

CAR FREE DAY 2020

WASHINGTON, DC METROPOLITAN REGION

FY 2021 DRAFT EVENT REPORT

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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 and also teleworking.

In 2020, the event faced challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, and focus was shifted to place more emphasis on bicycling, scootering, walking, teleworking, and on employer based ridematching. In 2020, transit and ridesharing were down dramatically while teleworking received the greatest number of Car Free Day pledges. During a typical year, teleworking has the least number of pledges. Biking and walking remained impactful this year, in part because nearly a third who took the Car Free Day pledge biked or walked for recreation or exercise.

The total number of Car Free Day pledges for the 2020 event was 3,834. While this was a decrease from the previous year, pledges were still greater in 2020 than in 2015 and 2018.

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 on Car Free Day.
- 3. Measure and report impacts, as part of the Commuter Connections Regional TDM Mass Marketing program.



Proclamation Signing

The Car Free Day 2020 proclamation signing took place at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board virtual meeting. Some jurisdictions also approved local Car Free Day proclamations of their own.

Kelly Russell, City of Frederick President Pro Tem Board of Aldermen, and Chair of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) signed the enlarged proclamation at the July 22, 2020 TPB meeting. The proclamation recognized September 22, 2020 as Car Free Day in the Washington, DC region.



! Proclamation

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 in a safe and healthy manner; 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, 2020, celebrating sustainable mobility.

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

Proclaims Car Free Day throughout the Washington Metropolitan region to be observed on Tuesday, September 22, 2020; and

Encourages citizens to take the pledge to be Car Free or Car-lite at www.carfreemetrodc.org; and

Asks TPB member jurisdictions to adopt similar proclamations in support of Car Free Day 2020.

Chair, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Sponsors

All who took the Car Free Day 2020 pledge received a \$30 Nift Gift card to use with local participating businesses in the DC area and a free LOVe Burger from Leon. Registrants were also entered into a raffle for a chance to win sponsor donated raffle prizes.

Raffle Prizes

All who took the Car Free Day pledge were entered into a free raffle for a chance to win one of the following prizes:

- Capital Bikeshare annual memberships, courtesy goDCgo
- Samsung Galaxy Tab A, courtesy Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
- 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
- Annual memberships, courtesy Washington Area Bicyclist Association
- Nando's PERi-PERi, Full Platter at DC, Maryland, or Virginia locations, courtesy Nando's PERi-PERi
- Commuter train passes, courtesy Virginia Railway Express
- Cookbooks, courtesy LEON
- \$20 gift card, courtesy HipCityVeg























Special Offers

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

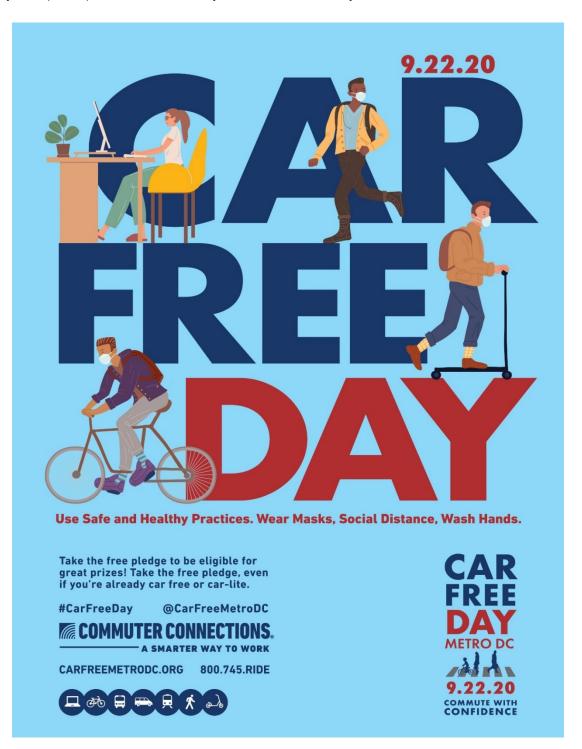


An online promo code for a free Love Burger was emailed to all who took the Car Free Day pledge.



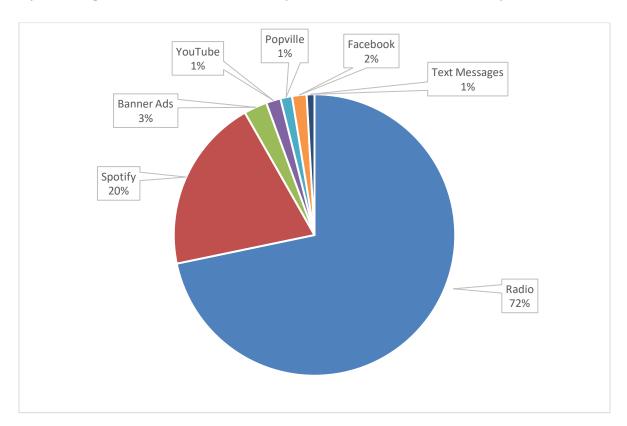
Poster

Images developed for Car Free Day 2020 were relevant to traveling during the coronavirus pandemic and working remotely. Messaging reminded participants to use safe and healthy practices such as wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and washing hands. The poster was available in PDF format at www.carfreemetrodc.org and via an HTML email to 54,000 employers, stakeholders, and past year's participants of Car Free Day and Bike to Work Day events.



