



MEETING NOTES COMMUTER CONNECTIONS RIDEMATCHING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 19, 2012
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
COG Board Room
Chairperson: Lillian Bunton, BMC
Vice Chairperson: GERALYN TAYLOR, City of Alexandria LocalMotion

COG Staff Contact: Stephen Finafrock, 202/962-3385 or sfinafrock@mwkog.org
(Note: If you cannot attend this meeting, please call 202/962-3327.)

1. Introductions

Lillian Bunton, BMC, called the meeting to order by introducing herself. Attendees were then asked to introduce themselves and sign the attendance sheet.

2. Minutes of the June 19, 2012 Meeting

Approval was sought for the June 19, 21011 Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved as written.

3. Upcoming Fairs and Promotions

The following Rideshare Coordinators shared details of recent or upcoming Transportation fairs or promotions that they have attended:

Lillian Bunton (BMC): Promoting Clean Commute Month, Bike to Work Day, and Harford Co. Green Fair.

Holly Morello (PRTC): Late June – Web Hunt award winner on-site presentation, June 20 – DATA Transportation Roundtable, July 13 – DHHQ Transportation Fair.

Darlene Nader (North Bethesda TMD): April 17 – HHS Program Support Center in Rockville, MD, April 18 – Aberdeen Proving Ground, April 19 – USNRC, April 26 – Transwestern Properties (4 buildings in Rock Spring Park), Receiving & approving annual reports for all companies in NB required to file Traffic Mitigation Plans in Montgomery County DOT. 65 received to date, Carpool/Vanpool meetings held with FDA, and planning underway for Bike to Work Day @ White Flint Mall, May 2012.

George Clark (Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland): April 28 – Calvert Co. Green Expo, April 28 – Charles Co. Green Expo, Bike to Farm (date TBA) and Pax River Commuter Fair in St. Mary's Co (date TBA).

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

Ryan Emery (NSA Bethesda): March 14 – Hosted Bethesda Commuter Fair at Naval Support Activity Bethesda, hosting vanpool information sessions, and hosting Bike to Work Day pit stop.

Dotty Dalphon (TransIT of Frederick County, MD): April – Ft. Detrick Earth Day, Transition Fair at FCC, Workforce Service Job Fair, Life Technologies Earth Day, Earth Day Free Ride on Connectors & Shuttles, Wells Fargo Earth Day, MUMC Caregiver Conference, May – BWTD, Employer Outreach at FCPL, Employer Outreach at Frederick County SHRM, June – Convoy of Hope and Dump the Pump.

4. Commute Logging/Calculator/Reports

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, displayed the commute logging/Calculator/Reports. He had access to this new functionality using his private TDM account. Right now there are only two legs for the commuting information, but more will be possibly added in the future. Once a commuter sets up their profile, and it is saved it will take it to the daily commute logs calendar. For right now there is only a 2 week window for a commuter to log their commute. On the right side of the calendar there is the trip summary, and the savings summary to better reflect the picture of the commuter. In the near term it will be possible to add reports. Currently this is only working for the Rideshare Delaware Program. DART, but COG/TPB staff is moving to make it accessible for all network members.

Lillian Bunton (BMC) asked if is possible to make calculations without being registered. Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, replied that there is a savings calculator tool on the Commuter Connections homepage, but does not provide an estimate for emissions reductions but could possibly be altered in the future to do so.

5. Special Events Ridematching

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, accessed the special events tab through his personal account. The main special events currently listed are the Nationals and the Orioles baseball games. Mr. Finafrock showed the special events by clicking on the view button to display the map. He explained that there currently is a lack of events being listed, and only one group called “Friday Night Contra Dance” is actively using the service to list their events.

Lillian Bunton (BMC) asked if was possible to add events for other jurisdictions like events in Baltimore City. Steve replied that only admin accounts can create events, and then he will approve them, so that was perfectly fine. Some Ridesharing representatives suggested having labels or event advertising appear when the Commuter logs in to help to attract more attention to the program.

6. TDM System Suggested Improvements Update

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, provided an update of the new improvements citing the inclusion of new reports. The VMT reports from data obtained in the commuter log calendar will be ready soon. A new customization matchletter is also under development. The code for the TDM software system is being

upgraded to JBOSS 6. This upgrade will provide added security, and security improvements.

Ross Edgar, COG/TPB staff, updated the Committee on geocoding services. Currently the TDM System uses Google geocoding. He mentioned that even though that works well there are some lingering issues. He pointed out the benefits of NAVTEQ over Google. This system will be more sophisticated, and it will communicate better in requesting ridematches.

George Clark (Tri-County for Southern Maryland) mentioned the current system does not account for land features such as water when he enlarged the radius.

7. GIS Information Update

Ross Edgar, COG/TPB staff, said that data from WMATA with new bus stops are ready to be loaded to Oracle as well as data obtained from Loudoun, VDOT, Prince William, Fairfax and other jurisdictions.

George Clark (Tri County Council for Southern Maryland) announced the opening of a new Park & Ride, which is still under construction, so it won't be ready for the new reprinted park and ride lot map.

Mr. Edgar also gave the Committee a technical demonstration on how to use the on-line Park & Ride finder. He also shared tips to get data from any particular Park and Ride lot location.

8. Client Site Status/Roundtable

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, announced that it's time to publish the new Regional TDM Resource Directory with the most updated information. Hard copies will be sent to those interested only upon request.

Jack Carlile (FDA) requested that in the ridematching search the smoking preference be suppressed in the TDM software system. He noticed that he has to use the category "any" instead of non smoking preference to bring more matching results. Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, added that removing the smoking preference at this time it will take time and will cost money. He said that only a small group of registered commuters claim to be smokers. Some members in the committee agreed that it's still a personal choice, and should be taken into consideration when somebody is looking for carpools/vanpools to be match with. The final decision about removing the smoking preference will be discussed during the next meeting.

9. Other Business/Upcoming Agenda Items

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, mentioned the possibility of adding commuting related videos on Commuter Connections web site using YouTube.

The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee will be held on September 18th, 2012 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.