CAR FREE DAY 2019 EVENT WASHINGTON, DC METROPOLITAN REGION DRAFT REPORT

March 11, 2020



ABSTRACT

Car Free Day 2019 Event Report Washington, DC Metropolitan Region

Published: TBD

About Commuter Connections

Commuter Connections, a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), promotes bicycling to work, ridesharing, and other alternatives to drive alone commuting, provides ridematching for carpools and vanpools, incentive programs for alternative commuting, and offers the free Guaranteed Ride Home program. Commuter Connections is funded by the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and U.S. Department of Transportation.

Credits

Authors:

Nicholas Ramfos, Director, Transportation Operations Programs, COG Daniel Sheehan, Transportation Operations Program Manager, COG Douglas Franklin, Senior TDM Marketing Specialist, COG

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Background

Car Free Day is an internationally recognized event which started in Europe in 2000 as a day for residents to leave their cars at home, and instead get around by cleaner and more sustainable methods of travel for both commute and non-commute purposes. Travel modes include public transportation, bicycling, and walking. In the Washington, DC region Car Free Day began in 2008 and is coordinated by Commuter Connections and its network of regional partners. Car Free Day in the National Capital region also includes the option to participate by traveling "car lite" by way of carpool or vanpool. In 2019, the event was referred as Car Free Days due to spanning over a three-day period from Saturday through Monday, September 21-23. The total number of pledges for Car Free Day 2019 reached 4,756, a 71.7 percent increase above the previous year's event.

Three main objectives of the Car Free Day marketing campaign were to:

- 1. Use the event as an opportunity to promote alternative modes of transportation for both commute and non-commute trips.
- 2. Encourage commuters and the general public to take the online pledge to use car free or car-lite travel methods during one or both days.
- 3. Measure and report impacts, as part of the Commuter Connections Regional TDM Mass Marketing program.



Proclamation Signing

The Car Free Day 2019 proclamation signing took place at the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) meeting at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Some jurisdictions also approved local Car Free Day proclamations of their own.



Kelly Russell, City of Frederick President Pro Tem Board of Aldermen, and Vice Chairman of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) signs a proclamation at the TPB meeting held on July 24, 2019 at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) recognizing September 21-23, 2019 as Car Free Days in the Washington, DC region. Presenting the proclamation is Nicholas Ramfos, COG Director Transportation Operations.





WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Washington, DC region; and

WHEREAS, the TPB through its Commuter Connections program organizes and promotes the annual Car Free Day event along with its jurisdictional network members throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, Car Free Day invites citizens of the region to telework and try alternative forms of transportation such as transit, bicycling, walking, and "car lite" methods such as carpools and vanpools; and

WHEREAS, Car Free Day benefits the National Capital Region through improved air quality, mobility, energy conservation, and reduced parking demands; and

WHEREAS, Car Free Day corresponds with European Mobility Week, occurring September 16-22, 2019 celebrating sustainable mobility.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board:

- 1. Proclaims Car Free Days throughout the Washington Metropolitan region to be observed from Saturday, September 21 through Monday, September 23; and
- 2. Encourages citizens to pledge to be Car Free or Car-lite by visiting www.carfreemetrodc.org; and
- 3. Asks TPB member jurisdictions to adopt similar proclamations in support of Car Free Days 2019.

Chair, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Sponsor Donated Prizes

Each event participant who pledged to go car free or car-lite were 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.

- 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 Washington Metropolitan Area Transit 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 Ladies'</u>
 Association of the Union
- International Spy Museum pair of tickets, courtesy the <u>International Spy Museum</u>
- Nando's PERi-PERi, Full Platter at DC, MD, and VA locations, courtesy Nando's PERi-PERi
- Winery Tour Tasting for Four, courtesy City Winery Washington, DC
- Heurich House Museum The Brewmaster's Castle Two tickets to a public program, courtesy Heurich House Museum
- Brilliant Bicycles 4 bikes, courtesy of iHeart Radio







