Media

Paid media included traditional and internet radio (Spotify), video (YouTube), sponsored blog article (Popville.com), online banner ads (El Tiempo Latino), social media (Facebook), and text messaging. Many transit agencies provided complimentary ad space to promote Car Free Day as well.



Car Free Day Budget	MWCOG Cost	Gross Dollars	Impressions
Radio	\$32,236.75	\$37,925	1,379,900
Spotify	\$9,000.00	\$10,588.50	716,850
Banner Ads (El Tiempo Latino)	\$1,200.00	\$1,411.80	378,563
YouTube	\$750	\$882.00	69,676
Popville	\$600	\$705.90	105,600
Facebook	\$750.00	\$882.00	131,757
Text Messages	\$400	\$470.60	12,941
Totals	\$44,936.75	\$52,865.80	2,795,287

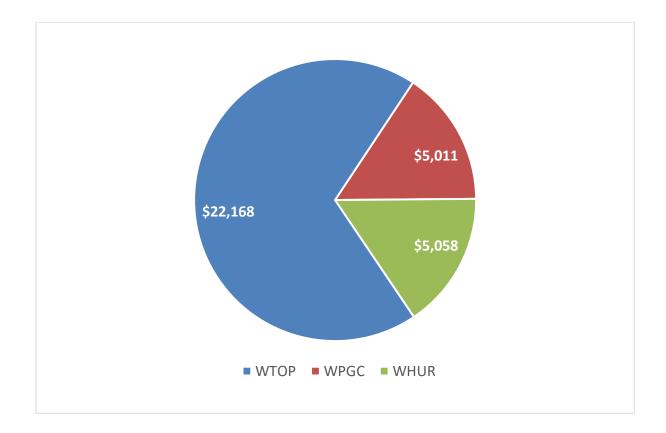
Radio

Radio encouraged travelers to Commute with Confidence and go car free or car-lite on Tuesday, September 22, 2020. A:30 and:10 recorded spot aired on three Washington, DC area radio stations: WPGC (95.5), WHUR (96.3), and WTOP (103.5).







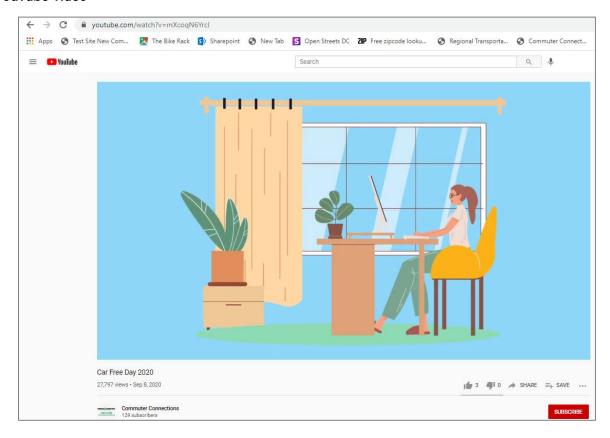


Banner Ads



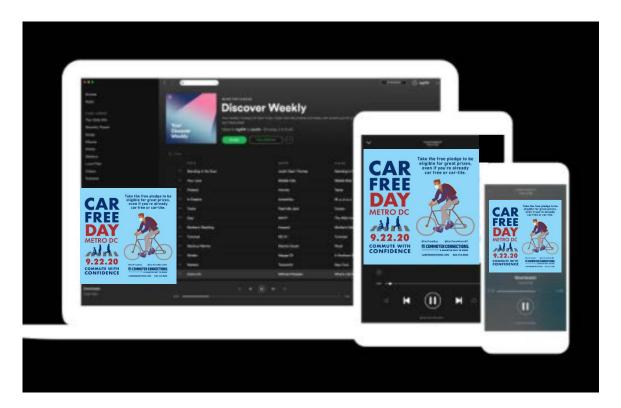


YouTube Video



Spotify

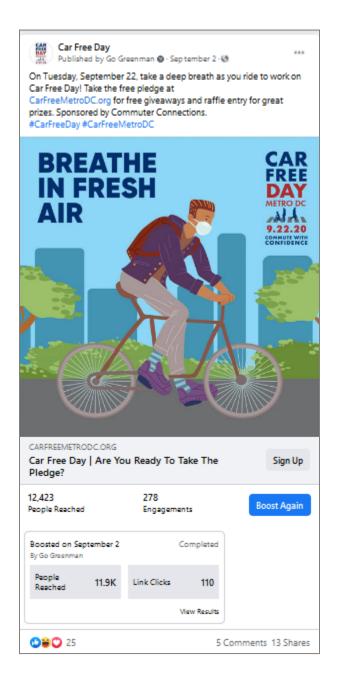
An estimated 716,850 impressions were delivered using Spotify, 35,032 more than the guaranteed number. A:30 audio spot ran concurrently with a companion image.

