

HANDOUTS

from previous meeting



September 15, 2009

Program Requirements

Program Purpose

The purpose of the 'Pool Rewards program is to encourage drive alone commuters to change their commuter behavior by trying carpooling. By carpooling, commuters will improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. Drive alone commuters are offered an incentive to start carpooling in the hopes that participants will continue to carpool even after completion of the program.

Need help getting started?

The Commuter Connections Rideshare Program helps individuals find potential carpool partners. Go to www.commuterconnections.org to learn more about the program and to sign up for the free program.

Rules of Eligibility

1. You must currently be driving alone to work in order to qualify for this program. Driving alone is defined as operating a motor vehicle to travel to work with no other adult passengers occupying the vehicle.
2. You must submit your completed application before beginning your use of a carpool.
3. Your carpool must be officially registered with Commuter Connections. All registered carpools will receive a carpool identification number. This number must be included on your application for participation in the program. Participants may only earn an incentive for their involvement in one specific carpool.
4. You must not have used an alternative commute mode (carpool, vanpool, transit, bicycle, walk) more than 3 days in the 30 days prior to your submission of the 'Pool Rewards application.
5. You must be commuting to and from work to qualify for this program. Commuters in vanpools are not eligible. Students commuting to school are not eligible.
6. You must commute to work an average of two or more weekdays (i.e. Monday through Friday) for the entire duration of the program to qualify. Commutes to work on the weekend do not qualify. You must not be teleworking an average of more than 3 days per week during your participation in the 'Pool Rewards program.
7. You must be using one of the following corridors for your commute:
 - a. I-495: Bethesda to Tyson's Corner (west bound in the morning, east bound in the evening). At a minimum, your carpool must be traveling on this corridor between MD-190 (River Road) and VA-123 (Chain Bridge Rd).

- b. I-495: MD-295 (Baltimore-Washington Parkway) to I-270 (west bound in the morning, east bound in the evening). At a minimum, your carpool must be traveling on this corridor between MD-295 to I-270.
- c. I-395: Washington, DC to Northern Virginia (south bound in the morning, north bound in the evening). At a minimum, your carpool must be using the 14th Street Bridge (I-395) to travel between the District of Columbia and Virginia.

Participation Guidelines

1. Commuter Connections maintains the right to terminate the program with or without notice at any time for any reason.
2. If accepted into the 'Pool Rewards program, each person can receive up to \$2 per day for each day you carpool to work within the consecutive 90-day period assigned by Commuter Connections. You can earn \$1 for each leg (morning and evening) commute. The maximum incentive you can receive for the 90-day period is \$130.
3. All incentives will be provided in the form of a check and will be mailed to your home/ mailing address as provided in your profile after the program period is concluded and your survey(s) are completed.
4. You must carpool to travel to work a minimum of 26 days over the assigned consecutive 90-day period to qualify for the incentive.
5. A carpool arrangement must include two or more working adults commuting to work. Transporting children to school and/or daycare will not qualify you for the program.
6. All information supplied by you must be accurate, current, and complete. Commuter Connections reserves the right to refuse your application and/or discontinue your participation in this program, including the right to withhold payment of your incentive, if we believe you have failed to meet this obligation. We reserve the right to contact you and your employer to verify the information provided. Your supervisor must verify (to the best of their knowledge) that your commute log is accurate.
7. 'Pool Rewards is a pilot program. Participants' accurate and prompt responses to evaluation surveys are necessary for determining the value of this incentive program. Participants will be required to complete short surveys as part of the program. Payment will only be delivered after the surveys have been completed.
8. Space in the 'Pool Rewards program is limited. Commuter Connections reserves the right to reject any application if program capacity is met, even if the applicant qualifies for the program. Applicants are not officially enrolled in the program until they receive notification from Commuter Connections.
9. If a dispute arises regarding any aspect of the 'Pool Rewards program, including, but not limited to, interpretation of the Program Requirements or Participation Guidelines, accuracy of the information

provided by you, or your eligibility to participate in the program, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments/Commuter Connections Program shall be the final decision-maker regarding such a dispute. Any decisions will be final.

Terms of Use

I have provided a valid home address and understand that all materials, including checks, will be sent to this address.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Program Requirements governing the 'Pool Rewards program and certify that I am eligible to participate and receive the incentives provided by Commuter Connections.

I understand that it is a condition of my participating that all information I supply will be correct, current and complete. I understand that Commuter Connections has the right to refuse my participation in this program and the right to withhold incentives if Commuter Connections believes I have failed to meet this obligation.

I understand that the information I am providing will be used by Commuter Connections to facilitate my participation in the program.

I understand that Commuter Connections reserves the right to contact me and/or my employer to verify my participation in the program and/or my commute behavior. I understand that Commuter Connections reserves the right to refuse my application, discontinue my participation in this program, and/or withhold incentive payment if I fail to abide by the Terms of Use.

I understand that the incentives offered through this program are provided to applicants on a first-come, first-served basis and that Commuter Connections has the right to terminate this program at any time without notice.

I understand that if a dispute arises regarding any aspect of the 'Pool Rewards program, including, but not limited to, the interpretation of the Program Requirements, accuracy of the information I provide, or my eligibility to participate, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments/Commuter Connections program shall be the final decision maker regarding such disputes. Any decision will be final and binding on my status as a participant of the program.

I understand that any incentives I receive from Commuter Connections are subject to federal and state income taxes and that any liability that may result is solely my responsibility.

By providing information on this application, I understand that it may be used by Commuter Connections or a third party to contact me regarding my interest in additional financial incentives, additional programs or services, or for information related to my experience using alternative modes of transportation. If I do not wish to be contacted for these reasons, I have indicated such by checking this box (***add box***).

Note: There are penalties for receiving public funds fraudulently! Public funds for this program must be used to encourage drive-alone commuters to start carpooling. Current users of commute alternatives that knowingly provide false or misleading information are committing fraud and knowingly abusing the use of public funds.