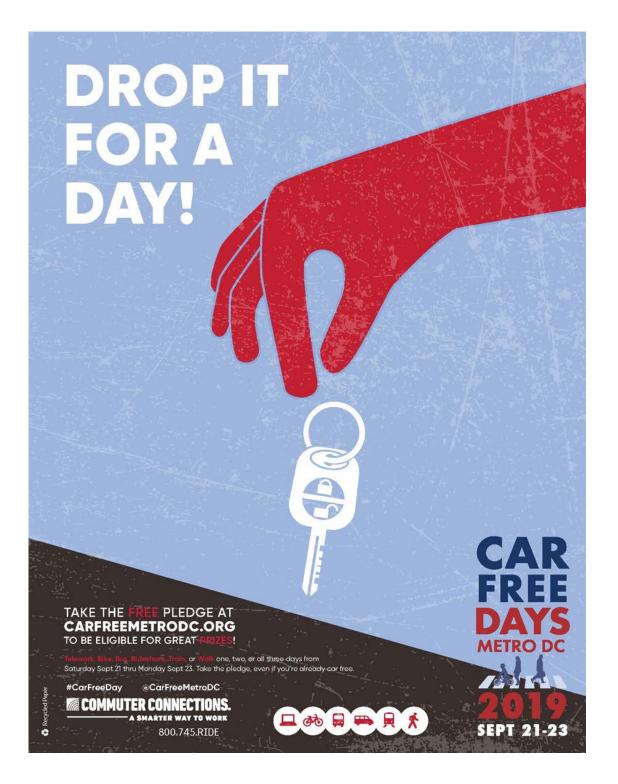
Nift Gift Special Offer

An online Nift Gift (neighborhood gift) promo code of \$30 was emailed to all who took the Car Free Day pledge. With Nift, Car Free Day participants were provided with a credit to discover great local businesses in neighborhoods where they live or work.



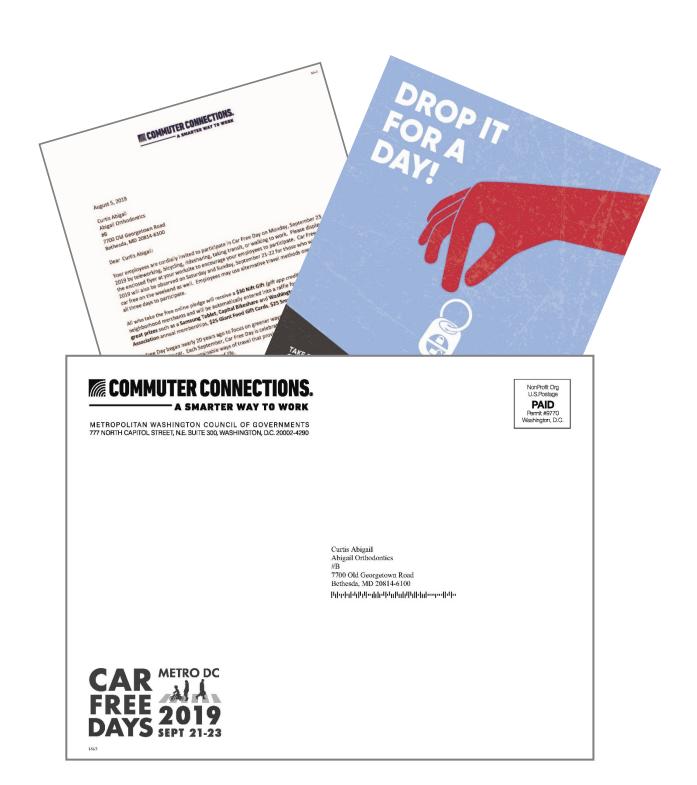
Poster

The 2019 poster was a revival of a previous year's theme for Car Free Day and was refreshed based on Steering Committee feedback. A total of 16,500 were printed and distributed throughout the region. The messaging encouraged drivers to "Drop it For a Day" and take the free online pledge to use transportation alternatives on September 21 - 23, 2019. A PDF version of the poster was also made available on the web site for download.



Employer Mailing

More than 6,100 posters were mailed to employers throughout the region, along with a cover letter asking them to display the flyer at the work site to encourage employees to take the Car Free Day pledge and receive a chance to win great prizes.



Email Blast

An email blast was sent to nearly 77,000 email addresses comprised of those who participated in Car Free Day or Bike to Work Day over the previous three years, commuters with Commuter Connections accounts who have opted-in, Steering Committee members, and employers.



Commuter Connections is a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments that promotes bicycling, ridesharing through carpools and vanpools, and other alternatives to driving alone.



Media

The Car Free Days campaign promoted the concept and use of alternative transportation modes, challenging drivers to leave their cars at home during the event for one or all three days, by going car free or car-lite. Paid media to promote Car Free Day included traditional and internet radio, social media, online native articles, and text messaging.

