

EMPLOYER OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Notes from the January 18, 2022 meeting

AGENDA ITEM 1 - INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting began with self-introductions of those in attendance. (See attached list)

AGENDA ITEM 2 – REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING (10/19/21) NOTES

The Committee reviewed and approved the meeting notes as presented.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – FINAL FIRST QUARTER OF FY 2022 AND DRAFT SECOND QUARTER 2022 CONFORMITY VERIFICATION STATEMENTS

COG TPB staff presented the first and second conformity verification statements. There was a significant decline in the number of employer clients due to several factors, primarily the COVID19 pandemic.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – CAPITOL COVID RETURN TO WORK SURVEY RESULTS

John Hillegas of the Greater Washington Partnership presented the findings of the most recent survey used in the region. 164 employers responded with over 290,000 employees throughout Baltimore/Washington/Richmond areas represented. Individuals who telework remains high with around 42% according to the survey. Transit use remains an uncertain means of commuting to the worksite, however employers are mostly maintaining commuting benefits that were in place prior to the pandemic. Testing for COVID as well as requiring vaccination for employees to return to the office is at 88%. The expectation of the workforce returning to the office in some capacity is projected to be during the summer of 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – EMPLOYER OUTREACH CASE STUDIES FOR FY2022

Mark Hersey, COG/TPB staff, updated the committee on the research for candidates to be profiled for employer case studies.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – TRANSIT BENEFIT UPDATE FROM WMATA

Antoinette Rucker of WMATA presented information on the transit benefit increase as well as farecard changes and employer benefits. March 1 is the start of the new SmarTrip farecard – any farecard that was issued prior to 2012 will need to be replaced with the new one to access the system. There are two new transit stations that are under construction and will be opening soon: On the Yellow/Blue line in Potomac Yard and on the Silver Line in Loudoun County.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

AGENDA ITEM 7 – BIKE BENEFIT

Mark Hersey, COG/TPB staff, presented information on the recent legislation from the U.S. Congress to reinstate the bike benefit. The legislation is not complete at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – 2022 EMPLOYER RECOGNITION AWARDS

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB staff, informed the Committee on the 2022 Employer Recognition Awards ceremony and the deadline for employer nominees. The event is to be held on June 28 at the National Press Club.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – EMPLOYER OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE

William Feeney of goDCgo mentioned efforts for parking cash-out incentives and information sharing on the Transportation Equity Act.

George Clark of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland informed the Committee on the outreach efforts on Commute With Confidence.

Kendall Tiffany of Frederick County mentioned the increase of planned in person transportation fairs at employer sites.

Traci McPhail of North Bethesda TMD informed the Committee on upcoming Commuter Information Days as well as preparations for Bike to Work Day.

Stacey King of Prince George's County DPW&T updated the Committee on the County's new advertising effort as well as partnering with WMATA on transit information outreach.

Christie Holland of GO Alex informed the Committee on the Plus 50 program being introduced to Alexandria and a parking cash-out pilot beginning in February.

Judy Galen of Loudoun County updated the Committee on in-person meetings resuming as well as WMATA Silver Line information.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – OTHER BUSINESS

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, informed the committee on possible sales training in March. He also mentioned that the Request for Information on the CRM application was no longer moving forward. An update to the ACT database is pending which may include some of the features that were detailed in the Request for Information issued by COG. It is expected that the upgrade will occur by summer of this calendar year.

The next Employer Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.