

**Commuter Connections Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 18, 2007**

**Chairperson: Linda Stewart-Byrd, MDOT  
Vice Chairperson: Christopher Hamilton, Arlington County  
Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos (202) 962-3313**

**Item #1 Introductions**

*The Subcommittee members were asked to introduce themselves and to sign the attendance sheet*

Acting Chair, Lyn Erickson called the meeting to order by introducing herself and asking the rest of the attendees to do so (*See attached attendance sheet*).

**Item #2 Minutes of July 17, 2007**

*Approval was sought for the July 17, 2007 Commuter Connections Subcommittee meeting minutes.*

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting as written.

**Item #3 Announcement of New Vice-Chair**

*Mr. Nicholas Ramfos announced the nomination of the new Vice-Chair for Subcommittee approval.*

Mr. Ramfos announced that the Commuter Connections Vice Chair Nominating Committee met by conference call on July 24<sup>th</sup> to select the next Subcommittee Vice Chair. He reported that Anna McLaughlin of the District Department of Transportation was nominated by the nominating committee and had accepted the nomination. The Subcommittee unanimously approved of Ms. McLaughlin's nomination as the new Vice-Chair of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee.

**Item #4 Change of Chairperson**

*Mr. Nicholas Ramfos announced the new Chair of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee.*

Mr. Ramfos announced that Christopher Hamilton of Arlington County, Virginia has assumed the position of the Chair, Commuter Connections Subcommittee. Mr. Hamilton had previously served as the Vice-Chair, Commuter Connections Subcommittee. He also stated that a plaque commending Linda Stewart-Byrd for her service as Subcommittee Chair would be sent to her.

**Item #5 TDM Evaluation Project Update Monitoring Program Status Report**

*Mr. Nicholas Ramfos updated the Subcommittee on recent findings from the 2007 GRH Applicant Survey Report, preliminary results from the 2007 State of the Commute Report, and data collection activities for FY 2008.*

Mr. Ramfos announced plans to finalize the draft GRH Survey Report in January and the State of the Commute Technical Survey report as well. Currently the comment and data sets for the

State of the Commute are in review and an updated draft will be ready in November and will be finalized in January.

Additional Data collection activities for Commuter Connections during FY 2008 include a regional Car Sharing Survey, A Vanpool Driver Survey, A Bike To Work Day Survey, An Employer Telework Assistance Survey, an analysis of the Employer Outreach TERM, and the TERM Analysis Report.

**Item #6        2007 Bike To Work Day Event Report**

*Mr. Mark Hersey will discuss the 2007 Bike To Work Day event draft Report and established a comment period.*

Mr. Hersey reviewed the 2007 Bike To Work Day Event Draft Report which was included in the agenda packet. For 2007, Bike To Work Day registration has increased to 6,606 registrants and included 25 pit stops. Outer jurisdiction pit stops have become less a staging area for transit deployment and more of a traditional pit stop, supporting local residents and local employees. For example, Frederick County residents are riding their bikes to employment sites in Frederick County. These outer jurisdiction stops have grown in size and number on a yearly basis.

Several members had questions regarding registration and participation numbers and how they were counted. Mr. Hersey clarified that registrants that registration numbers are pulled from WABA and participant numbers are a physical head count conducted at the pit stops. Participation numbers might include cyclists who would stop at more than one pit stop and would not include those who registered but either did not end up participating due to various circumstances or who might have participated but did not stop at pit stop. Rosslyn in Arlington, Virginia hosted over 800 participants this year, which might be attributed to its geographic proximity to Georgetown and its role as a "gateway to DC."

Commuter Connections also benefited from additional media exposure this year through the help of Radio Station 94.7 "The Globe" and their attendance and broadcast from Freedom Plaza.

Mr. Hersey asked that a 30 day comment period be established in order to solicit comments from the Subcommittee. Comments on the draft report are due by October 19, 2007 and can be posted on the Extranet.

**Item #7        Carpool Incentive Programs**

*Mr. Jonathan Rogers briefed the Subcommittee on carpool and other alternative transportation cash incentive programs from around the county.*

Jonathan Rogers gave a presentation on various carpool incentive programs in the United States. Carpool incentive programs offer some form of financial reward to life-long solo drivers in hopes of encouraging commuters to change their commuting patterns. Mr. Rogers shared some current research regarding carpool incentive programs. Research finds that incentive programs tend to attract people with shorter commutes, younger commuters, and commuters with lower socioeconomic status. Research also shows that carpool incentive programs are most effective when other support programs (such as GRH and Ridesharing programs) exist.

Mr. Rogers outlined the specifics of several carpool incentive programs including Seattle, New Jersey, Riverside County, Redmond, Tennessee, and Atlanta. While several of these programs did not track retention rates after the completion of the incentive programs, the programs that did

track retention rates reported that commuters continued to use alternative modes of transportation even after the completion of the program. More established programs, like Atlanta's Cash for Commuters program, offered additional incentives to commuters after the program to encourage continued use of alternative modes.

Lyn Erikson asked if there was additional research through TRB or other sources that could be presented on retention rates. Mr. Ramfos stated that staff would look into what was available and bring additional information back to the group in November.

**Item #8      FY 2009 Work Program Development**

*Mr. Nicholas Ramfos briefed the Subcommittee on the FY 2009 Commuter Connections Work Program Development.*

Mr. Ramfos briefed the Subcommittee on the schedule for the FY 2009 Commuter Connections Work Program which was in the agenda packet. He stated that draft bullet points and a draft Work Program would be presented to the STDM Work Group and to the Subcommittee in November and then edited based on feedback received. In January 2008, the draft Work Program would be presented to the Subcommittee for review and comment. The final Work Program will be submitted to the Subcommittee for approval at its March 2008 meeting and then forwarded to the TPB Technical Committee and the TPB for final approval in March as well.

**Item #9      Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) International Conference Briefing**

*Subcommittee members who attended the ACT Conference held in Seattle were given the opportunity to brief the Subcommittee on information pertinent to the regional TDM programs.*

Mr. Ramfos presented information on the "Double Taxation of Commuters" which concerns state taxation of employees through the employment state as well as the home state. The legislation is currently still held up in Congress, waiting on enough signatures to move it through the legislative process.

Mr. Franklin spoke about his experience at the ACT Conference and spoke about his presentation of Commuter Connections latest effort, Live Near Your Work. The session was very well attended and received by the ACT member attendees.

Mr. Ramfos stated that attendance was quite high, approximately 500 attendees in all. The greater Washington, DC was well represented at the conference, with many local representatives making presentations.

Ms. Donna Norfleet noted some books that were suggested at the ACT Conference to change peoples' perception of alternate modes of transportation.

**Item #10      Budget Report and Annual Report**

*Mr. Nicholas Ramfos will distribute and discuss the Commuter Connections final FY 2007 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter budget Report and will distribute the FY 2007 Annual Progress Report.*

Mr. Ramfos distributed the final 4<sup>th</sup> quarter budget report for FY 2007 and stated that the Telework program was under budget for FY07 primarily because the employer consultants were not used as much as anticipated. Conversely, the Guaranteed Ride Home Program exceeded its line-item budget for rides. Over-runs on this line item were caused by increased gas prices, fuel surcharges, and an increase in the number of GRH rides given during the fiscal year.

Mr Ramfos distributed the FY 07 Annual Progress Report. He stated that an increase in the number of purges performed was the cause of the decreased number of Rideshare participants during FY 2007.

**Item #11 Other Business/Set Agenda for Next Meeting**

Subcommittee members were encouraged to contact Mr. Ramfos with any items they would like to have on the next agenda.

**The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, November 20, 2007.**