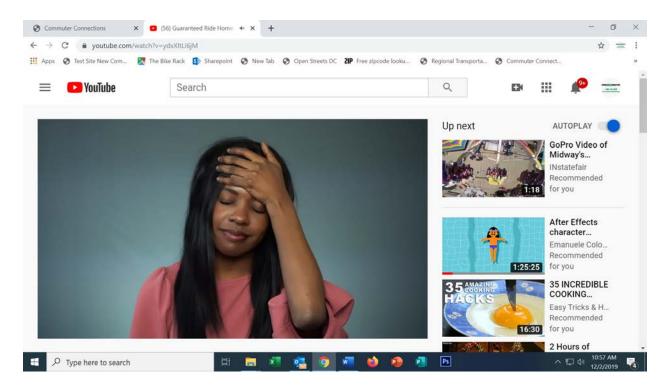






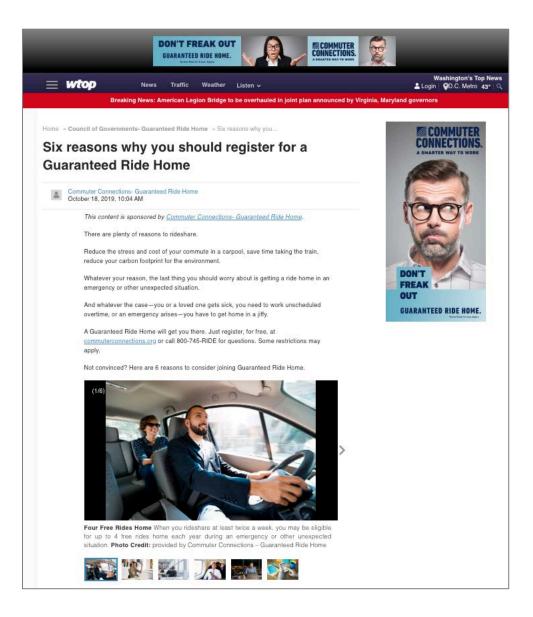
YouTube

YouTube was purchased for \$2,400, representing 1% of the Fall GRH spend.



Native Articles

Six articles were purchased for 3% of the total budget, \$16,800; three articles with WTOP.com and three articles with PoPville.



Media Objectives

Guaranteed Ride Home Baltimore Region

The GRH Baltimore campaign focused on raising awareness of the program among commuters in the Baltimore region, and increasing registrants. Radio, Facebook ads and YouTube increased awareness on how to get home in case of an unexpected emergency, illness, or unscheduled overtime.

Target Market

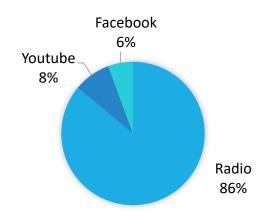
From the 2019 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Baltimore Region:

- **Age:** 35-64 (83%), 45-64 (61%)
- Ethnicity/Race: Caucasian (57%), African-American (27%), Asian (11%)
- **Gender:** Female (59%), Male (41%)
- Annual HH Income: \$80,000+ (59%), \$120,000+ (36%)
- Commute Distance/Time Avg One-Way: 31+ mins (76%), 46+ mins (55%), 61+ mins (29%)
- Lives: Maryland (85%), PA (7%)
- Top six home jurisdictions are Harford (23%), Baltimore City (17%), Baltimore County (17%), Howard County (6%), York County, PA (5%) Anne Arundel County (5%).
- Works: in Maryland (96%)

GRH BALTIMORE FY20 FALL SPEND

Geographic Targeting

Baltimore, MD DMA



GRH Baltimore Fall Budget	MWCOG Cost	Gross Cost	Estimated Impressions
Radio (WPOC)	\$21,420	\$25,200	769,300
YouTube	\$2,100	\$2,100	TBD
Facebook	\$1,398	\$1,398	TBD
Total	\$24,918	\$28,698	769,300+

Value Add

A total of \$8,960.00 in value add was negotiated for GRH Baltimore.

Radio

Radio served as the anchor media for the GRH Baltimore campaign. iHeart Radio/WPOC 93.1 (Country Music) was purchased for \$25,200, which consisted of 86% of the budget. See page 31.

