

## **COMMUTER CONNECTIONS RIDEMATCHING COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JUNE 18, 2024**

### **1. INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was brought to order by Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Maritza De La Vega. Dan Sheehan, Transportation Operations Program Director, COG/TPB staff, asked attendees participating virtually to introduce themselves and those attending in person introduced themselves afterwards.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2024 MEETING**

Approval was sought for the March 19, 2024 Ridematching Committee Meeting minutes. An initial motion to approve was made by George Clark, Tri County Council of Southern Maryland, and a second motion was made by Ryan Kivinski, Harford County. All were in favor and the minutes were approved as written.

### **3. VANPOOL FORMATION BEST PRACTICES**

Dayna Paszkiet, Commute with Enterprise, briefed the Committee on vanpooling, entitled “A Smart Approach to Commuting” and how the vanpool program operates through Enterprise. This included the composition of a vanpool, frequently asked questions like how to form a vanpool, costs, benefits of being a vanpool provider for employer who are looking to have their employees back in the office. They work with federal government agencies and private companies as well. She highlighted the benefits of less traffic, vehicles on the road, costs of vans, an employer vanpool subsidy. She provided the history of Enterprise and what they were able to accomplish in the DMV area these past 13 years.

### **4. FY24 SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW**

Michael Hemry, Media Beef, began a presentation discussion on the core program of Commuter Connections which included RideshareBot version 2.0, Employer Admin Experience and its current battle with preventing duplicate employers. There was also the 2023 Placement survey, and the GRH Registration page was updated. He explained the Commuter Connections Mobile updates, its location within the app, and how to assist commuters. He explained the GRH Request option/button and its requirements in order to obtain a GRH Trip. They are in development for the TDM for Baltimore Key Bridge Collapse, in Phase 1, (launch date June 28, 2024), Phase 2, enhanced customizations, Ongoing Maintenance so TDM is operating as expected. CommuterCash was re-introduced with the Multi-modal Trip Planner, which is currently working in the app. The “Ride for the Region Challenge” was recently added. Media Beef has begun moving the incenTrip source code over to COG in partnership with the University of Maryland and Villanova University. The last area of interest is the Enhanced Mobility Innovation Grant/Vanhoppr with all vans that are currently in the system. All features are operational within the current TDM System. Screenshots were provided with step-by-step instructions on submitting a van ride request. The Vanhoppr option can be done temporarily and/or deleted if necessary. Direction for Vanhoppr’s functionality was gathered from a task force. Sessions to receive training on VanHoppr are upcoming.

## **5. PRIORITY SOFTWARE INVESTMENTS**

Dan Sheehan, COG/TPB staff, presented the opportunity to share any software issues to be addressed with improving our systems as rideshare coordinators. This would include any bug fixes, improvements, etc. to aid in a more seamless user experience of the TDM system. The suggestions will be evaluated and hopefully be addressed within the next fiscal year. Here are a few items identified in the last meeting/roundtable

- Disallow incomplete applications within the TDM System
- Eliminate duplicate trip logs when processing incenTrip payments
- More flexibility with creating reports
- Reduce account duplicates between mobile apps and desktop platform
- Improve employe management features
- Include app code “cheat sheet” in admin panel with the system for easier viewing
- Weight incenTrip reward amounts to encourage participants to select transportation incentives.

## **6. REGIONAL TDM RESOURCE DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Jetaune Randall-Slaughter, COG/TPB staff, updated the Ridematching Committee to inform them of the new, streamlined version of submitting any changes to the TDM Resource Directory. They will be sent a link to update any changes due back by July 19. The link will also be available after the deadline. Printed copies of the directory will be available upon request. The changes go directly into the database.

## **7. FY2024 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER CCWP PROGRESS REPORT**

Dan Sheehan, COG/TPB staff, presented the data for the Operations Center, incenTrip Ride for the Region, the Regional Bicycle Map, geocoding service, and for the GRH program. He directed the Committee to the tables for further information.

## **8. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

- MDOT: TDM Responses and working on state agency incentives to include encouraging telework and other options to keep commuters off the road.
- COG/TPB: TDM Service Bulletins that were meant to address changes and enhancements are now being distributed on an “as-needed” basis.
- NBTMD: Currently organizing virtual fairs and events.
- OmniRide: PRTC Board voted to promote free fares effective July 1-June 30, 2025. There was a successful fair at the Pentagon. The next event is July 17 at DHHQ. The next ACT Chesapeake Chapter Call event is 2:30pm, Monday, June 24, 2024.
- City of Alexandria: Conducting outreach to hospitality and retail employers promoting GRH.
- Loudoun County: Fares will go fare free starting January 1 for the local service, but will increase and discontinuing some bus routes.
- RideSmart: The RideSmart Commuter Bus will launch under the Trip Grant.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

No discussion.

## **10. ADJOURN**

There was a 1<sup>st</sup> motion made by George Clark, to adjourn with a second motion made by Peggy Schwartz with no objections.

The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee will be held on September 17, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.