

## **EMPLOYER OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Meeting Notes from the April 19, 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 (01/18/22) NOTES**

The Committee reviewed and approved the meeting notes as presented.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 3 – FINAL SECOND QUARTER OF FY 2022 AND DRAFT THIRD QUARTER 2022 CONFORMITY VERIFICATION STATEMENTS**

COG/TPB staff presented the final second quarter and draft third quarter 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 – EMPLOYER OUTREACH CASE STUDIES FOR FY2022**

Mark Hersey, COG/TPB staff, presented three Employer Outreach case studies to the Committee. Employers profiled this year include IDA in Alexandria, VA, Henry M. Jackson Foundation in Bethesda, MD, and Covington & Burling in Washington, DC. Each case study will be posted to the Commuter Connections website in the coming weeks.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – ACT DATABASE UPDATE AND RECORD PURGE**

Mark Hersey, COG/TPB staff, informed the Committee of an upcoming upgrade to the ACT! Regional Employer Database. Along with the upgrade, Mr. Hersey notified the Committee of a new purge process for the database that will be implemented in July 2022. The database currently houses large amounts of seemingly obsolete data, hence the need for a purge process to clean and maintain high-integrity data within the database. COG/TPB staff is in the process of generating lists of employers who will be archived as part of the purge process due to their records being inactive. These lists will be sent to each jurisdiction within the next several days so representatives can update records as needed to avoid purging active records. The purge process is expected to occur on an annual basis. A memorandum was distributed to the members outlining the annual purge process.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – DC PARKING CASH-OUT LAW**

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD, 777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.E., SUITE 300,  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-4239

**THE COMMUTER INFORMATION SOURCE FOR MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Marina Budimir, DDOT, presented the District of Columbia's Transit Benefits Equity Amendment. One of the goals of the Amendment is to reduce the percentage of drive-alone DC commutes to 25% of all commuter trips by 2032. The exact wording of the amendment is as follows:

*...require[s] covered employers that offer parking benefits to any employees to offer those employees a Clean-Air Transportation Fringe Benefit, pay a Clean Air Compliance fee, or successfully implement a transportation demand management plan, and to require covered employers and the Mayor to submit reports.*

Part of the Amendment is a requirement by DDOT that employers report every two years on their worksite's progress in implementing commuter benefits that support alternative transportation.

The parking cash-out strategy requires a covered employer to offer the equivalent value of a parking benefit (e.g., free or subsidized parking) to employees for public transportation and/or Vanpooling. Another option for the employer is to pay a compliance fee of \$100 per employee per month to the District in lieu of the parking cash-out benefit. A third option is to create a TDM Plan that clearly outlines strategies and amenities to achieve the trip reduction goal of 10% year-to-year reduction in drive-alone commute trips to the worksite until 25% or less of employees' commute trips are made by single-occupant vehicle. The law affects employers of a workforce size of 20 or more employees. The deadline for enrollment is January 15, 2023.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 – MDOT EMPLOYER TAX INCENTIVE SB210**

Gladys Hurwitz, MDOT, presented information on the state of Maryland's employer tax incentive. Part of the Commuter Choice effort by the state of Maryland, the tax incentive will go into effect on July 1, 2022. With the pandemic getting smaller in effect and many employers having employees return to the office the incentive is geared towards encouraging companies to expand qualified alternative transportation benefits. Maryland employers may claim a tax credit for 50% eligible commuter benefits up to maximum of \$100 per month for participating employees.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8 – TRAINING REVIEW AND UPDATES**

Mark Hersey, COG/TPB staff, updated the Committee on the upcoming June 2022 training session as well as the training topics survey for FY 2023. Topics were solicited from the committee members to be included in the survey.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9 – EMPLOYER OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE**

William Feeney of goDCgo outlined how compliance is progressing with the Transportation Equity Act. There is also a new effort, Pedal Push, in partnership with Capital Bikeshare.

George Clark of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland informed the Committee on preparations for Bike to Work day.

Kendall Tiffany of Frederick County mentioned three upcoming Earth Day employer events as well as Bike to Work Day preparations.

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

Stacey King of Prince George's County DPW&T mentioned Bike to Work Day preparations and a revamp of the employer tool kit package.

Christie Holland of GO Alex informed the Committee on the progress of the Plus 50 program and a parking cash-out pilot that began in February.

Judy Galen of Loudoun County updated the Committee on the upcoming May 2 through May 6 Air Quality Awareness Days as well as Bike to Work Day preparations.

Mark Sofman of Montgomery County Commuter Services Section outlined preparations for the six Bike to Work Day pit stops in the County and the upcoming MCDOT Green Fest on April 23, 2022.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10 – OTHER BUSINESS**

**The next Employer Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.**