

**Commuter Connections Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, January 15, 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*).

Item #2 Minutes of November 20, 2007

Approval was sought for the November 20, 2008 Commuter Connections Meeting Minutes.

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the November 20th meeting as written.

Item #3 GRH Participation Guidelines

Mr. Jonathan Rogers, COG/TPB Staff briefed the subcommittee on the changes to the GRH participation guidelines that were reviewed at the November 20th Subcommittee Meeting. A comment period was established until December 17th.

Mr. Rogers discussed the changes made in regards to the holidays and added language. There was a motion to approve the changes as shown in the agenda packet. There was a second and the Subcommittee voted to approve the revised GRH Participation Guidelines.

Item #4 Washington National's TDM Initiatives

Ms. Francine Waters, of the Washington Nationals briefed the Subcommittee on upcoming initiatives "The Nationals" will be implementing to mitigate traffic.

Ms. Waters discussed the survey that was presented to the season ticket holders for Washington Nationals which was used to explore the transportation issues confronting them with the new ball park. The major concerns presented were in areas such as Anacostia where there are security issues and making access to Metro challenging. Other areas of concern are if Metro will be able to accommodate parking. A presentation on the development of the "Capitol River Front" was given and brochures were distributed. Ms. Waters discussed the areas of where the baseball fans were coming from and how to encourage them to utilize public transportation. The Nationals have been working closely with Metro in regards to this project. The Navy Yard Metrorail Station has an enhanced entrance that will handle over 20,000 individuals an hour. Ms. Waters stated that the National's have set a goal for 24,000 baseball fans to access Metro, which is approximately 60% of the fan base. A brochure for the season ticket holders was distributed

to the Subcommittee with information on Metro access to Washington Nationals Ball Park. Metro, has agreed to do a commemorative SmarTrip Card; available for a limited time for ticket holders. The SmarTrip cards go on sale March 1st and will be available for this season only.

The Nationals have also been working with Federal Highway and the states to place signage on major arterials and highways in both Maryland and Virginia that will direct fans to Metro Park and Ride lot locations. Metro is developing a web site page dedicated to the Washington Nationals, which will give fans directions to the ball park from their designated starting point. Another component that they are working on is other alternative means of transportation to the park; such as bicycling etc. There will be 286 bike racks and a bike valet. There will be free parking for fans at RFK Stadium and a motor couch to transport fans to and from walking distances to the ball park since there is extremely limited parking at the new facility. In addition to the Metro web site there will be a dedicated transportation page on the Nationals' web site.

Item #5 FY 2007 GRH Survey Report

Mr. Nicholas Ramfos (on behalf of Douglas Franklin), COG/TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the draft results of the FY 2007 Guaranteed Ride Home Customer Satisfaction Survey Report.

Mr. Ramfos briefed the committee on the logistics of how the survey cards are made up and distributed. The overall responses were 93% positive and the average response time for taxi arrival was 17 minutes and a little over 88.5% waited 30 minutes or less. The main reasons for the trips were due to personal illness, family emergencies and sick child. The majority of the comments were compliments. There will be a comment period established for this report due by February 22nd. The results were presented to the Regional TDM Marketing Group in December. The draft report will be posted on the ExtraNet in order for Subcommittee members to post their comment on the draft document.

Item #6 WMATA Fare Structure and SmarTrip Update

Ms. Lorraine Taylor of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, briefed the subcommittee on Metro's new fare structure and updates on SmartTrip's initiatives.

Ms. Taylor distributed a copy of the SmarTrip User Guide brochure and SmarTrip's "All About" brochure WMATA has a special promotion going on with Giant Food; one particular location is selling SmarTrip Cards.

The new fares for Metro Rail & Bus, Metro Access and Metro Parking went into effect on Sunday, January 6, 2008. There were no changes for the off-peak fares for MetroRail. Boarding fees for MetroRail did increase by at least thirty cents, during the regular weekday period which is from 5:00am-9:30am and from 3:00-7:00pm and on Friday's and Saturday's from 2:00-3:00pm.

The MetroRail fare increased by an average of 50¢; with a maximum fare of \$4.50. The fare also increased for Senior and Disabled Customers, which is half of the regular fare. There was an increase on the composite miles, depending on the distance traveling on MetroRail. The Metro PassPort was eliminated due to low sales.