Facebook

Facebook was used to engage and help drive registration and re-registration to the website with 6% of the budget. See social media ad on page 32.

YouTube

YouTube was purchased for 8% of the total budget for the GRH Baltimore campaign at \$350 per week. See page 35.

Bike to Work Day

Sponsorship Drive

Commuter Connections began its annual sponsorship drive in November 2019 for the May 2020 Bike to Work Day event. Letters were sent and phone calls were made to past and prospective sponsors. The sponsorship drive will remain open until January 31, 2020. Poster concepts were also developed for the 2020 event.



Employer Recognition Awards

The 2020 Employer Recognition Awards program recognizes employers who initiate outstanding worksite commute and/or telework programs to assist their employees. Winners and nominees will be honored at the annual awards ceremony in June 2020. A nomination brochure and form were developed and distributed in early December 2019. The materials were also made available online.

Nomination Brochure and Form







'Pool Rewards



Campaign

'Pool Rewards is a program geared toward encouraging SOV commuters to carpool or vanpool through monetary incentives. A paid digital, print, and social media campaign ran in the fall to promote the benefits of the 'Pool Rewards program.

Message Strategy

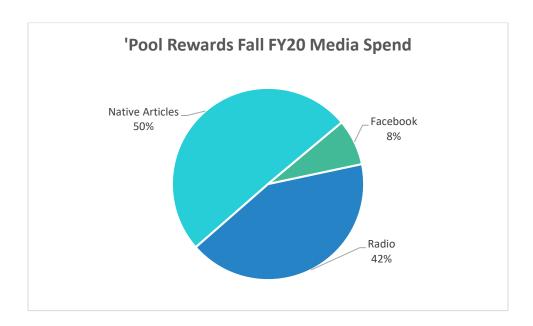
The ads ran on Rideshare weeks, November through December and encouraged commuters to find a partner to start a new carpool/vanpool.

Target Market

See Rideshare demographics on page 24.

Geographic Targeting

Washington D.C. DMA



'Pool Rewards Fall Budget	MWCOG Cost	Gross Cost	Estimated Impressions
Radio	\$6,491.60	\$7,636	1,614,000
Native Articles	\$7,800	\$7,800	TBD
Facebook	\$1,200	\$1,200	TBD
Total	\$15,490.60	\$16,636.00	1,614,000+

Radio

WTOP was purchased for 42% of the total 'Pool Rewards media spend.

'Pool Rewards Radio Script

Pool Rewards :30 "Ride. Reward. Repeat."

Ride. Reward. Repeat. That's right, get rewarded to rideshare through 'Pool Rewards. Just join or start a new carpool, and you can earn 130 dollars. Or, join a new vanpool and earn 200 dollars a month for your vanpool. It's that easy to earn extra money. Ride. Reward. Repeat. Go to commuterconnections dot org to sign up for a free account, and select 'Pool Rewards. That's commuterconnections dot org. Some restrictions apply.

Value Add

A total of \$4,300.00 in value add was negotiated for 'Pool Rewards.

Social Media Advertising

Facebook was utilized during Rideshare weeks to promote 'Pool Rewards for 8% of the total budget.







Native Articles

WTOP.com and PoPville were commissioned to create native articles for 'Pool Rewards for fall FY20, representing 50% of the budget.



Commuter Connections Newsletter and Federal ETC Insert

The Summer and Fall editions of the Commuter Connections newsletter were produced during the first half of FY2020. The six page 4-color newsletters are produced and distributed quarterly to employers and stakeholders. It is also available in .pdf format on the Commuter Connections website. Newsletters with a black & white Federal ETC insert are distributed in PDF form to Federal Employee Transportation Coordinators via GSA, and placed online at www.federaletc.org.