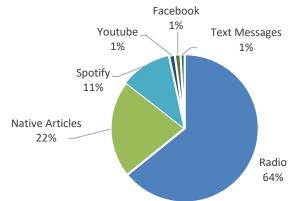
Target market:

All SOV drivers

Geographic Targeting

Washington D.C. DMA

Car Free Days Spend



Car Free Days Budget	MWCOG Cost	Gross Dollars	Impressions
Radio (iHeart stations)	\$28,878.75	\$33,975	1,379,900
Native Articles (wtop.com and			898,800
Popville)	\$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+

Radio

Radio encouraged the single occupant vehicle driving public to go car free or car-lite one or all days from 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 several bicycles from Brilliant Bicycle Co to listeners who took the Car Free Day pledge.





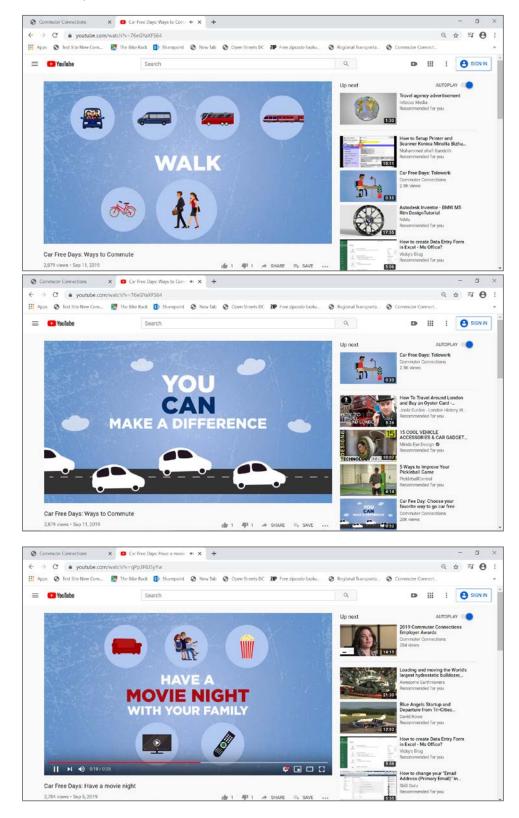
Spotify

An estimated 378,563 impressions were delivered using Spotify. A :30 radio spot ran concurrently with the image.



YouTube

A :30 second promotional pre-roll Car Free Day video was served on YouTube to play before the content selected by the user.



Paid Social Media

Boosted Facebook posts were placed in September 2019; a different one every several days during the month leading up to Car Free Day.

















Native Articles

Paid sponsored articles about Car Free Day were placed on WTOP.com and PoPville, a popular local blog chronicling D.C. area neighborhood happenings. WTOP.com yielded 810,000 impressions, while PoPville had 88,800 impressions.

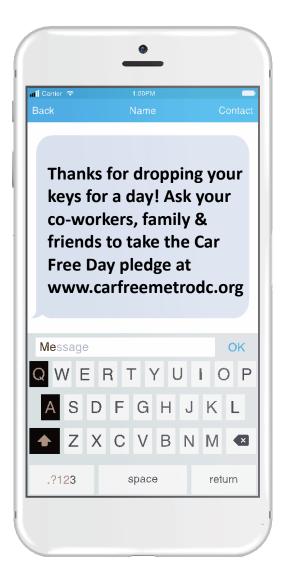






Text Messages

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 registrants who already took the 2019 pledge to thank them for doing so, and asked them to encourage family and friends to take the pledge. The second message was sent to people who took the pledge for the previous year's event but not yet done so for Car Free Day 2019. 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 ad space was donated by transit partners throughout the region. Signage included Arlington Interior Bus Cards; Prince George's County Bus Shelters and Benches; Fairfax County Connector Bus Tails; Metrobus Interior Bus Cards; and Montgomery County Bus Exteriors.

