



**Commuter Connections Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

**Chairperson: Anna McLaughlin, District of Columbia Department of
Transportation**

**Vice Chairperson: Willie Epps, Prince George's County Department of Public
Works & Transportation**

Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos (202) 962-3313

Item #1 Introductions

The Subcommittee members were asked to introduce themselves and to sign the attendance sheet

Chair, Anna McLaughlin called the meeting to order by introducing herself and asking the rest of the attendees to do so (*See attached attendance sheet*).

Item #2 Minutes of May 19, 2009

Approval was sought for the May 19, 2009 Commuter Connections Meeting Minutes.

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the meeting as written.

Item #3 Vice Chair Nominating Committee

Anna McLaughlin, Chairperson, appointed the Commuter Connections Vice Chair Nominating Committee.

Ms. McLaughlin nominated Christopher Hamilton, Arlington County Commuter Services; Willie Epps, Jr, Prince George's County, and herself as members of the Commuter Connections Vice Chair Nominating Committee. The Subcommittee approved the nominations. Mr. Ramfos stated that the group would be meeting in August to nominate the next Vice Chair for the Subcommittee who will be from Virginia. The Subcommittee will be asked to approve the nomination at the September 15th meeting.

Item #4 FY 2009 Employer Outreach Customer Satisfaction Survey

Nicholas Ramfos, COG TPB Staff briefed the Subcommittee on the changes made to the draft FY 2009 Employer Customer Satisfaction Survey Report.

Mr. Ramfos stated that there were minor corrections made to the draft FY 2009 Employer Customer Satisfaction survey report. The draft report was presented to the Subcommittee at the May meeting and a comment period was established through June 5, 2009. The Subcommittee approved the report with the changes. Mr. Ramfos stated that the final report will be posted to the Commuter Connections web site.

Item #5 Update on Findings from the 2007/2008 Household Travel Survey
Robert E. Griffiths & Clara Reschovsky, COG TPB staff briefed the Subcommittee on the results from the FY 2009 Employer Outreach Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Ms. Clara Reschovsky and Mr. Robert Griffiths, COG/TPB staff briefed the Subcommittee on the findings from the 2007/2008 Household Travel Survey and the Major Findings for Regional Activity Center Clusters. The survey interviewing was conducted in 14 months, between February 2007 and March 2008. The data collected was, 11, 578 for Household Records, 25,515 for Person Records, 16, 678 for Vehicle Records and 132, 383 for Trip Records. Metrorail Extensions between the years of 1997 and 2004 have added 15 miles and 15 stations. The Blue/Yellow Line to Springfield/Franconia, Red Line to Glenmont, Green/Yellow Line to Georgia Ave & Columbia Heights Stations, Green Line to Branch Ave, Red Line to New York Avenue and the Blue Line to Largo Station were added. Between those years there has been a 43% growth in bus miles of service and the walk commute has increased in most jurisdictions or remained the same, with the average of a 2% decrease, while bike commuting has increased tremendously. The Smart Benefits/Metrocheck was started in 2000. There were 50,000 Metrocheck Users in 2000 and 190,000 Smart Benefits Users in 2008.

Item #6 Car Free Day Event Update
Mr. Douglas Franklin COG/TPB Staff briefed the Subcommittee on the Regional Car Free Day Event that will be held on September 22, 2009.

Mr. Franklin discussed the upcoming Car Free Day event to be held on Tuesday September 22nd. Everyone can participate work related or non work related. Subcommittee members are encouraged to get more involved with this event. The website for last year was CarFreeMetroDC.com and will remain the same for this year. Last year the page on the website listed all of the activities that were going on. The new logo for 2009 was discussed, the logo will remain the same as last year with the exception of the year change. Radio ads will be put out late August through September 22nd. The event participation goal set for this year is 10,000 pledges.

Item #7 Carpool Incentive Project Update
Mr. Jonathan Rogers COG/TPB Staff briefed the Subcommittee on the Carpool Incentive demonstration project.

Mr. Rogers gave an update on the Carpool Incentive Program. A year ago a carpool study was started in the DC region to encourage people who may not be carpooling to try it. The study was presented to the Subcommittee and an idea of starting a pilot program was conceived. The Draft Program requirements purpose of the pool rewards program is to encourage drive alone commuters to change their commuter behavior by trying carpooling. By carpooling commuters will improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion. There will be three test corridors that we will be part of the demonstration project: two corridors on 495 , one from Bethesda to Tysons in the morning and reverse in the afternoon, and the other from the Baltimore Washington Parkway to I-270 and reverse in the afternoon; and then I-395 from Washington DC to VA and reverse in the afternoon. Commuters will be eligible to earn \$2 a day by sharing rides to work. This program will be administered online, with a start date sometime in October. Mr. Rogers gave a

demonstration on how the application works, with the online tracking system on how the incentives are calculated, with the Ride-Share and GRH Programs. The draft Terms of Use guidelines were distributed and discussed. A comment period was established for July 31st.

Item #8 2009 Employer Recognition Awards

Mr. Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB Staff, briefed subcommittee on the Employer Recognition Awards event held on June 25th.

Mr. Franklin briefed the Subcommittee on the 2009 Comuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards. A video of the Award winners was displayed. Representatives from DC, VA & MD met in July to discuss the next Awards Ceremony for 2010 and some changes have been made to the program. Mr. Franklin also spoke on gratitude for the speakers for the awards ceremony, the MC was Dave Synder, and the other speakers included Marcy Karin, Stewart Schwartz and Mr. John Townsend.

Item #9 Commuter Connections Strategic Plan

Mr. Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB Staff briefed the Subcommittee on the changes and updates to the Commuter Connections Strategic Plan.

Mr. Ramfos discussed changes made to the document and the comments that were received by June 30th. The National Naval Medical Center and the Bethesda National Medical Center were added as network members. A number of comments were received from Northern Virginia. Christopher Arabia from VA/DRPT is reviewing the comments and will see if they should be incorporated in this document or the Work Program. This will be discussed at the upcoming September meeting.

Item #10 4th Quarter Budget Report Day Event Update

Towanna Hinton, COG/TPB Staff, distributed and discussed the Commuter Connections 4th quarter budget report.

A copy of the 4th quarter Commuter Connections budget report was distributed to the Subcommittee. Ms. Hinton reviewed the report and went over the Commitments and Expenditures for FY 09 (April 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009) and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Item #11 Other Business/Set Agenda for Next Meeting

Subcommittee members are encouraged to contact Nicholas Ramfos with any particular agenda items they may be interested in seeing on the next agenda.

The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 12 noon.