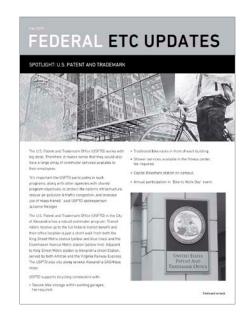
Summer 2019 Newsletter and Federal ETC Insert





Fall 2019 Newsletter and Federal ETC Insert

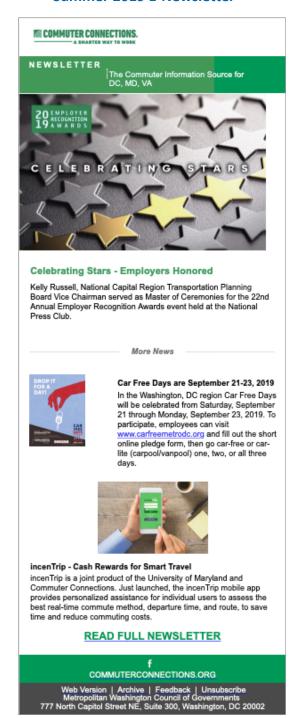




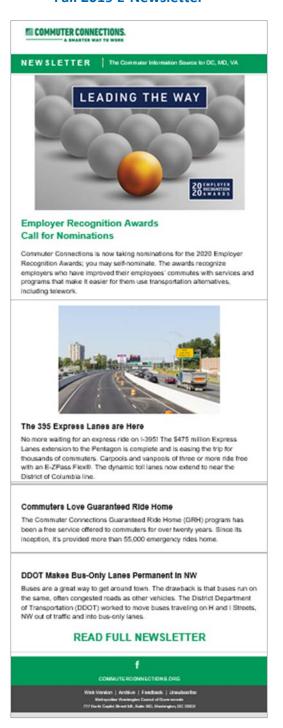
Commuter Connections E-Newsletter

The Summer and Fall 2019 edition of the Commuter Connections e-newsletter were distributed via email blast to employers, and Committee Members.

Summer 2019 E-Newsletter



Fall 2019 E-Newsletter



Appendix A Performance Measures

Web Visits

Month	FY 2019 Web Visits	FY 2020 Web Visits	+/-	+/- %
July	12,767	7,280	(5,487)	-42.98%
August	14,995	8,274	(6,721)	-44.82%
September	11,373	8,944	(2,429)	-21.36%
October	17,581	11,125	(6,456)	-36.72%
November	10,957	10,791	(166)	-1.52%
December				

67,673 46,414 (21,259) -31.41%

Phone Calls

Month	FY 2019 Phone Calls	FY 2020 Phone Calls	+/-	+/- %
July	883	853	(30)	-3.4%
August	925	847	(78)	-8.4%
September	841	953	112	13.3%
October	984	1,069	85	8.6%
November	906	568	(338)	-37.3%
December			(000)	711011

4,539 4,290 (249) -5.5%

Rideshare Applications

Month	Rideshare FY 2019 Applications	Rideshare FY 2020 Applications	Change	%
July	1,377	932	-445	-32.3%
August	1,002	1,552	550	54.9%
September	1,064	843	-221	-20.8%
				-
October	746		-746	100.0%
				-
November	740		-740	100.0%
				-
December	573		-573	100.0%

5,502 3,327 (2,175) -39.5%

GRH Applications

Month	GRH FY 2019 Applications	GRH FY 2020 Applications	Change	%
IVIOIILII	Applications	Applications	Change	70
July	763	581	-182	-23.9%
August	685	634	-51	-7.4%
September	636	595	-41	-6.4%
				1
October	718		-718	100.0%
				1
November	585		-585	100.0%
		_		-
December	498		-498	100.0%