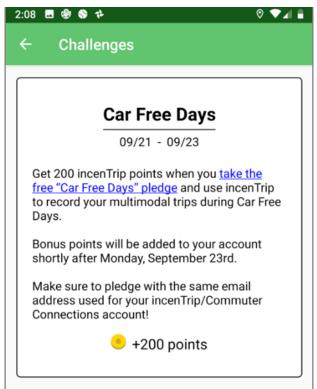




incenTrip Promotion

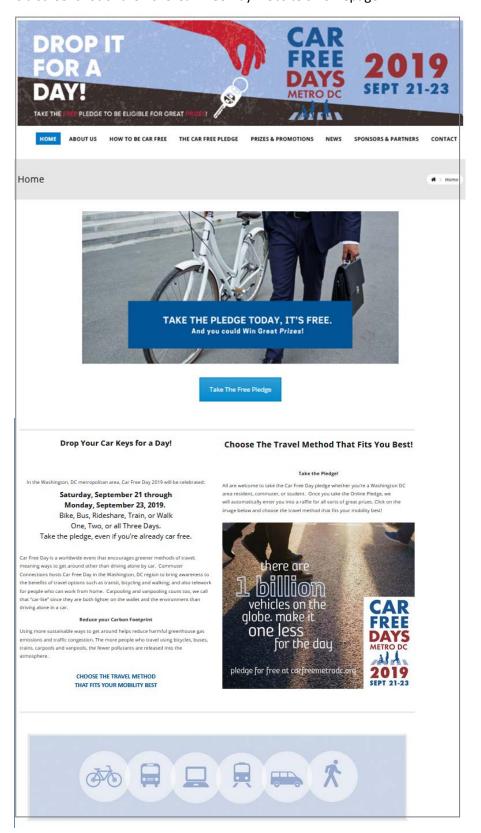
All who took the Car Free Day pledge were incentivized to use the incenTrip app to plan and track trips during Car Free Days, in exchange for earning 200 rewards points.





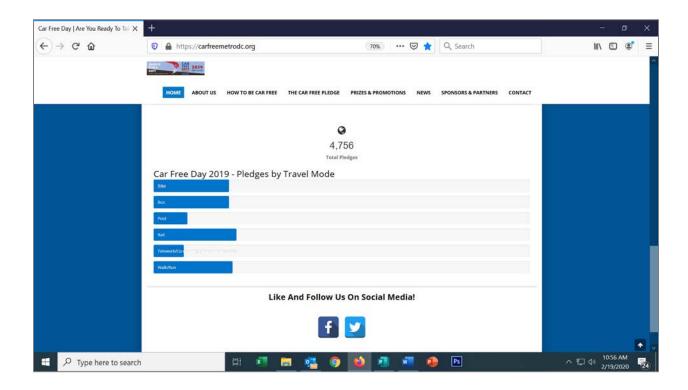
Website

Below is a screenshot of the 2019 Car Free Day website's homepage.



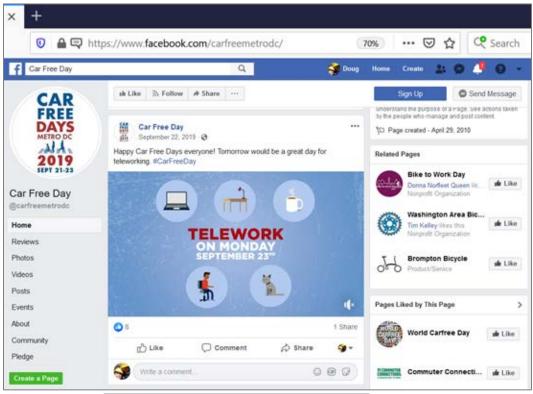
Leaderboard

A daily leaderboard was displayed on the Car Free Day website showing each travel mode in alphabetical order and bars indicating the number of pledges to date.



Social Media Sites

Social Media was used to keep like-minded commuters up to date on activities about the event, and to spread the word through shares. The Car Free Day Facebook site is "liked" by over 4,688 users.







The Car Free Day Twitter page has 716 followers.





Earned Media

Outreach was conducted that included calendar listings for Car Free Day and targeted press releases to raise awareness of the health benefits of going car free and the prize raffle. The resulting press coverage was seen in print, online, TV and radio; see Appendix for full listing of netted coverage.

Press Releases:

- Last Chance to Pledge to Go Car Free Drop Your Keys on September 21, 22, and/or 23
- Commuter Connections, American Lung Association, and American Heart Association Want You to Go Car Free on September 21, 22, or 23
- Drop your keys for Car Free Days—Take the free pledge today!

For the third consecutive year, Commuter Connections partnered with the American Lung Association to support the Car Free Days initiative of improving the region's air quality and health. The American Lung Association provided a quote for the Car Free Days press release and shared Car Free Days promotional posts and articles on their social media pages.

For the second consecutive year, Commuter Connections partnered with the American Heart Association to amplify the Car Free Day message about health and air quality. In addition to providing a quote for the Car Free Days press release, the American Heart Association distributed the release and information about Car Free Days to its media list and stakeholders; posted a blog post about Car Free Days; and promoted the event and its materials through its social media accounts.

