

**EMPLOYER OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Meeting Notes from the October 21, 2008 meeting**

**AGENDA ITEM 1 - INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting began with self-introductions of those in attendance. (See attached list)

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING (7/15/08) NOTES**

The group reviewed and approved the meeting notes as written.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 INSTALLATION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON**

Anna McLaughlin of DDOT became chair of the committee, replacing Mark Sofman of Montgomery County Commuter Services. A plaque was given to Mr. Sofman in recognition of his service to the committee.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – FY 2008 AND 2009 CONFORMITY REPORTS**

Staff distributed the final conformity statement for FY2008 and the first quarter FY09 conformity statement.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – COMMUTING BY BLISS BUS**

Amber Wasson of Bliss presented a new commuting option coming to the Metropolitan region, the Bliss bus. The anticipated kickoff for this service is January of 2009. Ms. Cynthia Fondriest asked if the pre-tax transit benefit would work with the service to which Ms. Wasson responded that they were looking into the matter.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Douglas Franklin of COG presented information on proposed changes to the Employer Recognition Awards event. Applications for the event are scheduled to be sent to employers in December and the deadline for submission is in early February. Ms. Fondriest mentioned that the Association for Commuter Transportation is currently reviewing its awards as well. One of the proposed changes would be to have the sales team award not be a part of the event. Ms. Fondriest stated her preference to keep the award as part of the event as did several others on the committee. Christopher Napolitano of Joint Venture suggested that the invitations be altered to show a "presidential" type of insignia and have a well-known guest host the event. Nicholas Ramfos of COG stated that due to budgetary matters such an idea isn't very feasible given the size of funds available. Glenn Hiner of Fairfax DOT suggested that the monies spent be reallocated towards getting the word out with greater emphasis. The venue for the event, the National Press Club, is also being reconsidered for other sites. The committee wanted to review the information further and asked that Mr. Franklin forward it to them for the next meeting in January.

**AGENDA ITEM 7 – TELEWORK UPDATE**

Mr. Ramfos updated the Committee on recent regional Telework outreach efforts. The latest Telework Exchange newsletter was distributed to the committee. New case studies are now available for use and can be downloaded from the Extra-net. The Commuter Connections Telework brochure is being reprinted for updated info.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8 – LIVE NEAR YOUR WORK UPDATE**

There were no events scheduled for the fall but the sales representatives are fielding possible dates in the Spring.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9 – CAR FREE UPDATE**

Car Free day was held in the region on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008. The location in the District of Columbia was on F Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets. The event got good media coverage and the registration was fairly even among Maryland, Virginia, and the District in regards to actual numbers. The numbers were as follows:

District – 1,582  
Maryland – 1,851  
Virginia – 1,777

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10 - EMPLOYER OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE**

Clint Wade of PRTC informed the committee of outreach efforts into the Prince William Technology Corridor. Sam Oji of Montgomery County Commuter Services related information about the County's efforts to expand outreach efforts for Telework. Mirza Morris of North Bethesda Transportation told the committee of upcoming vanpool sessions the USNRC in November. Mr. Napolitano revealed the outreach campaign in Prince George's County – "Nothing Stops Me." There are 20 bus shelters targeted as well as inclusion in the quarterly newsletter to employers.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10 – OTHER BUSINESS**

The next meeting will be held at COG on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 10 a.m.