3,885 1,810 (2,075) -53.4%

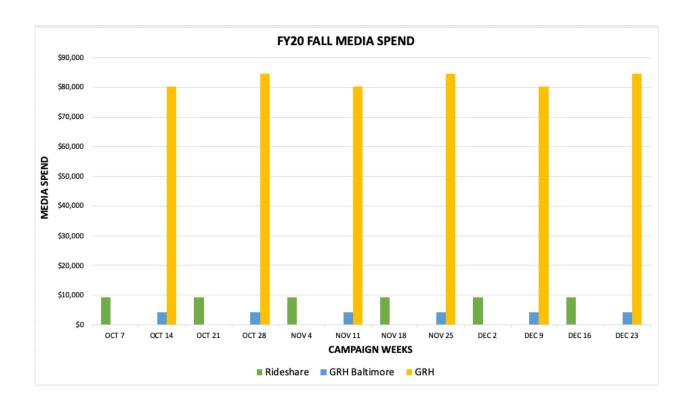
Appendix B

FY2020 Fall Media Schedules

	Commuter (Connections FY2020 Fall Ur	nbrella							Med	lia Sched	ule: Spec	ific Dates	Spots R	un (Week	of)					
	commuter	Media Outlet	Campaign to Run	8/26	9/2	9/9	9/16	0/22	9/30		10/14		10/28	11/4	11/11		11/25	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23
		WAFY/WWEG	10/7 - 12/16/19	8/26	9/2	9/9	9/16	9/23	9/30	10//	10/14	10/21	10/28	11/4	11/11	11/18	11/25	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23
		WBQB	10/7 - 12/16/19																		
2	Radio	WFLS	10/7 - 12/16/19																		-
<u>19</u>	22	WFMD	10/7 - 12/16/19																		
Rideshare		WFRE	10/7 - 12/16/19																		
25	<u></u>	Facebook	10/7 - 12/16/19																		
	Social	Youtube	10/7 - 12/16/19																		
GRH - Baltimore	Radio	WPOC 93.1/Baltimore	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
GRH	Social	Facebook	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
8	So	Youtube	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
		WTOP	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
		iHeart	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
		WLZL (El Zol)	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
		WAMU	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
	Radio	WAFY/WWEG	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
		WTEM	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
		WFRE	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
		WFMD	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
	Streaming TV	NBC4 Streaming	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
Ξ.	Str	YouTube	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
GRH	Digital	WTTG	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
	Spotify	:30 Audio	10/14 - 12/23/19																		
	e e	WTOP.com	10/28 - 12/23/19																		
	Native Articles	PoPville	10/14 - 12/9/19																		
	Social	Facebook	10/14 - 12/23/19																		

Comr	nuter Conn	ections FY2020 Other	Programs		Media	Sched	lule: Sp	ecific D	Dates Sp	oots Run (V	Veek of)										
		Media Outlet	Campaign to Run	8/26	9/2	9/9	9/16	9/23	9/30	10/7	10/14	10/21	10/28	11/4	11/11	11/18	11/25	12/2	12/9	12/16	12/23
ş	Radio	WTOP	11/18 - 12/16/19																		
Pool Rewards	Native Articles	WTOP.com	11/18 - 12/16/19																		
No R	ş F	PoPville	11/18 - 12/16/19																		
Pc	Social	Facebook	11/18 - 12/16/19																		
d.	Radio	WTOP	11/4 - 12/16/19																		
Ē	Social	Facebook	11/4 - 6/22/20																		
incenTrip	Soc	Instagram	11/4 - 6/22/20																		
ı.	Digital	Google	11/4 - 6/22/20																		
	Radio	iHeart	9/2 - 9/23/19																		
	Native Articles	WTOP.com	9/2 - 9/23/19																		
>		PoPville	9/2 - 9/23/19																		
Car Free Day	Spotify	:30 Audio	9/2 - 9/23/19																		
Ē	=	Facebook	9/2 - 9/23/19																		
Ca	Social	YouTube	9/2 - 9/23/19																		
	Text Messages	3 Text Messages	9/5, 9/9, 9/16																		

Appendix C FY2020 1st Half Paid Media Spend



Appendix D

Car Free Days Earned Media Placements

Car Free Days 2019 media placements across print, internet, radio, and television outlets, along with a selection of social media placements.

Media Placements:

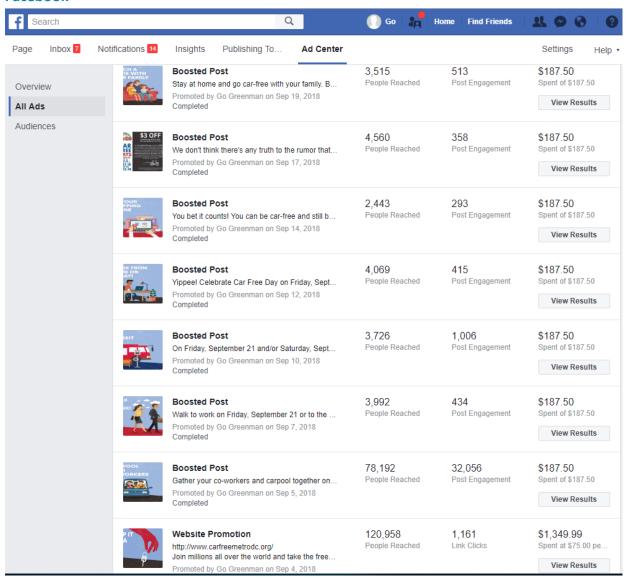
	CFD 2019 Print	/Online Coverage
Date	Outlet	Topic linked to URL
8/14/19	InsideNOVA	Registration Now Open for Regional Car Free Day
8/21/19	Sun-Gazette Newspaper	Registration Open for 'Car Free Day'
9/04/19	Curbed DC	D.C. area to host three car-free days September 21 through 23
9/09/19	Montgomery County	7 ways you can make an impact this Car Free Day
9/10/19	Prince William Chamber of Commerce	OmniRide Celebrates Try Transit Week – Sept. 16-20
9/10/19	Prince William Living	OmniRide Celebrates Try Transit Week
9/10/19	Arlington Transportation Partners	Pledge Your Mode for Car Free Day
9/11/19	PoPVille	Park It on Car Free Day Starting September 21
9/11/19	Bristow Beat	OmniRide Celebrates Try Transit Week
9/12/19	Virginia Patch	Loudoun Encourages Commuters To Ditch Cars Next Week
9/12/19	Loudoun County	Loudoun Celebrates 2019 "Try Transit Week," "Car Free Days" in September
9/12/19	Virginia Patch	Loudoun Encourages Commuters To Ditch Cars Next Week
9/12/19	Potomac Local	OmniRide offers free rides during 'Try Transit Week'
9/13/19	Maryland DOT	Car Free Days 2019
9/13/19	Prince William Living	Car Free Days 2019
9/14/19	Fairfax County	Fairfax County Encourages Residents to Try Transit, Sept. 16-20 and Go Car Free, Sept. 16- 23
9/16/19	Frederick News-Post	Weekend brings car-free days
9/18/19	EYA	How to Participate in Car Free Day: September 21st – September 23rd
9/19/19	The Wash Cycle	Car Free Days Starts Tomorrow
9/19/19	City of Frederick	2019 World Car Free Days Celebrated in Frederick

9/20/19	ITS International	World cities drive change on Car-Free Day				
9/2019	Better Ways to Work	Celebrate Car Free Day 2019: Sept. 21-23				
	CFD 2019 Te	levision Coverage				
9/20/19	CBS DC	Commuters Can Get Free Fares For 'Car Free Day'				
	CFD 2019	Radio Coverage				
9/18/2019	WFMD	Car Free Days Are Coming Up				
	CFD 2019 (Calendar Listing				
Outlet		Listing				
OmniRide		Try Transit Week and Car Free Day: Two Chances to Win!				
SpinGo		Car Free Days 2019				
Inside Nova		Car Free Days 2019				
Anne Arundel Co Transportation	unty Office of	Car Free Days 2019				
Montgomery Cou	ıntv	MCDOT Promotes Alternative Transportation on				
montgomery coo	,	Car Free Day				
Fairfax County Ti	mes	Car Free Days 2019				
Arlington Transpo	ortation Partners	Car Free Day				
Frederick News-P	ost	Car Free Days 2019				
BikeArlington		Car Free Days 2019				
OmniRide		Free Rides on Sept 20 to Celebrate Try Transit				
		<u>Week</u>				
ActioNet		ActioNet Supports the Car Free Day Campaign				
Link Info		Invitation to Car Free Days from September 21-23				
Circulator		Car Free Days Soccer Giveaway				
GWRideConnect		Car Free Days 2019				
Georgetown Pato	ch	Car Free Days 2019				
DCist		Car Free Day				
The Wash Cycle		<u>Car Free Days start tomorrow</u>				

Appendix E

Car Free Days Social Media Analytics

Facebook



Appendix F

Commuter Connections Fall FY 2020 Umbrella Social Media Analytics

Facebook - GRH Washington



Facebook - GRH Baltimore



Facebook - Rideshare