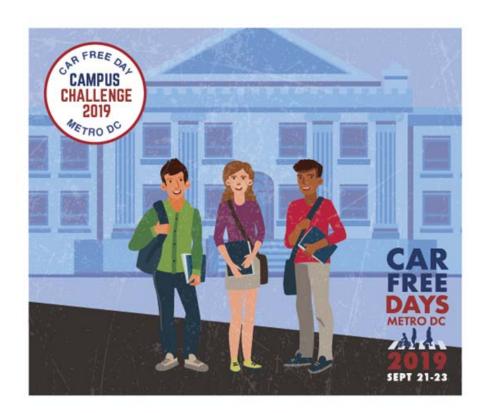




Capital Area Car Free College Campus Challenge

The Capital Area Car Free College Campus Challenge was created as a friendly competition to generate awareness of and participation in Car Free Day on college campuses throughout the region. A promotional kit was distributed to higher learning institutions in partnership with 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 the University of Maryland.





Capital Area Car Free College Campus Challenge Luncheon

The Capital Area Car Free College Campus Challenge winner in 2019 was Georgetown University. Those who used their @georgetown.edu domain to take the Car Free Day pledge were invited to attend a pizza lunch at Georgetown University on January 10, 2020. The complimentary lunch was made available by iHeart Radio, and Ledo Pizza. iHeart station, WASH-FM provided the soundtrack for the festivities, along with prize giveaways. A plaque was presented to Georgetown University's Director of Transportation Management and Shuttle System. Georgetown had 109 students, employees, or alumni who took the Car Free Day pledge and did so using their @georgetown.edu domain. Nearly 3,000 miles were saved or prevented during Car Free Days by the participating Hoyas; an average of 28 miles round trip per person.



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY







Jurisdictional Activities

Commuter Connections' network members hosted numerous promotions to celebrate Car Free Day. Below is a summary of those events:

- City of Fairfax CUE buses offered free rides from September 16-23, 2019 for Try Transit Week and Car Free Days. CUE also awarded a City Swag Bag including a \$50 SmarTrip card to a randomly selected local winner who took the Car Free Day pledge.
- **Frederick County TransIT Services** provided free rides on TransIT Connectors and Shuttles on Monday, September 23, 2019 for Car Free Days.
- **Historic Manassas** and **PRTC** staff were at the local Farmer's Market on Saturday, September 21, 2019 and provided a Community Bike Ride and Walking Tour. An OmniRide bus was on hand and those who took the Car Free Day pledge got a chance at winning great prizes.
- **Montgomery County Commuter Services** staff was at ten transit locations around the county on Friday, September 20, 2019 to promote Car Free Days, with giveaway items.
- **Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland** was at the Waldorf Farmer's Market in Charles County during Car Free Days on Saturday, September 21, 2019 and provided giveaways.
- Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration expanded its full-size
 options for bicycle-riding customers on all three MARC Commuter Rail lines for Car Free Days on
 Monday, September 23, 2019.









