



Commuter Connections Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Chairperson: Lorraine Taylor, (WMATA) Washington D.C.
Vice Chairperson: Sam Oji, Montgomery 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

Lorraine Taylor, called the meeting to order by introducing herself and asking the rest of the attendees to do so.

Item #2 March 20, 2012

Approval was sought for the March 20, 2012 Commuter Connections Meeting Minutes.

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

Item #3 FY 2012 Placement Rate Study

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the substantive changes made to the final draft.

Mr. Ramfos reviewed the substantive changes made to the final draft of the FY 2012 Commuter Connections Placement Rate Study Report. The report was presented to the Subcommittee on March 20th and a comment period deadline of April 10th was established. There were text changes made to ensure that the percentages and numbers matched up. COG/TPB staff will be using the results from the FY 2012 Applicant Placement Rate survey as part of the 2014 regional TERM Analysis impacts for the region. The Subcommittee endorsed the report for release.

Item #4 WMATA Update

Lorraine Taylor, WMATA, briefed the Subcommittee on the recent fare changes.

Ms. Taylor updated the Subcommittee on recent fare changes adopted by the WMATA Board, as well as any new outreach initiatives to communicate the changes to the public and to the business community. The new fare changes will go into effect on July 1, 2012. The rail fare will have a surcharge on paper fare cards of \$1 and the max fare for a paper fare card will be \$5.75 + a \$1 surcharge. Rail passes will add a one day unrestricted rail pass for \$14, a 28 day rail fast pass for \$230 available on SmarTrip and a 7-day short-trip pass for \$35. Metrorail will increase peak-period rail fares by 5.7%, with a max fare of \$5.75 and off-peak fares will have a base fare of \$1.70 and a max fare if \$3.50. There will be a non-SmarTrip surcharge of \$1.00. One day

passes in the amount of \$14 will be valid all day. The seven day rail fast pass will be \$57.50 and the 28 day rail fast pass will cost \$230. The bus fare will increase by \$0.10, and the seven-day regional bus pass will be \$16. A cash boarding charge for local/limited stop will be \$1.80 and cash express will be \$4.00. The parking fee will go up by \$0.25 and a decrease on the bike locker rental will occur which would put the cost at \$120.

Item #5 Pool Rewards Update

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the 'Pool Rewards project.

Mr. Ramfos discussed the expansion of the regional 'Pool Rewards program to include Vanpools. Commuter Connections Vanpool and Carpool incentives are now both available. There is a coverage map for vanpools that displays allowable origins and destinations. Vanpools' destinations are anywhere inside the metropolitan Statistical Area; however they must originate in either the District of Columbia or in Maryland as well as West Virginia, new Jersey, and Pennsylvania. This information is now available at the Commuter Connections web site and there are links to both of vanpool providers; Enterprise Rideshare and VPSI. Mr. Ramfos also went over the participation guidelines and the vanpool transmittal approval form.

Item #6 Clean Air Partners Update

Sam Oji, Montgomery County Commuter Services, updated the Subcommittee on recent and upcoming Clean Air Partners activities.

Mr. Oji updated the Subcommittee on the recent and upcoming Clean Air Partners activities. Clean Air Partners is a nonprofit organization supported by CommuterConnections, that seeks to improve the health and the quality of life of residents in the Baltimore and Washington region's. The four aspects of the program include air quality, public awareness, education, and program administration. Mr. Oji went on to explain that particulate matter pollution is a year round pollutant created from sources like auto exhaust, fire place, power and industrial plants, forest fires and agricultural burning. These are invisible but become dangerous as they make their way into your lungs and bloodstream, especially for children and the elderly. There were 2 days when air quality reached code orange levels in the Baltimore region but not in the Washington region.