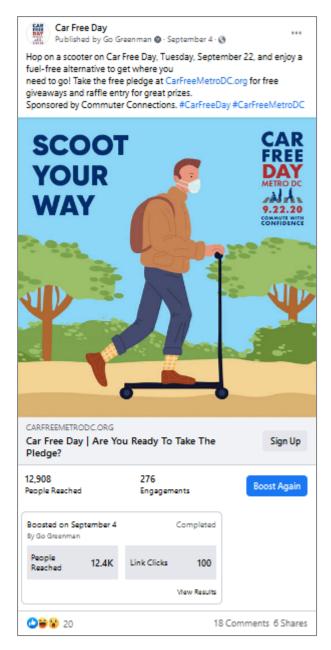


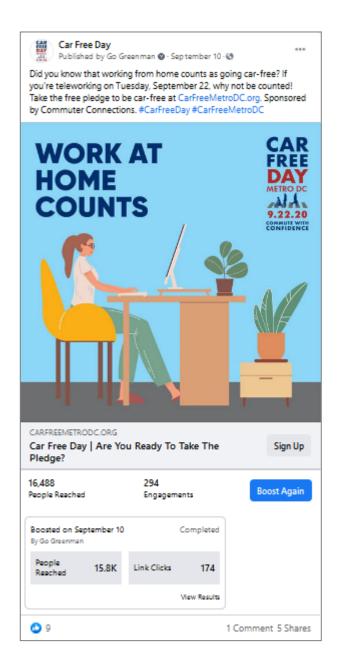


Social Media Posts

During the month of September, through Car Free Day, boosted posts were placed on Facebook, each with a different visual every few days.



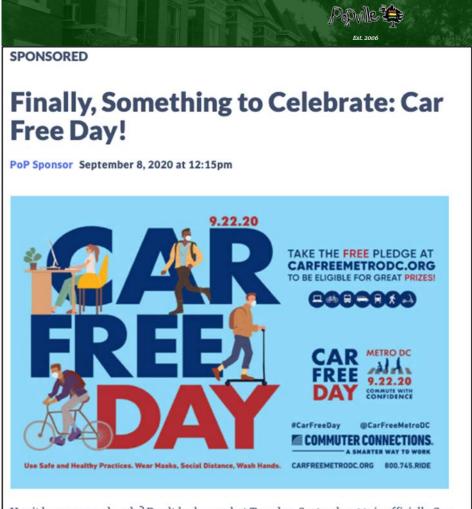






Native Article

A paid sponsored article on PoPville.com, a popular local blog chronicling DC area neighborhood happenings, was utilized to help reach local engaged audiences. PoPville yielded 105,600 pageviews the day the post went live.



Has it been a year already? Don't look now, but Tuesday, September 22, is officially Car Free Day.

Car Free Day is an international event that heightens awareness of the impact of traffic on the quality of life in the region and is celebrated in more than 2,000 cities in 46 countries. Locally, the event is hosted by <u>Commuter Connections</u>, the regional network of transportation organizations coordinated by the <u>Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments</u>.

Popville Facebook

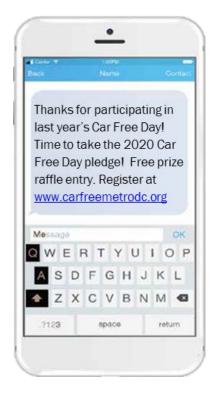
A companion post was placed on PoPville's Facebook page.



9578 People Reached						
106 Likes, Comments & Shares						
368 Post Clicks						
O Photo Views	295 Link Clicks	73 Other Clicks				

Text Messages

When event registrants took the Car Free Day pledge at carfreemetrodc.org, they could opt-in to receive text messages. Three unique messages were sent throughout the campaign, not more than twice to any one person. Approximately 13,000 text messages were sent during the campaign.





Transit Signage

Complimentary transit ad space was donated by the following area transit agencies to support the Car Free Day 2020 event.

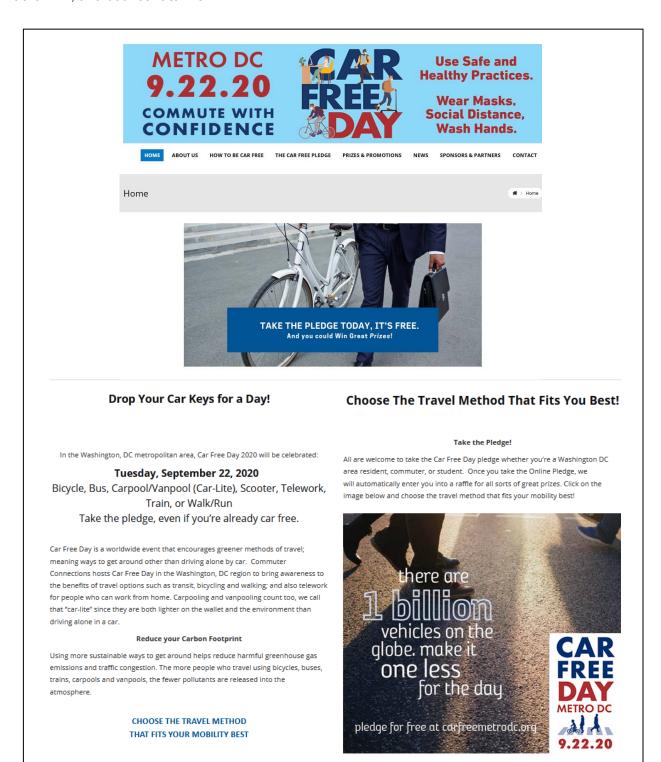
- Arlington Interior Bus Cards
- Prince George's County Bus Shelters
- Fairfax County Connector Bus Tails
- Metrobus Interior Bus Cards
- Montgomery County Bus Exteriors