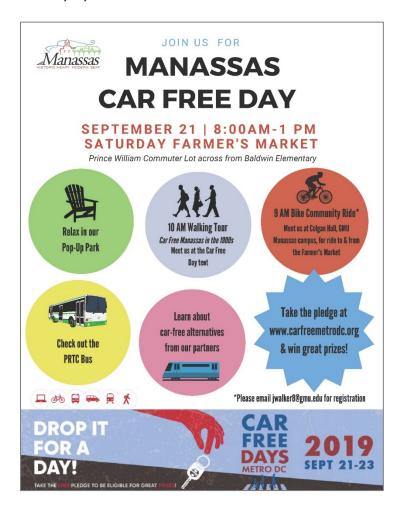






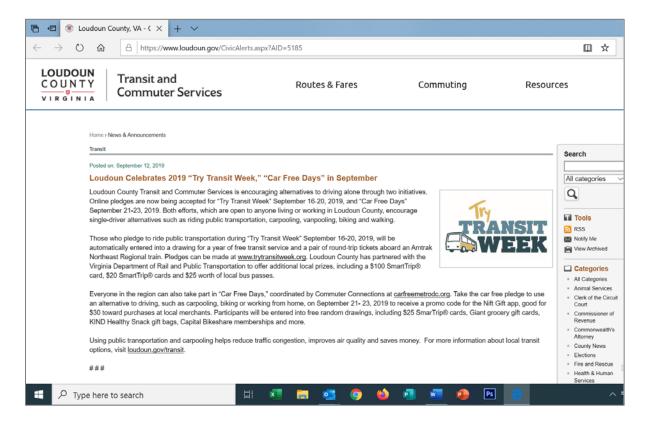
Jurisdictional Promotional Efforts

City of Manassas Car Free Day Flyer and Farmers Market

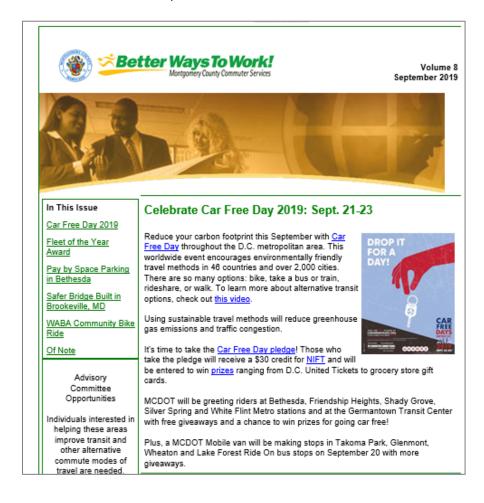




Loudoun.gov Car Free Day Article



Montgomery County Commuter Services E-newsletter Car Free Day Article



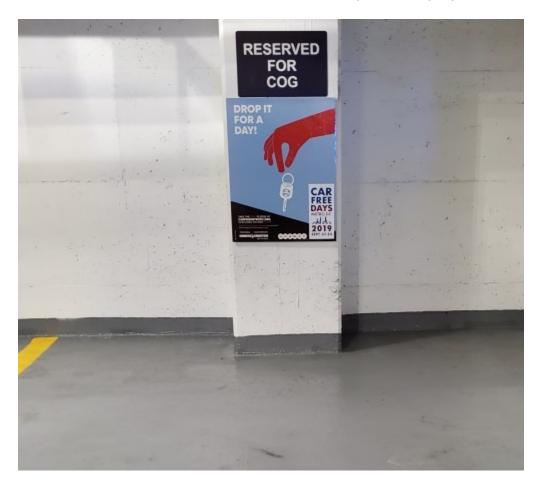
Charles County Government Car Free Day Facebook Post



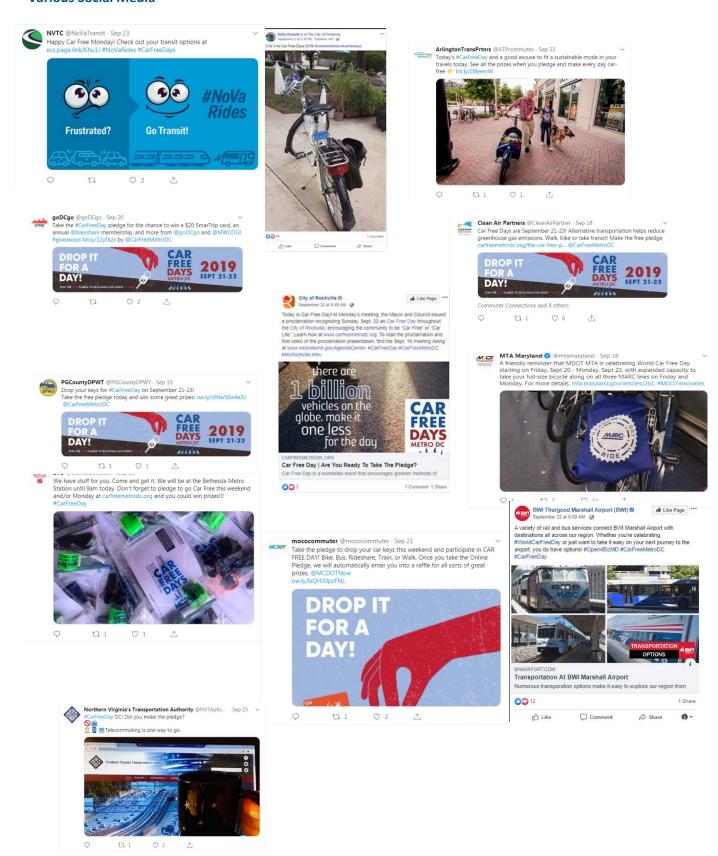
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Executive Director, Chuck Bean left his car at home for Car Free Day on Monday September 23, 2019.



Various Social Media



Clean Air Partners



DIGITAL

E-blast

In June, Clean Air Partners included the Commuter Connections logo on a Summer Campaign e-blast to our 7000+ email subscriber list. In September, Clean Air Partners sent out an additional e-blast to specifically promote the Car-Free Days Pledge. 47 people clicked through to complete the pledge on CarFreeMetroDC.org.

Social Media

The Commuter Connections logo was included on nine graphics that were distributed to partners to post on their social media channels, as well as posted on Clean Air Partners Twitter and Facebook pages. In September we focused on promoting alternative transportation and Car-Free Days, promoting Commuter Connections pledge webpage. The September transit/Car-Free Days posts garnered more than 8,250+ impressions on Twitter.