Mr. Oji explained that a public awareness campaign kicked off in May 2011. The media mix consisted of paid radio and online advertising, in kind transit advertising, media outreach and social media. The campaign encouraged the public to visit the Clean Air Partners web site to learn more about how they can protect their health and improve air quality and to help reduce the number of poor air quality days in our region. The education program was successful inengaging the youth with poster contests, science fairs and slogan contests. The administrative accomplishments include a new managing director, increased business community outreach, as well as a review of the bylaw's and a visioning meeting.

Item #7 2012 Bike to Work Day Event

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the status of the regional Bike to Work Day event that will be held on May 18th.

Mr. Franklin briefed the committee on the Bike to Work Day event which was held on Friday May 18th. The Bike to Work Day Steering Committee started planning for the 2012 BTWD Event in September of 2011, and the Committee approved an increase to 12,500 registrants for 2012, projecting a 13.5 percent increase. There were 58 pit stops this year. There was a high level of cash contributions from corporate sponsors as well as in-kind raffle prizes; including five bicycles. Cash donations mainly paid for the event T-Shirts, and vinyl banners were purchased for each pit stop. Radio ads had been airing since the end of April up until the BTWD event date. There was a proclamation approved by the TPB at its meeting in April and a press release was sent out on May 14th. There was a large amount of media interest in this year's event.

Item #8 Briefing on Household Travel Characteristics in Seven Focused Geographic Subareas of the Region

Robert Griffiths, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on Household Travel Characteristics and Behavior in Seven Focused Geographic Subareas of the Region.

Mr. Griffiths briefed the Subcommittee on a survey conducted in Spring 2011 of 2,400 households in seven focused geographic subareas of the region to obtain demographic information and travel data for more intensive analysis of specific growth and transportation issues. These subareas include Metrorail station areas, highway corridors with recent or planned major improvements, proposed light rail study areas, and regional activity centers with specific characteristics.

Mr. Griffiths presented the 2007-2008 Regional Household Travel Survey that was primarily conducted for the development of the new travel demand model. The Household Travel Survey data collection occurred in specific geographic sub-areas of the region. The project objectives are to analyze daily travel behavior in communities with different densities, physical characteristics and transportation options. Results will assist local planners with current local land use and transportation planning efforts and to build a household travel survey database that can measure changes in local community travel behavior over a period of time with before and after comparisons.

Mr. Griffiths explained that the next phase of the survey will include more analysis of survey data, use/non-use of transit, an analysis of the CNT Housing and Transportation Study and additional data collection. The seven areas that are now being surveyed are Friendship Heights (in the District of Columbia and Montgomery County, Maryland), New York Avenue Corridor (in DC), St. Charles (Urbanized Area in Charles County, Maryland), National Harbor (in Prince George's County MD), Beauregard Corridor (City of Alexandria), East and West Falls Church (Church Metrorail Station areas in Arlington County, the City of Falls Church and Fairfax County, Virginia), and the Dulles North area (Area in Loudoun County, Virginia).

Item #9 Car Free Day Event Update

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the status of the Regional Car Free Day event that will be held on September 22nd.

Mr. Franklin briefed the Subcommittee on the upcoming Car Free Day Event which will be held on Saturday, September 22nd. The new Car Free Day website will have a (.org) unlike the previous years, although the .com web address will still work. Car Free Day currently has 2,659 likes on Facebook. The Car Free Day Steering Committee is looking to have street closures and cut off areas so that event participants can see how the area would look without any cars.

Item #10 3rd Quarter CCWP Budget and Progress Report

Barbara Brennan COG/DTP staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the 3rd Quarter Budget and Progress Reports.

Ms. Brennan reviewed both of the reports by reviewing Commitments and Expenditures for FY 12 (Year to Date through March 31, 2012) as well as results in the overall 3rd quarter CCWP Progress Report. She asked if there were any questions or comments.

Item #11 Other Business/Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Subcommittee members are encouraged to contact Nicholas Ramfos with any particular agenda items they may be interested in seeing on the next agenda.

The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 12 noon.