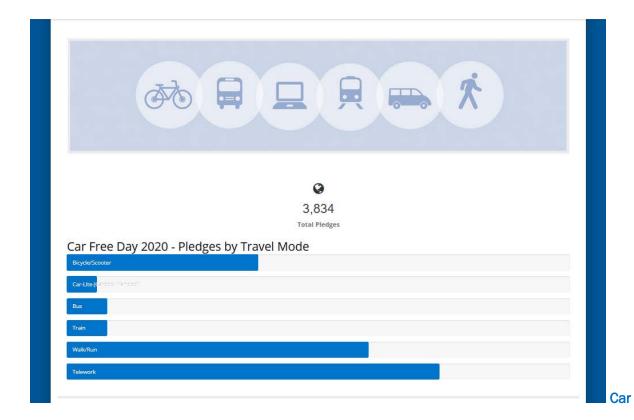
Website

Below is a screenshot of the 2020 Car Free Day website's homepage. Analytics from July – September 2020 are as follows: users 11,898; new users 11,826; sessions 14,343; number of sessions per user 1.21; pageviews 53,838; pages/session 3.75; average session duration 00:01:47; and bounce rate 2.61%.



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.

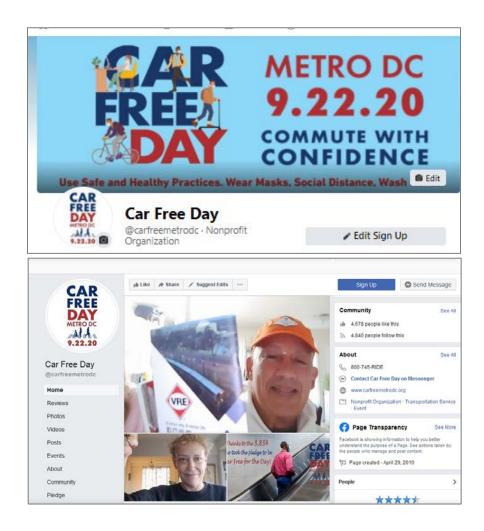


Car Free Day 2020 Event Draft Report May 5, 2021

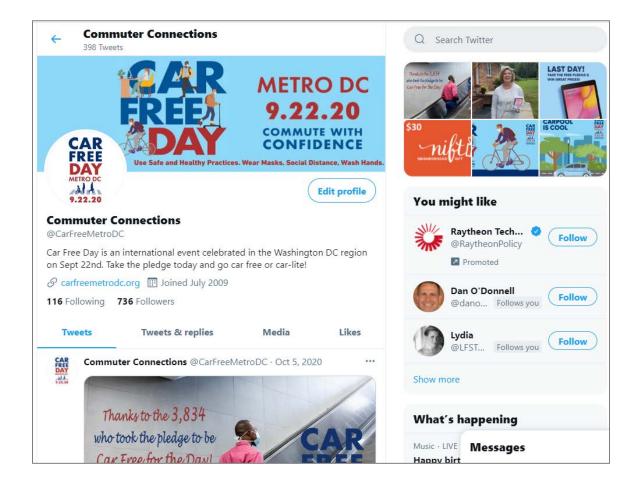
Social Media

Social Media was used to keep friends of the event up to date on Car Free Day activities and to spread the word through post sharing. Car Free Day is "liked" by over 4,678 Facebook fans and Twitter has 733 Followers.

Facebook



Twitter



College Campus Challenge

Colleges were provided with a digital toolkit to promote the event. The college with the greatest number of pledges (Georgetown) received access to a radio Interview, plus Commuter Connections branded face masks and hand sanitizer.









Earned Media

For the 2020 Car Free Day event, Commuter Connections sent one press release, a departure from recent years when several were released.

Commuter Connections partnered with the American Heart Association to support the Car Free Day initiative of improving the region's air quality. The American Heart Association provided a quote for the Car Free Day press release and shared Car Free Day promotional posts and articles on their social media page.



NEWS RELEASE

Pledge to go car free on September 22 by teleworking, biking, walking, and more

Sep 17, 2020



METRO DC 9.22.20 COMMUTE WITH

CONFIDENCE



Use Safe and Healthy Practices.