GRASSROOTS OUTREACH/EVENTS

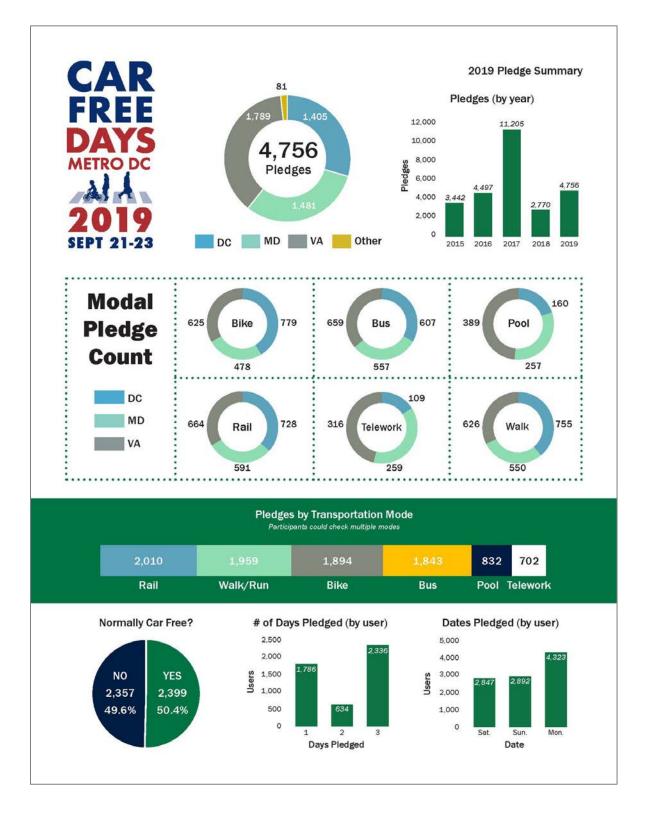
Sponsorship included four co-branded "walking billboard" banners on Clean Air Ambassadors' backpacks at events in the Baltimore-Washington region. Our Clean Air Ambassador teams conducted grassroots outreach at ten farmers markets and festivals around Maryland, DC, and Northern Virginia, reaching 4,500 people. In addition to promoting drawings for SmarTrip cards and clean air power packs, the ambassadors highlighted Commuter Connections' Car-Free Days pledge in September. The estimated value of the ten events is \$12,100.





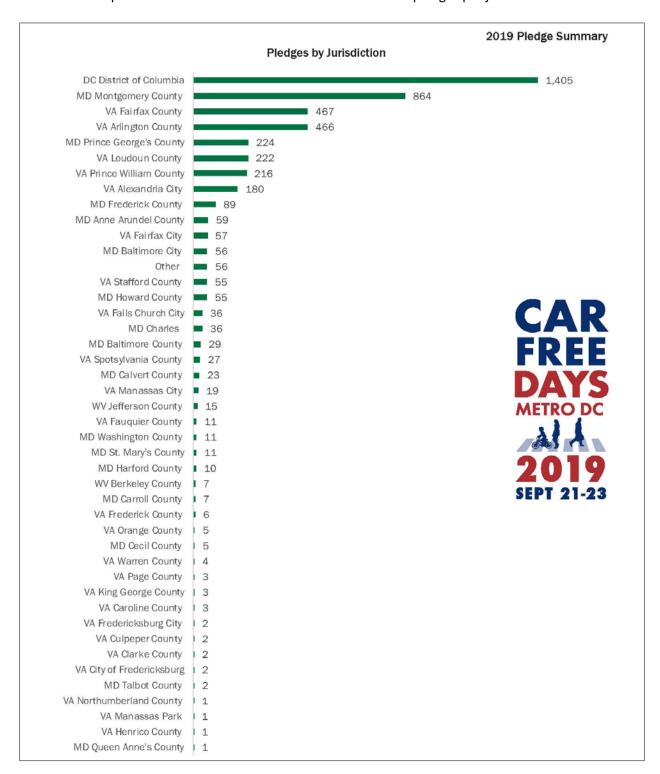
APPENDIX A

Pledge Data



By Jurisdiction

With 29.5 percent of the total pledges, the District of Columbia was the number one jurisdiction, followed by Montgomery County at 18.1 percent, and a two-way tie for third with Fairfax and Arlington Counties at 9.8 percent. The chart below indicates the number of pledges per jurisdiction.