- The MetroRail "One Day Pass" increased to \$7.80

- The weekly "ShortTrip Pass" is now \$26.40
- The weekly "Fast Pass" (which is for unlimited rides for a seven day consecutive period) is now \$39.
- The DC Student "Smart Student Pass" is now \$26 and is only sold to students that live and attend school in the District of Columbia that are under the age of 19.
- The "Transit Link Pass" which is a combo pass with MARC and VRE increased depending on the past products purchased for unlimited rides.
- The "Student Fare Card" increased to \$8.

The Metro Bus fare increased by 10¢ if you are paying cash which would take the price up to a \$1.35 and if you are utilizing your SmarTrip card there is no change in fare. The same protocol is provided with Metro express bus services; there is a \$3.10 charge if paying by cash and the fee remains at \$3.00 for those utilizing the SmartTrip Card.

- Senior and disabled customers' bus fare has remained at sixty cents.
- The "Weekly Flash Pass" remains at \$11
- The all day bus pass has been eliminated
- *Metro Bus Token* sales have been eliminated to the general public, only customers with Metro Access providing a *Metro Access ID Card* will be permitted to purchase tokens.
- The parking fees have increased by 75¢
- The reserved parking fee increased by \$10 a month, making it \$55 a month in addition to the daily parking fee.
- Parking Meters are \$1 for sixty minutes.

As of January 2009 paper transfers will be eliminated and SmarTrip cards will be utilized, maximizing the transfer period up to three hours. All SmarTrip inquiries can be submitted via e-mail at SmarTrip@WMATA.com.

Item #7 FY 2009 Commuter Connections Work Program

Mr. Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the highlights of the draft FY 2009 CCWP.

Mr. Ramfos briefed the committee on the logistics of this program and the definition on what Commuter Connections is; which is a network of public and private transportation organizations (including COG), who work together in the Washington region, encouraging commuters to utilize alternatives to driving alone in a private automobile. The CCWP was restructured and streamlined in FY2006 to clarify and simplify funding responsibilities. The CCWP FY09 continues this effort aimed at streamlining the administration and oversight processes for the program.

During FY09 COG/TPB Staff will continue to provide technical support and training to rideshare member agencies for the regional Commuter Connections Ridematching Software System (CCRS). Staff will also produce an annual Commuter Connections Work Program for FY 2010. Monitoring & Evaluation will include the distribution of the 2007 State of the Commute general public report and conducting an Employer Outreach Customer Satisfaction Survey. The state funding agencies have provided comments/edits on the draft document. Commuter Connections Subcommittee will review the draft on January 15th with a comment period established through February 4th. A revised document will be available for the February 19th Subcommittee for further review/comments and approval.

Mr. Christopher Hamilton, Arlington County, distributed & gave a presentation on the Proposal for World & DC Car-Free Day 2008.

Mr. Hamilton briefed the committee on the dynamics of what World & Car-Free DC Day '08' will consist of. The District of Columbia has already set aside \$150,000 towards this event and is willing to pass-thru \$50,000 to towards a regional umbrella effort; with the hopes that Maryland and Virginia can match that amount. The next steps are to include the project in the draft FY 2009 CCWP.

There was some discussion regarding the event by Subcommittee members and the consensus was to add the project into the FY 2009 CCWP. Maryland and Virginia DOT representatives felt that there would be an opportunity to fund the project with FY 2008 under-run funds.

Item #8 2007 Employer Recognition Awards

Mr. Nicholas Ramfos (on behalf of Douglas Franklin), COG/TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the 2008 Employer Recognition Awards and brochures were distributed

Mr. Ramfos discussed the application process, which had a deadline of February 1st. If selected, your company will be recognized at an awards ceremony held at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. To read more about how your company may qualify to win, to see last year's winning companies, and to apply online visit www.commuterconnections.org. You may also email or call Stacey Walker at swalker@mwkog.org (202) 962-3327 to request a print version of the awards brochure and application form.

Item #9 2nd Quarter Budget Report

Mr. Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB Staff, distributed and discussed Commuter connections 2nd Quarter Budget Report.

Mr. Ramfos stated that id any Subcommittee members had any questions or comments on the budget to please notify him.

Item #10 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, February 19, 2008.