Wear Masks. Social Distance, Wash Hands.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, residents, workers, and students are poised to safely participate in the region's annual Car Free Day event on Tuesday, September 22, organized by Commuter Connections.

Although many residents' commutes are different in this year, working from home or riding a bike to the local store, among other actions, count toward taking part in Car Free Day 2020.

Due to COVID-19, the practice of teleworking has become part of a typical day for a large segment of the population. Before the health crisis, one-third of all workers in the region (an estimated 1.07 million people) teleworked to some degree, according to the Commuter Connections 2019 State of the Commute Survey. Albeit temporarily, the pandemic has shattered that figure.

A recent Commuter Connections survey of employers revealed the average share of employees who teleworked grew from 36 percent to 82 percent at sites with telework already in place in response to the pandemic. Preliminary data of the thousands who have already taken the pledge to be Car Free on September 22 show that only 17 percent plan to commute to their standard workplace location that day.

Jurisdictional Activities

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

- La Plata Farmers Market Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 9 am to 2 pm Talbot St and Washington Ave, La Plata, MD 20646. Free giveaways from Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
- Prince William County/City of Manassas Take the Car Free Day 2020 pledge and then play OmniRide Car Free Day BINGO for great prizes!
- Montgomery County visit with Montgomery County Commuter Services staff on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 from 7:00-9:00 am at the locations below for free hand sanitizer, face coverings and a chance to win a \$200 SmarTrip Card, Capital Bikeshare annual membership, or other gift cards. Locations: Silver Spring, Germantown and Lake Forest Transit Centers, Shady Grove Metro, Bethesda Metro Plaza, and Friendship Heights (across from the Metro).





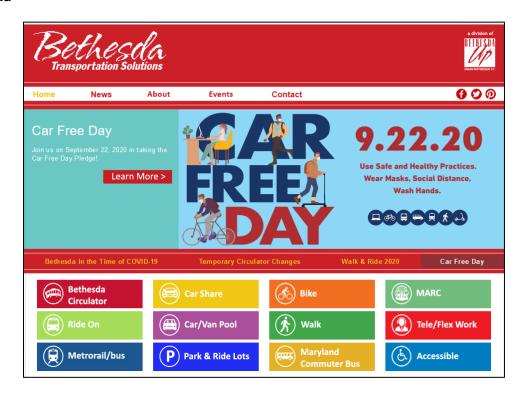


Jurisdictional Promotional Efforts

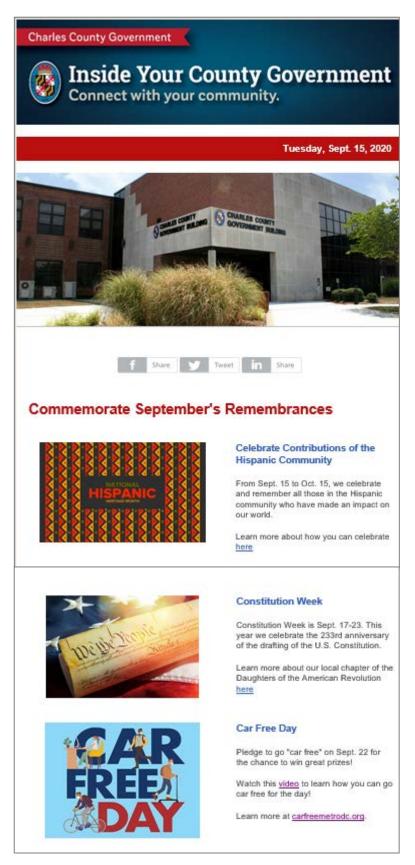
Arlington County



Bethesda



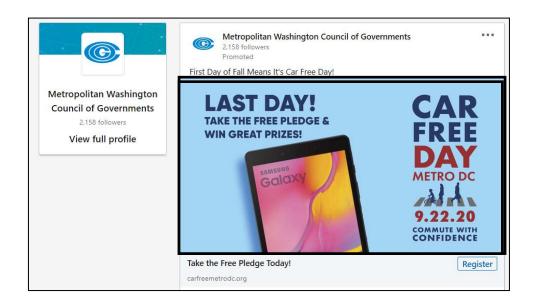
Charles County Government



Manassas



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Montgomery County Commuter Services



North Bethesda



Prince William County



Clean Air Partners

Clean Air partners participated in Commuter Connections' Car Free Day 2020 event with a targeted social media promotion on Twitter and Facebook. Because the main goal was to drive pledges, the campaign was optimized for clicks to the Car Free Day pledge page. Efforts resulted in 2,980 total clicks to the Car Free Day website. Detailed results are below.





CLEAN AIR PARTNERS

DC-MD-VA

Tweets: 6

All used #CarFreeDay

5 tagged @CarFreeMetroDC and linked to the pledge

Impressions: 169,190 Link clicks: 2,961 Retweets: 14 Likes: 13

Poll responses: 6

Facebook Posts: 3

All used #CarFreeDay, tagged Commuter Connections and linked to the pledge

Impressions: 4,392

Link clicks: 19 Shares: 12 Likes/loves: 85

2020 Pledge Summary

By Jurisdiction

With 916 of the total pledges, the District of Columbia was the number one jurisdiction in 2020, followed by, Fairfax County at 676 and Montgomery County at 667.

