

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS
PROPOSED WORK ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2025
(July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

I. COMMUTER OPERATIONS CENTER (\$752,758) (*Note: includes \$53,700 for client member fees for hardware and software maintenance*)

A. RIDEMATCHING COORDINATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- Technical support and training to local ridehshare agencies for the regional Commuter Connections ridematching software system.
- Provide customer service and software training for network members, as needed.
- Documentation of specific technical support actions taken as well as daily Help Desk support given to network members.
- Review and distribution of received ridematching applications from employers and the general public.
- Distribute monthly commuter renewal notices as part of the purge process.
- Update and distribution of TDM Web-based System Training Manual, as needed.
- Matchlist and renewal notice generation and distribution services.
- Produce member reports, and fulfill member data requests.
- Update and distribution of bi-annual TDM Resources Directory.
- Federal Agency Employee Transportation Coordinator training and maintenance of the Federal ETC web site.
- Staff the Commuter Connections Subcommittee, Ridematching Committee, and STDM Work Group.
- Monitor and update the CCWP Master Agreement as needed.

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- Monitor and Update the Emergency Management and Contingency Plan.
- Produce the annual FY 2026 Commuter Connections Work Program.

B. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION SERVICES

- Provide commuter traveler information on alternatives to driving alone to the general public by telephone, web site, electronically, mobile, app, or printed information.
- Process applications from the general public and answer the regional "800" line and TDD line and respond to e-mails from the Commuter Connections web site.
- Respond to commuter e-mails from the Commuter Connections TDM Web service.
- Provide general public customer service.

C. TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION SOFTWARE, HARDWARE, AND DATABASE MAINTENANCE

- Provide daily routine monitoring and maintenance of the TDM Rideshare Software system for approximately 30 client member locations in the region.
- Maintain and update TDM system servers and software programming code, mobile applications, and web hosting.
- Coordinate software upgrades with the EMI project.

D. COMMUTER INFORMATION SYSTEM

- Update local and regional information for transit, telework and co-working center locations, park and ride lots, and bicycle route information which will be used in the web based TDM system.

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II. REGIONAL GUARANTEED RIDE HOME PROGRAM (\$978,153)

A. GENERAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- Process requests from the general public for registration and re-registration to the program. Notify commuters when registration is about to expire.
- Prepare and send GRH new and re-registration ID cards, registration letters and participation guidelines on a weekly basis.
- Monitor and update GRH applicant database.
- Update and maintain program participation guidelines.

B. PROCESS TRIP REQUESTS AND PROVIDE TRIPS

- Process GRH trip requests, approve/deny requests, and arrange rides.
- Management and monitoring of contract services for day-to-day operations, and ride providers this includes processing invoices for payment for contractors and for the general public for transit vouchers.
- Customer service training for GRH call center agents as needed.
- Provide GRH Rides.

III. MARKETING (\$3,985,012)

A. TDM MARKETING AND ADVERTISING

- Regularly update and maintain SharePoint for posting marketing and advertising materials for review by workgroup members and all other Commuter Connections committees.
- Track the effectiveness of advertising campaigns through call volumes, and the Internet.

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- Process media placement invoices.
- Update and implement earned media plan.
- Develop and implement creative materials for the regional TDM Marketing campaigns.
- Production of a quarterly newsletter for employers and Federal agency Employee Transportation Coordinators.
- Update and maintain printed regional marketing materials for rideshare matching, GRH, park and ride lots, and regional bicycling map.
- Update and maintain the Commuter Connections web site and social marketing sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and other sites as needed.
- Update and publish the Regional TDM Strategic Marketing Plan and Resource Guide.
- Attend and participate in commuter promotional events and other special events.
- Production and placement of print and electronic advertisements using the Commuter Connections marketing themes for all TDM program services (ridesharing, transit, GRH, telecommuting, employer outreach, etc.). This includes Web site advertisement through social and digital media, banner ads and placement of keyword search engine sponsorships, radio, and television as well as value-added spots.
- Placement of advertisements in printed and electronic military telephone directories.
- Create and place bus and rail advertising.
- Create and place special event advertising.
- Management and oversight of regional TDM Marketing project contractor(s).
- Monitoring the implementation of regional marketing campaigns and

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make adjustments to marketing campaigns, as needed.

- Preparation of Marketing Communications Plan and a corresponding implementation schedule.
- Staff the Regional TDM Marketing Group.
- Continue messaging and an event for Commuter Connections' 50th year anniversary.

B. BIKE TO WORK DAY

- Implement regional Bike To Work Day event and promote to employers and to the general public.
- Staff regional Bike To Work Day Steering Committee.
- Develop and implement an earned media plan.
- Media outreach and coordination of interviews.
- Develop and implement creative materials for Bike To Work Day.
- Coordination and management of the event web site and social media page updates.
- Develop and issue a regional Bike To Work Day Proclamation.
- Coordinate a new pit stop manager orientation session.
- Coordinate regional pit stops for Bike To Work Day event.
- Design and distribute collateral materials to employers and the general public.
- Placement of advertisements; including but not limited to social media and digital ads, banner ads on the web, placement of keyword search engine sponsorships, radio, and print, and value-added spots
- Solicitation of corporate sponsorships.