By Travel Mode

Participants were asked to select the mode(s) they used for travel during Car Free Days. The breakdown by mode was as follows: Rail 21.7 percent, Walk 21.2 percent, Bike 20.5 percent, Bus 20 percent, Pool 9 percent, and Telework 7.6 percent. A total of 2,603 (54.7%) participants selected more than one travel mode, while 2,153 (45.3%), selected one mode exclusively.

By Alt Mode/SOV

To segment participants who already use alternative travel modes to get around apart from those who typically travel via single occupant vehicle, the question was asked "If you didn't take this pledge, would you travel entirely alone by car on Car Free Day?" In addition, those who pledged were asked to estimate the total miles they will travel on Car Free Days. The total mileage saved or reduced on Car Free Days was 190,863 miles. There was about an even split of participants who self-identified as those who typically drive alone, 49.6 percent, vs. those who are normally car-free, 50.4 percent.

The event took place over a three-day period, and the majority, 49 percent, who participated did so on all three days. Another 32 percent only participated on Monday, the only weekday; while 19 percent participated on two of the days whether Sat/Sun, Sat/Mon, or Sun/Mon.

By State

Bike and Walk travel during Car Free Days were skewed toward DC, while bus and rail were each about evenly distributed across all states as a percentage of mode share. Carpool/vanpool and telework were both skewed toward Maryland and Virginia.

APPENDIX B

Emissions Impacts

COG/TBP staff prepared a Car Free Days emissions impacts analysis (in tons). Nitrogen oxides (NOx) are the chemical in automotive exhaust; volatile organic compounds (VOC) are ground-water contaminants; greenhouse gases (GHG) are released into the atmosphere and absorb and emit radiation; and particulate matter (PM) are microscopic matter suspended in the earth's atmosphere.

Emissions rates for VOC, NOx, PM2.5 (previously calculated for the regional TDM program analysis) and GHG (calculated for this analysis) are calculated for the respective planning areas using output from the region's MOVES model, as described below:

Emission Rate = [Emissions] / [VMT of passenger cars and passenger trucks] Emissions savings are calculated as below: Emissions Savings = [Emission rate] X [Pledged VMT]



Table 1: Emissions Savings from Car Free Day (2013 - 2019)

Car Free Day Emissions Rate (grams/mile)			ile)	Emissions Savings (short tons)***			a nn				
Year	Pledged VMT*	NOX	VOC	GHG	PM2.5	NOX	VOC	GHG	PM2.5	CLRP	AQ Model
2013	128,928	0.513	0.351	427.990	0.021	0.073	0.050	60.83	0.00298	2013	MOVES2010a
2014	109,428	0.501	0.344	452.100	0.022	0.060	0.041	54.53	0.00265	2014	MOVES2010a
2015	61,730	0.472	0.372	425.963	0.017	0.032	0.025	28.98	0.00116	2015	MOVES2014
2016	93,101	0.407	0.337	417.199	0.016	0.042	0.035	42.82	0.00164	2016	MOVES2014a
2017	191,428	0.301	0.301	403.082	0.01	0.064	0.064	85.06	0.00211	2016	MOVES2014a
2018	87,947	0.245	0.272	384.166	0.01	0.024	0.026	37.24	0.00097	Visualize2045**	MOVES2014a
2019	190,863	0.245	0.272	384.166	0.01	0.052	0.057	80.82	0.00210	Visualize2045**	MOVES2014a

^{*} Pledged VMT for 2019 were received from Nick Ramfos via e-mail on 10/7/2019. VMT for other years came from the "Emission Savings from Car

Free Day 2018" memorandum dated 10/23/2018.

** PM2.5 rates are from the analysis of the 2016 CLRP

^{***} Short Ton = 2000 lbs

APPENDIX C

Earned Media Placements

Car Free Day2019 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	elevision 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 County Office of		Car Free Days 2019			
Transportation					
Montgomery Cou	ınty	MCDOT Promotes Alternative Transportation on			
		<u>Car Free Day</u>			
Fairfax County Times		Car Free Days 2019			
Arlington Transportation Partners		Car Free Day			
Frederick News-P	Post	Car Free Days 2019			
BikeArlington		Car Free Days 2019			
OmniRide		Free Rides on Sept 20 to Celebrate Try Transit			
		Week			
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	CN	Car Free Days 2019			
DCist		Car Free Day			
The Wash Cycle		Car Free Days start tomorrow			

APPENDIX D

Paid Social Media Performance Data

Paid Car Free Day posts were placed onto Facebook during the month of September and boosted for a more expansive audience. A different "ad" was placed every few days. Collectively, the posts received 36,356 user engagements defined as clicks, comments, reactions, and/or shares.