By Travel Mode

Participants were asked to select the mode(s) they pledged for Car Free Day 2020. The breakdown was as follows: Telework 3,074 (37.4%), Walk/Run 2,521 (30.6%), Bicycle/Scooter 1,627 (19.8%), Bus 337 (4.1%), Train 331 (4.0%), and Carpool/Vanpool 270 (3.3%). Note, participants could select more than one travel mode.

By Alt Mode/SOV

To distinguish 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 during Car Free Day?" In addition, those who pledged were asked to estimate the total miles they would travel on Car Free Day. Participants who self-identified as typical drive alone travelers made up 959 (25%), and those who are normally car-free were 2,875 (75%).

By State

The greatest number of Car Free Day pledges in 2020 were from Virginia at 1,752 (46%), followed by Maryland at 1,099 (29%), and the District of Columbia at 916 (24%). Other states combined received 67 pledges (1%).

By Activity

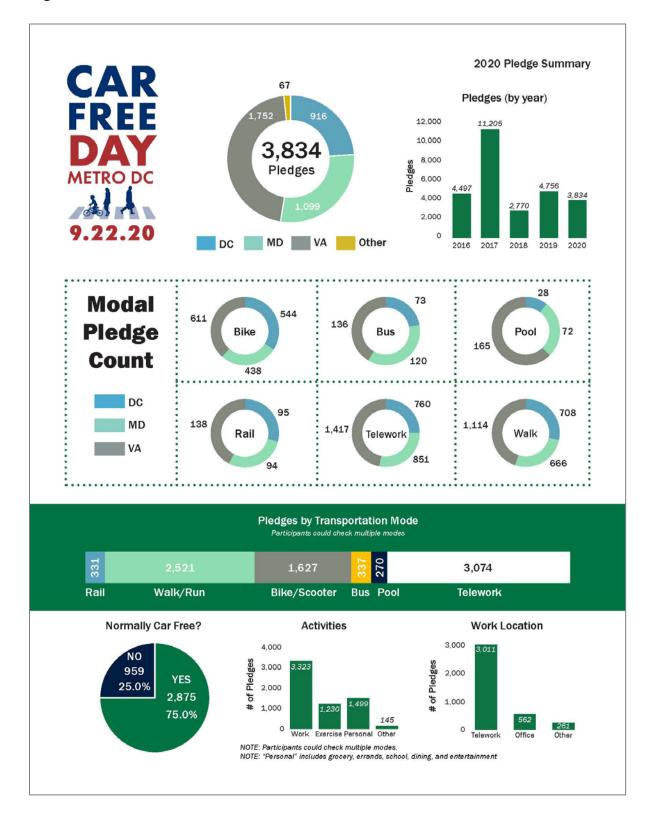
The following activities took place on Car Free Day by those who took the pledge: Working 3,323 (53.6%), Recreation/Exercise 1,230 (19.8%), Shopping/Errands 916 (14.8%), Taking Classes 306 (4.9%), Dining Out/Entertainment 277 (4.5%), and None of the Above 145 (2.3%).

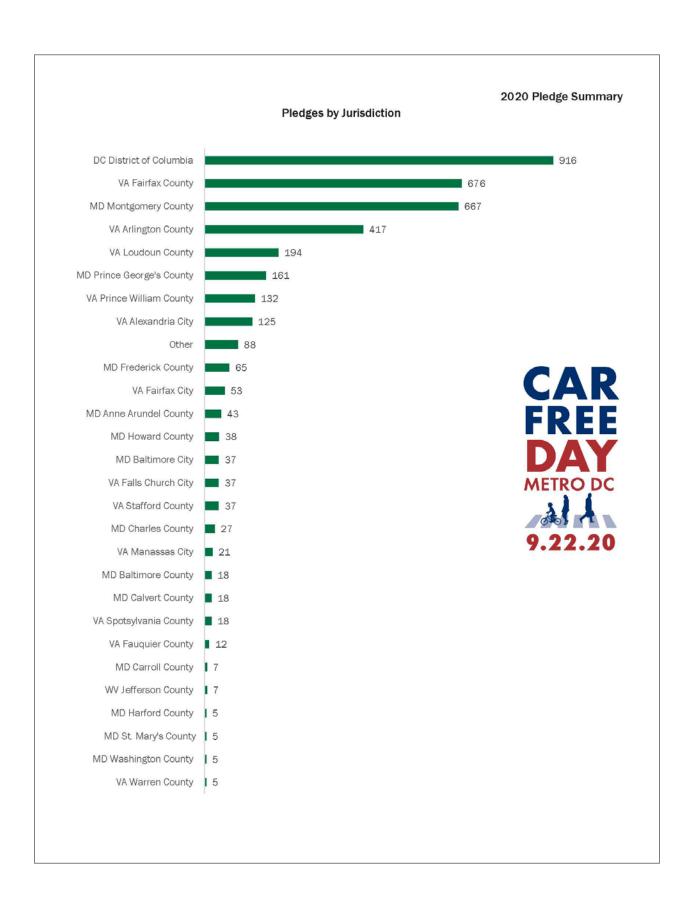
By Work Location

The following locations are where those who took the pledge worked on Car Free Day: Worked from Home 3,011 (78.5%), Commuted to Standard Workplace Location 562 (14.7%), Other Location/Not Working that Day 198 (5.2%), and Co-working/Telework Center/Shared Workspace 63 (1.6%).