- Coordination of the Employer Challenge event.
- Processing media placement invoices.
- Management and oversight of regional TDM Marketing project contractor(s).

C. EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AWARDS

- Produce and distribute awards nomination packet and coordinate award submissions with local jurisdictions.
- Coordinate logistics for awards selection committee, including meeting facilitation.
- Coordinate development and distribution of awards booklet, giveaway item, video briefs, trophy's, and event photography.
- Develop and place print ad.
- Coordinate awards submissions with local jurisdictions.
- Identify and coordinate earned media opportunities.
- Process media placement invoices.
- Coordinate event logistics including recruitment of speakers, writing speaker remarks, securing event venue, and staffing the event.
- Management and oversight of regional TDM marketing project contractor(s).

D. 'POOL REWARDS

- Enrolling participants in the 'Pool Rewards program.
- Monitoring program participation and logging of trips in accordance with established program terms and conditions and participation guidelines.
- Report vanpool data to the FTA's National Transit Database (NTD).

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- Updating program terms and conditions and participation guidelines as needed.
- Administering program surveys and obtaining supervisor verification.
- Design and distribute collateral materials for distribution to employers and the general public.
- Place media on social media and digital platforms to advertise the program (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) as well as value added spots.
- Process media placement invoices.
- Management and oversight of regional TDM Marketing project contractor(s).

E. CAR FREE DAY

- Implement regional Car Free Day event in September 2023 and promote event to the general public, employers, the retail community and to the media.
- Staff the regional Car Free Day Steering Committee
- Develop and implement earned media plan.
- Develop and distribute collateral materials for the Car Free Day event.
- Produce a radio advertisement, internet ads, social media and digital ads, text messages, and e-mail blasts for marketing purposes.
- Media placements on radio and web and negotiation of value-added placements.
- Process media placement invoices.
- Update and maintain web site and social media sites.
- Management and oversight of regional TDM Marketing project contractor(s).

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F. CARPOOL NOW MOBILE APPLICATION

- Development and production of creative and marketing services including, but not limited to digital, radio, internet, newsprint, educational video, SEO blog posts, venue, mobile, social media and text ads.
- Update of web site and social media pages to reflect promotional activities and incentives.
- Promote mobile app to the general public, employers and to the media.
- Media Placements, including the negotiation of value-added placements.
- Process media placement invoices.
- Management and oversight of marketing contract.
- Monitoring Flexible Vanpool component and make updates to the module through the EMI grant project.

G. FLEXTIME INCENTIVE PROGRAM

- Enrolling participants in the Flextime Rewards program through the incenTrip mobile app.
- Monitoring program participation and logging of trips in accordance with established program terms and conditions and participation guidelines.
- Updating program terms and conditions and participation guidelines as needed.
- Work with TDM system software partners and contractor on any technical issues and/or upgrades
- Administering program surveys and obtaining supervisor verification.

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- Design and distribute collateral materials for distribution to employers and the general public.
- Place media on the radio, television, and web and use of digital and social media marketing to advertise the program (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) as well as value added spots.
- Process media placement invoices.
- Management and oversight of regional TDM Marketing project contractor(s).
- Distribute incentive(s) as needed.

I. INCENTRIP MOBILE APPLICATION

- Enrolling participants in the incenTrip program.
- Monitoring program participation and logging of trips in accordance with established program terms and conditions and participation guidelines.
- Updating program terms and conditions and participation guidelines as needed.
- Work with TDM system software partners and contractor on any technical issues and/or upgrades
- Coordinate and implement technical updates
- Administering program surveys and obtaining supervisor verification.
- Design and distribute collateral materials for distribution to employers and the general public.
- Place media on the radio, television, and web and use of digital and social media marketing to advertise the program (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) as well as value added spots.
- Process media placement invoices.

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- Management and oversight of regional TDM Marketing project contractor(s).
- Distribute incentive(s) as needed.

J. MDOT INCENTRIP MOBILE APPLICATION

- Enrolling participants in the incenTrip program outside of the MWCOG non-attainment region.
- Monitoring program participation and logging of trips in accordance with established program terms and conditions and participation guidelines.
- Updating program terms and conditions and participation guidelines as needed.
- Work with TDM system software partners and contractor on any technical issues and/or upgrades
- Coordinate and implement technical updates
- Administering program surveys and obtaining supervisor verification.
- Assist MDOT with the design and distribution of collateral materials for distribution to employers and the general public.
- Assist MDOT with the media placement on the radio, television, and web and use of digital and social media marketing to advertise the program (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) as well as value added spots.
- Process media placement invoices.
- Management and oversight of regional TDM Marketing project contractor(s).
- Distribute incentive(s) as needed.

