

**Commuter Connections Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Chairperson: Christopher Hamilton, Arlington County
**Vice Chairperson: Anna McLaughlin, District of Columbia Department of
Transportation**
Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos (202) 962-3313

Item #1 Introductions

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

Chair, Chris Hamilton called the meeting to order by introducing himself and asking the rest of the attendees to do so (*See attached attendance sheet*). Appreciation award certificates were presented to Kevin Bonds, Tammy Bowles, Charles Steigerwald, Kevin Thornton and Dawn Warner.

Item #2 Minutes of February 19, 2008

Approval was sought for the February 19, 2008 Commuter Connections Meeting Minutes.

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the February 19th meeting as written.

Item #3 2007 Bike to Work Day Survey Report

Mr. Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB Staff briefed the subcommittee on the results of the 2007 Bike To Work Day Survey Report. The Draft Report was presented to the Bike to Work Day Steering Committee on March 12th and to the TDM Evaluation Group on March 18th for review and comment. A comment period was established for June 6th.

Mr. Ramfos briefed the committee surveyed participants that were in the Bike to work day event in 2007, over 2,400 participants responded. The before and after average for frequency of biking to work before the event is about 2.6% which is 2.3 days a week. The draft survey report can be found on the Extranet and additional comments can be posted by June 6th.

Item #4 Congestion Management Process Update

Mr. Andrew Meese. COG/TPB Staff briefed the subcommittee on the regional Congestion Management Process (CMP).

Mr. Meese briefed the subcommittee on the Congestion Management Process (CMP), Technical Report. The draft technical report represents the third of three major CMP activities for 2008. The CMP components, materials for Congestion Management Documentation for the upcoming 2008 CLRP and FY2009-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, accepted by the TPB

Technical Committee at its April 4, 2008 meeting and the (New) Draft 2008 CMP Technical Report. Mr. Meese briefed the committee on the need for a CMP Technical Report, where congestion occurs or will occur in the Washington Metropolitan area and the impacts of previously implemented congestion management strategies. Mr. Meese asked that Subcommittee members provide comments and once received they will be given to the Tech Committee on June 6th, with anticipated approval by June 27th.

Item #5 Clean Air Partners Update

Ms. Harriet West, Executive Director with Clean Air Partners briefed the Subcommittee on Recent CAP activities and opportunities.

Ms. Harriet West gave an overview of what Clean Air Partners has been focusing on regarding awareness of air quality issues. CAP had a very successful marketing campaign last year which generated more than 55 million media impressions through transit print and radio ads, that is paid for by sponsors (including Commuter Connections). The marketing sparked a staggering increase of traffic to the website, with more than 4 million hits from the middle of May 2007 to the end of the year. For the last two years CAP, along with the DC, MD & VA Board members has been working on a comprehensive air quality curriculum with a firm called Environmentally Education Exchange. This curriculum covers the EPA priority pollutions, brown level ozone, particle pollution and climate change. New air quality brochures were distributed. All pertinent information can be found on the website at www.cleanairpartners.net.

Item #6 Briefing on Draft Report on Regional Travel Trends

Mr. Robert Griffiths, COG/TPB Staff briefed the Subcommittee on the draft policy report summarizing changing travel trends and commuting patterns in the Washington region.

Mr. Griffiths discussed the changes in the Regional Travel Trends Report. A Power Point Presentation was given on the Regional Travel Trends. The major travel trends in the metropolitan Washington region has been one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the nation for the last several decades. There has been growth in the labor force. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) statistics for the Washington region shows that the regions civilian labor force has grown from 2.67 million in 2000 to 2.96 million in 2006. Employment Growth; wage and salary employment in the region between 1990 and 2000 grew at an average annual rate of 1.5%. There has been a 8% increase in Telework from 2001 to 2007.

Item #7 Briefing on Commuter Connections' Response to Rising Gasoline Prices

Mr. Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on how recent high gasoline prices have impacted the Commuter Connections' program services.

Mr. Ramfos gave a Power Point Presentation on the Responses to Rising Gas Prices and the effect it has had on Commuter Connections. The overall policy responses are that the big issues are rather or not if we should be focused on utilizing Ethanol, wind, coal, or nuclear energy. There has also been discussion of a waiver for the federal gas tax for the summer. There has been a Bi-partisanship halt to adding oil to the strategic oil reserve. There has been a decline in SUV sales and an increase in Hybrid car sales. Commuter Connections has been advertising on

the radio, coffee cup sleeves and on bus shelters for other alternatives to commuting, such as *carpooling, transit, bicycling and teleworking*. Commuter Connections is also promoting Live Near Your Work initiatives by assisting employers with finding the right solutions for workforce housing needs, and connecting employees with programs that enable them to live closer to work. Due to escalating gas prices, there has been a great impact on transit; bicycle sales are rising, there is an increase in Teleworkers and car/van pools. The key message needs to focus on conservation efforts and Commuter Connections can assist in this regard. Mr. Ramfos stated that a condensed version of this presentation will be given to the TPB in order to educate Board members on Commuter Connections' response to higher gasoline prices.

Item #8 Car Free Day Steering Committee Update

Mr. Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the start up activities of the Car Free Day event Steering Committee.

Mr. Douglas Franklin briefed the Subcommittee on the upcoming Car Free Day event, which was initiated in 2000. September 22, 2008 was chosen for the World Wide Event. The next upcoming Car Free Day Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for June 4th.

Item #9 Third Quarter Budget Report

Mr. Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB Staff, distributed and discussed Commuter connections 3rd quarter budget report.

Mr. Ramfos stated that if anyone had any questions or needed further information on the report to please contact him directly.

The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2008.