APPENDIX A

Pledge Data





APPENDIX B

Emissions Impacts

COG/TBP staff prepared a Car Free Day emissions impacts analysis (in tons) which documents the method used to estimate mobile/on-road emissions saved on Car Free Day, Tuesday, September 22,



2020. The emissions savings are based on "pledged" vehicle miles traveled (VMT) savings as reported by participants planning to use non-single occupant vehicle modes of travel on that day. Emissions rates developed by EPA's MOVES model were used.

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.

SUMMARY

Year+	Car Free Day	Em	issions R	ate (grams/r	nile)	Emissions (short tons/day)			CLRP	MOVES	
rear.	Pledged VMT*	NOX	voc	GHG	PM2.5	NOX	voc	GHG	PM2.5	OLRP	AQ Model
2013	128,928	0.513	0.351	427.99	0.021	0.073	0.05	60.83	0.00298	2013	2010a
2014	109,428	0.501	0.344	452.1	0.022	0.06	0.041	54.53	0.00265	2014	2010a
2015	61,730	0.472	0.372	425.963	0.017	0.032	0.025	28.98	0.00116	2015	2014
2016	93,101	0.407	0.337	417.199	0.016	0.042	0.035	42.82	0.00164	2016	2014a
2017	191,428	0.301	0.301	403.082	0.01	0.064	0.064	85.06	0.00211	2016	2014a
2018	87,947	0.245	0.272	384.166	0.01	0.024	0.026	37.24	0.00097	Visualize 2045**	2014a
2019	190,863	0.245	0.272	384.166	0.01	0.052	0.057	80.82	0.0021	Visualize 2045**	2014a
2020	27,576	0.245	0.272	384.166	0.01	0.007	0.008	11.68	0.0003	2020 Amendment to Visualize 2045**	2014b

APPENDIX C

Earned Media Placements

Partners Press Releases

August 26, 2020 – Montgomery County - Celebrate Car Free/Car-Lite Day on September 22 September 17, 2020 – MWCOG - "Pledge to go car free on September 22 by teleworking, biking, walking, and more".

September 17, 2020 - Fairfax County Encourages Drivers to Go Car Free Safely on Sept. 22, 2020

September 21, 2020 - OmniRide Asks Residents to Pledge to Go Car-Free on September 22

September 22, 2020 - Prince George's County Celebrates Car Free Day 2020

Media Placements

Car Free Day 2020 Print /Online Coverage							
Date		Outlet	Topic linked to URL				
September 21, 2020	InsideNoVA		Commuter Connections wants you to commit to a car free Tuesday				
September 21, 2020	WTO	P News	Commuter Connections wants you to commit to a car free Tuesday				
		Car Free Day 2020	Television Coverage				
September 18,2020	CTV	News	September 18, 2020 - YouTube video CTV News - timestamp 7:04				
		Car Free Day 202	20 Radio Coverage				
N/A		N/A	N/A				
		Car Free Day 2020	O Calendar Listings				
Outlet		Listing					
Arlington Transporta	ation	https://arlingtontransportationpartners.com/initiatives/car-free-					
Partners		day/					
Patch		https://patch.com/district-					
		columbia/washingtondc/calendar/event/20200922/879859/car- free-day-2020					
Frederick News Post		https://www.fredericknewspost.com/calendar/other/car-free-day-					
		2020/event_cafac692-d281-11ea-8025-5cb9017bdf7b.html					
Prince William Livin	g	https://princewillian	nliving.com/event/car-free-day-2020/				
TaxiComp		https://www.taxicomp.com/XX/Unknown/123041014376149/Car-					
		Free-Day					
The BayNet		https://www.thebaynet.com/events/car-free-day-2020.html					
Spingo DC http://spingodo		http://spingodc.spin	pingo.com/mobile/home				
The Washington							

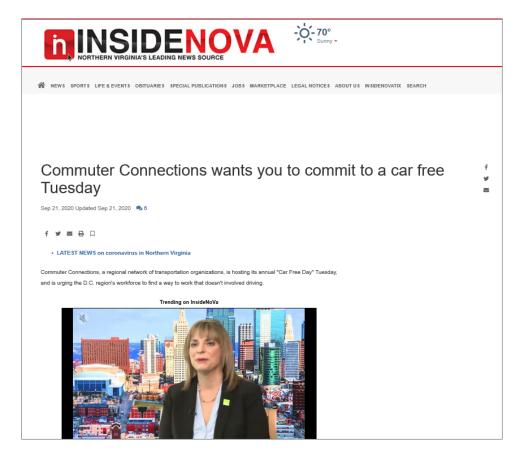
CTV News

September 18, 2020



INSIDE NOVA

September 21, 2020



WTOP

September 21, 2020 - Commuter Connections wants you to commit to a car free Tuesday



Commuter Connections wants you to commit to a car free Tuesday



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Commuter Connections, a regional network of transportation organizations, is hosting its annual "Car Free Day" Tuesday, and is urging the D.C. region's workforce to find a way to work that doesn't involved driving. Although many residents' commutes are different in this year, working from home or riding a bike to the local store, among other actions, count toward taking part in Car Free Day 2020, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments said in a statement.