IV. **MONITORING AND EVALUATION (\$942,630)**

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A. TERM DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

- Update of Evaluation Framework Methodology for data collection, complete 2025 State of the Commute Survey data collection, 2025 In-depth GRH Applicant Survey data collection, and respond to general TDM data requests.
- Review of employer database records.
- Classification of employer records into levels of participation.
- Collection of monthly Employer Outreach data from local jurisdictions.
- Fulfillment of data requests.
- Employer site survey coordination.
- Management and oversight of regional TDM Evaluation contractor(s).

B. PROGRAM MONITORING AND TRACKING ACTIVITIES

- Produce FY 2024 annual progress report.
- Conduct the FY2024 Employer Customer Satisfaction and issue a report.
- Collect and analyze data from monthly GRH customer satisfaction survey for program users. Produce annual customer satisfaction survey from FY 2024 and report based on feedback from program users.
- Production of monthly Employer Outreach progress report and level of effort tracking sheet listing results of each local sales jurisdiction. Annual Employer Outreach analysis document with project recommendations.
- 1st and 2nd Half of the Year regional TDM Marketing Campaign Summary and Lead Analysis Document.
- Production of FY 2024 Bike To Work Day event report.

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- Production of FY 2024 Car Free Day Event report.
- Survey reports to Employer Outreach representatives from Employer Commute Survey results.
- Updating and maintaining Employer Commute Survey archived database.
- Management and oversight of Employer Survey contract.
- Quarterly Employer Outreach sales contact data and conformity verification statements for 10 local jurisdiction sales territories.
- Collect and analyze data for the FY2025 Vanpool Driver survey and finalize report.
- Staff the TDM Evaluation Work Group.

V. EMPLOYER OUTREACH (\$1,945,430)

(Note: This budget amount includes Northern Virginia pass-thru dollars to local jurisdictions and Administration Costs, DDOT Pass-Thru dollars, MDOT Employer Outreach Statewide project funds, as well as MD and VA Telework dollars for this TDM Program Element)

Regional Component Project Tasks

A. REGIONAL EMPLOYER DATABASE MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

- Management and monitoring of Employer Outreach regional database synchronizations and provision of sales representative database training as needed, maintenance and update of regional contact management database.

B. EMPLOYER OUTREACH FOR BICYCLING

- Employer assistance and seminars and bicycling and walking and regional Bicycling to Work Guide updates.

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Jurisdictional Component Project Tasks

A. MARYLAND LOCAL AGENCY FUNDING AND SUPPORT

- New or expanded employer-based TDM programs in DC and Maryland.
- Provide general telework information to the general public, local agencies, and employers. Work with employers in Maryland to establish new or expand existing telework programs.

B. DC, MARYLAND, and VIRGINIA PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

- Electronic and printed updates of sales materials and case studies for DC, Maryland, and Virginia that includes general Commuter Connections brochure, Telework, Alternative Work Schedules, Emergency Commute Preparedness brochures, electronic telework and alternative work schedule policy templates.
- Oversight to local sales jurisdictions in Maryland to implement voluntary transportation demand management strategies at private sector employment sites.
- Employer site visits by COG/TPB staff as requested or needed by Maryland jurisdictions.
- Bi-Annual sales support conference calls for DC and Maryland jurisdictions.
- Staff the Employer Outreach Committee for DC, Maryland, and Virginia Employer Outreach representatives.
- Regional sales training sessions for Employer Outreach representatives.

C. MDOT EMPLOYER OUTREACH STATEWIDE

- Management and monitoring of Employer Outreach regional database outside of the Washington DC non-attainment region and provision of sales representative database training as needed.

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- Maintenance and update of regional contact management database.
- Sales training offered for sales and service representatives.
- Support to MDOT and local sales jurisdictions in Maryland to implement voluntary transportation demand management strategies at employment sites.
- Staff the regional Employer Outreach Committee for MDOT and Maryland local jurisdictions outside of the Washington DC non-attainment region.

VI. GRH BALTIMORE (\$225,000)

Jurisdictional Components

A. GENERAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- Process requests from the general public for registration and re-registration to the program. Notify commuters when registration is about to expire.
- Prepare and send GRH new and re-registration ID cards, registration letters and participation guidelines on a weekly basis.
- Monitor and update GRH applicant database.
- Update and maintain program participation guidelines.
- Marketing and advertising in the Baltimore metropolitan region.
- 2022 In-depth GRH Applicant Survey data collection.
- Collect and analyze data from monthly GRH customer satisfaction survey for program users. Produce annual customer satisfaction survey from FY 2024 and report based on feedback from program users.

B. PROCESS TRIP REQUESTS AND PROVIDE TRIPS

- Process GRH trip requests, approve/deny requests, and arrange rides.

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- Management and monitoring of contract services for day-to-day operations, and ride providers. This includes processing invoices for payment for contractors and for the general public for transit vouchers.
- Customer service training for GRH call center agents as needed.