



**BIKE TO WORK DAY STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES  
May 6, 2020**

**1. Introductions**

Steering Committee members, guests, and other attendees introduced themselves by name and affiliation.

**2. Meeting Minutes Approval**

The March 11, 2020 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee meeting notes were approved as written.

**3. Cancellation of BTWD activities for 2020**

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak as a global pandemic. Within a week and a half, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia all reported their first coronavirus related deaths. State of emergencies were declared, and social distancing guidelines were issued. Commuter Connections held discussions regarding the outlook of the Bike to Work Day event with COG senior management, including its legal department, and with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. In addition, a conference call was convened with the state funding agencies, which considered all options, including the feasibility of moving the Bike to Work Day event to the fall.

Commuter Connections sent an online survey to the BTWD Committee on March 23, 2020 to help determine whether to proceed with one of three options: continue with the regional Bike to Work Day event as originally planned in May 2020; postpone the event until June 2020; or cancel it entirely for the remainder of the calendar year. All feedback was taken into account and consideration was given to the safety and well-being of the region; liability factors; uncertainty over the next weeks/months ahead; and the timing of funding.

After contemplating all possible scenarios, and deliberating at great lengths, a final decision was made to cancel the Bike to Work Day event for the entirety of 2020. All bicyclists who had registered thus far were notified via email, and the general public was notified via the event website and social media accounts. Bike to Work Day regional sponsors were provided with the choice of a full refund or a credit toward Bike to Work Day 2021 sponsorship.

CPG/TPB staff is looking forward to planning Bike to Work Day 2021 as the region will celebrate the event's 20<sup>th</sup> year.

**4. Stay-at-Home Ordinances**

On March 30, 2020, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, and Virginia Governor Ralph Northam all announced stay at home orders. After 2,200 coronavirus deaths within the District and two states through May 5, 2020, Maryland and Virginia have started to show downward trends; deaths however are still climbing in the District.

As the region waits for non-essential business to reopen, bicycling is considered an acceptable form of outdoor exercise as part of maintaining physical and mental health and as an acceptable form of transportation for essential trips. Regardless of purpose, bicycling should be done either solo or with members of the same quarantined household.

In lieu of Bike to Work Week, May 11 to 15, 2020, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) asked the assistance of the Bike to Work Day Committee to help support its fund-raising initiative, "Bike Anywhere Week." Tips have been made available on the WABA website to address safety mandates while bicycling during the coronavirus pandemic and the use of masks. Bike to Work Day is not associated with Bike Anywhere Week.

#### **5. Car Free Day 2020**

Car Free Day will take place on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 and raises awareness of transportation alternatives to drive-alone travel, including bicycling. The League of American Bicyclists has declared that same date as a celebration for biking to work, to coincide with the Car Free Day event. Car Free Day participants are encouraged to use any form of transportation other than driving alone, and travel for any purpose, whether for commuting, errands, doctor appointments, school etc.

#### **6. Other Business**

The next Bike to Work Day Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.