

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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M E M O R A N D U M

To: National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

From: Nicholas Ramfos, Director,
Commuter Connections

Date: 10/17/2012

Re: **2012 Car Free Day**

The year's Car Free Day event was held on Saturday, September 22nd. The event is part of a larger world-wide movement every September 22nd to give citizens an opportunity to forego their vehicles for a day. In the Washington DC metropolitan region citizens are asked to pledge to either go Car Free or "Car-Lite" for the day, "Car-Lite" meaning either use of a vehicle in an eco-driving manner or by carpooling.

There were nearly 7,000 individuals that pledged to go car free or car-lite in the region this year. This was considerably lower than last year when September 22nd fell on a weekday. However, it is still a commendable number of pledges given the day of the week the event fell on and the fact that there were some street closures associated with the event in the District of Columbia, Arlington and Montgomery counties, and in Southern Maryland. Overall, there were nearly 78,000 vehicle miles of travel reduced by individuals who would have normally driven alone on the 22nd

Next year Car Free Day falls on a Sunday and the organizing committee is looking to expand the event over a three day period (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) in order to appeal to commuters in the region as well as weekend travelers.