Due to COVID-19, the practice of teleworking has become part of a typical day for a large segment of the population. Before the health crisis, one-third of all workers in the region (an estimated 1.07 million people) teleworked to some degree, according to the Commuter Connections 2019 State of the Commute Survey. Albeit temporarily, the pandemic has shattered that figure.

A recent Commuter Connections survey of employers revealed the average share of employees who teleworked grew from 36 percent to 82 percent at sites with telework already in place in response to the pandemic. Preliminary data of the thousands who have already taken the pledge to be Car Free on September 22 show that only 17 percent plan to commute to their standard workplace location that day.

Nationwide and locally, bicycle purchases and repairs have skyrocketed as the age-old transportation mode has made a resurgence. This year, more than half (52 percent) of those who have already taken the pledge plan to incorporate a bicycle or scooter into their travels on Car Free Day.

A quarter of those who have taken the pledge to date are planning to shop or run errands on September 22. Before COVID-19, stopping for errands on the way home from work was a common occurrence. "More working from home provides the perfect opportunity to combine running local errands with needed exercise by bicycling or walking," said Nicholas Ramfos, Commuter Connections Director.

Bicycling and walking are great ways to stay healthy, which is why the local chapter of the American Heart Association has endorsed taking the free pledge for Car Free Day.

"We are thrilled to work with Commuter Connections to help our community move more on Car Free Day and every day," said Soula Antoniou, Greater Washington Region American Heart Association Executive Director. Taking the Car Free Day 2020 pledge is free and brings two special online promo code offers with it, plus entry into a free prize raffle. Car Free Day promotions include a \$30 giftcard to discover great local businesses from Nift (Neighborhood Gift), and a free LOVe vegan burger from LEON.

Visit carfreemetrodc.org to learn more and take the free pledge by September 22 and join the conversation on Twitter at @CarFreeMetroDC and #CarFreeDay.

APPENDIX D

Car Free Day Digital Results

Program	Media	Amount	Impressions	Interactions	Interaction	Cost Per
. rogram		Spent	pressions	teraetiene	Rate	Interaction
Car Free	Google Display					
Day 2020	Network	\$9.67	490	172	35.10%	\$0.06
Car Free	Google Display					
Day 2020	Network	\$15.00	560	251	44.82%	\$0.06
Car Free	Google Display					
Day 2020	Network	\$21.33	839	446	53.16%	\$0.05
Car Free						
Day 2020	YouTube Videos	\$237.58	25,667	11,242	43.80%	\$0.02
Car Free						
Day 2020	YouTube Videos	\$233.56	23,895	9,675	40.49%	\$0.02
Car Free						
Day 2020	YouTube Videos	\$223.99	18,225	5,951	32.65%	\$0.04

\$741.13 69,676 27,737 39.81% \$0.03

Program	Media	Amount Spent	Impressions	Interactions	Interaction Rate	Cost Per Interaction
Car Free						
Day 2020	Spotify	\$9,000.00	716,850	49	0.01%	\$183.67

Program	Media	Amount Spent	Impressions	Interactions	Interaction Rate	Cost Per Interaction
Car Free Day 2020	Facebook "On Tuesday, September 22, take a deep"	\$83.00	14,788	110	0.74%	\$0.75
Car Free Day 2020	Facebook "Hop on a scooter on Car Free Day, Tuesday,"	\$83.00	16,396	100	0.61%	\$0.83
Car Free Day 2020	Facebook "Commute with confidence on Car Free Day"	\$83.00	16,792	104	0.62%	\$0.80
Car Free Day 2020	Facebook "Did you know that working from home"	\$83.00	18,663	174	0.93%	\$0.48
Car Free Day 2020	Facebook "Walking to work has numerous benefits"	\$83.00	17,502	191	1.09%	\$0.43
Car Free Day 2020	Facebook "Carpooling is a great way to socialize"	\$83.00	17,172	152	0.89%	\$0.55
Car Free Day 2020	Facebook "Join millions all over the world and take"	\$83.00	15,504	103	0.66%	\$0.81
Car Free Day 2020	Facebook "Happy 1st day of Fall and Car Free Day!"	\$83.00	13,674	102	0.75%	\$0.81
Car Free Day 2020	Facebook "We'd like to thank all of our sponsors"	\$50.23	1,266	312	24.64%	\$0.16

\$714.23 131,757 1,348 1.02% \$0.53