



## MEETING NOTES COMMUTER CONNECTIONS RIDEMATCHING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

777 North Capitol Street, N.E.

COG Board Room

Chairperson: GERALYN TAYLOR, City of Alexandria LocalMotion

Vice Chairperson: Vacant, TRANSIT Services of Frederick County, MD

COG Staff Contact: Stephen Finafrock, 202/962-3385 or [sfinafrock@mwkog.org](mailto:sfinafrock@mwkog.org)

*(Note: If you cannot attend this meeting, please call 202/962-3327.)*

### 1. Introductions

Geralyn Taylor, Alexandria LocalMotion, called the meeting to order by introducing herself. Attendees were then asked to introduce themselves and sign the attendance sheet. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Lillian Bunton, BMC, for her service as Chair of the Commuter Connections Ridematching committee.

### 2. Minutes of the June 19, 2012 Meeting

Approval was sought for the June 19, 2012 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved as written.

### 3. Upcoming Fairs and Promotions

The following Rideshare Coordinators shared details of recent or upcoming Transportation fairs or promotions that they have attended:

Sharon Affinito (Loudon County OTS): 7/11/ -JLL Event, 7/13 - Commuter Celebration @ Southland Industries, 7/25 8300 Greensboro, 7/31 - Green Business Coffee Series @GWU, 8/14 - DATA Employer Council, 8/15 - Southland Industries Lunch & Learn, 8/24 - Rehau Lunch & Learn on "Small" ideas for commuters, 8/28 - Green Business Coffee Series @ GWU - Ashburn campus, 9/21 - Keep Tyson's Moving @ Capitol One.

Holly Morello (PRTC): 7/11 – DHHQ Transit Fair, 7/17 – Towers Crescent Transit Fair (Tyson's), 7/19 – SAIC Transit Fair (Tyson's).

Darlene Nader (North Bethesda TMD): 8/6 - Meeting with HR @ Henry Jackson Foundations, 8/9 - Booth @ Farmer's Market in Rock Spring Park to promote Car Free Day, 8/16 - Booth @ Farmer's Market in Rock Spring Park to promote Car Free Day, 8/20 - Meeting with FRIT to promote CFD, 9/10 - 3 week Walk & Ride campaign begins, 9/19 - NIH/NIAID (different sites in NB).

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD,  
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.E., SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, DC 20002-4239

THE COMMUTER INFORMATION SOURCE FOR MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

George Clark (Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland): GSA, US Coast Guard, Fort Belvoir, St Mary's County and JBAB commuter fairs also a MTA open house in Charles County, MD.

#### **4. Commute Logging/Calculator/Reports**

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, displayed the commute logging/Calculator/Reports. He had access to this new functionality using his private TDM account. Right now there are only two legs for the commuting information, but more will be possibly added in the future. Once a commuter sets up their profile, and it is saved it will take it to the daily commute logs calendar. For right now there is only a 2 week window to log your commute. On the right side of the calendar there is the trip summary, and the savings summary to better reflect the picture of the commuter. In the near it will be possible to add reports. Currently this is only working for the Rideshare Delaware Program. DART, but COG/TPB is moving to make it accessible for everybody.

Lillian Bunton (BMC) asked if is possible to make calculations without being registered. Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, replied that there is a savings calculator tool on the Commuter Connections homepage, but does not provide estimate for emissions. Mr. Ramfos also stated that the VMT Reports for the Commute Log would be available in approximately two weeks.

#### **5. Special Events Ridematching**

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, provided accessed the special events tab through his personal account. The main events currently are the Nationals, and the Orioles baseball teams. He showed the illustration clicking on the view button to display the map. There is a lack of use of the program , and only one group called "Friday Night Contra Dance" is actively using the Ridematching service.

Lillian Bunton (BMC) asked if was possible to add events for other jurisdictions like events in Baltimore City. Steve replied that only admin accounts can create events, and then he will approve them, so that was perfectly fine. Some Ridesharing representatives suggested having labels or event advertising appear when the Commuter logs in to help to attract more attention to the program.

#### **6. TDM System Suggested Improvements Update**

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, provided an update of the new improvements citing the inclusion of new reports. The VMT, reports from data obtained in the commuter log calendar will be ready soon although they will be different for each jurisdiction. A new customization ridematching letter is on the way. There is a code upgrade for the TDM System that will contain security improvements. Ross Edgar, COG/TPB staff talked about the geocoding service and display. Currently TDM uses Oracle for geocoding and Google to display the maps. He mentioned that even though works well there is some problems. He pointed out the benefits of NAVTEQ over Google. This system will be more sophisticated, and it will be more intuitive to use when requesting ridematches. George Clark (Tri-County for Southern Maryland) mentioned the error matching across water features when searching with a wide radius.

## **7. GIS Information Update**

Ross Edgar, COG/TPB staff, said that data from WMATA with new bus stops are ready to be downloaded to Oracle. Also data obtained from Loudoun, VDOT, Prince William, Fairfax etc. George Clark (Tri County Council for Southern Maryland) announced the opening of a new Park & Ride, which is still under construction, so it won't be ready for the new reprinted map brochures. Ross Edgar, COG/TPB staff gave the ridematching committee a technical demonstration on how to use the Park & Ride finder, He passed on tips to get data from any particular Park and Ride.

## **8. Client Site Status/Roundtable**

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, announced that it's time to publish the new directory with the most updated information. Hard copies will be delivered only upon request.

Jack Carlile, transportation coordinator from FDA requested that in the ridematching search the smoking preference should be suppressed. He noticed that he has to use the category "any" instead of non smoking preference to bring more matching results.

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, added that removing the smoking preference at this time it will take time and will cost money. He said that only a small group of registered commuters claim to be smokers. Some committee members agreed that it's still a personal choice, and should be taken into consideration when somebody is looking for carpools/vanpools to be matched with. The final decision about removing the smoking preference will be discussed during the next meeting.

## **9. Other Business/Upcoming Agenda Items**

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, mentioned the possibility of adding commuting related videos on Commuter Connections web site using YouTube.

The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee will be held on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 10:00am to 12:00pm.