

# **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

# FY22 First Half Marketing Campaign Summary Draft Report

**Regional TDM Marketing Group** 

December 21, 2021

# FY22 First Half Marketing Campaign Summary

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#### **Executive Summary**

#### Overview

This document summarizes Commuter Connections' FY22 marketing activity occurring between July and December 2021. Commuter Connections resumed a full scale Regional TDM Recovery Marketing Campaign in summer 2021. Special events promotion and planning during the first half of FY22 included Car Free Day in September 2021, the Bike to Work Day 2022 sponsorship drive which began in October 2021 and the Employer Recognition Awards 2022 call for nominations which kicked off in December 2021.

#### COVID

After 21 months since the start of a nationwide COVID-19 outbreak, the pandemic continues to have a significant impact on the country and the region, as a vast number of "non-essential" employees are still working on a remote basis. Although great strides have been made to combat COVID, there have been more U.S. deaths attributed to the pandemic in 2021 than in 2020. About 20 percent of U.S. adults remain unvaccinated, and to what extent natural immunity provides protection is not clear.

Different strains of the COVID virus which have found their way to the U.S. have also hampered progress. Another problem which has immerged for fully vaccinated people, is that of waning protection from the virus, as some vaccinated people are contracting COVID after a period of time, This points to the vaccine being more akin to getting a flu shot than a true vaccine, meaning it does not provide permanent protection. Based on this discovery, the CDC is encouraging booster shots to maintain an extended guard against contracting COVID.

As of present, masks are still required on public transit. Masks are also still required in health facilities, and some workplaces, based on management discretion. Employers have been trying to get ahead of what was expected to be an impending federal mandate via executive order which requires vaccinations for companies with 100 or more employees. The mandate was challenged in the federal court system and subsequently struck down as unconstitutional before it was to schedule to take effect in January 2022. Regardless, federal employees including the military, and federal contractors are required to be vaccinated.

#### Regional TDM Recovery Campaign

A Regional TDM Recovery Campaign began in July 2021, with the thrust occurring during the month of August 2021. A portion of the campaign also ran into the first week of September 2021. The campaign's "Look Again" message aimed to help transition commuters back to using transit and ridesharing in a safe and healthy manner. The campaign reached both traditional audiences and those in Equity Emphasis Areas. The total cost of the Regional Recovery Campaign media buy was approximately \$397,900.

#### Car Free Day

A marketing campaign promoted the Car Free Day event held on September 22, 2021. Pledges reached nearly 3,000 which was a decrease from the 2020 event, due to the continued impact of the pandemic on the region. Compared to 2020 when most were teleworking, this year more workers are back at the office and may have been hesitant to use alternative modes of transportation, particularly buses. The total cost of the Car Free Day media buy budget was approximately \$45,000.

#### **Employer Recognition Awards**

To kick off the call for nominations, a nomination brochure and form were created mailed to employers in early December 2021.

#### Introduction

The following reports were assessed as part of the planning process to help shape creative approaches and media selection during the first half of FY22. These survey reports indicate respondents' attitudes, preferences, behaviors, and patterns about commuting and Commuter Connections programs, services, and events. Many of the surveys collection also gathered demographic data to help understand the age, income, gender, and racial/ethnic backgrounds of the region's citizens and Commuter Connections members.

- 2021 Commuter Connections Applicant Database Annual Placement Survey Report
- 2020 Commuter Connections TDM Analysis Report (FY18-FY20)
- 2019 Commuter Connections State of the Commute Survey Report
- 2019 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Washington, DC Region
- 2019 Commuter Connections Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey Report for the Baltimore Region
- 2019 Commuter Connections Bike to Work Survey Analysis Report

The first half of FY22 included the following activities:

- Regional Recovery Campaign implementation
- Car Free Day 2021 promotion and event
- Employer Recognition Awards 2022 nomination brochure development
- Regional TDM Marketing Group meetings (September and December 2021)
- Bike to Work Day 2022 sponsorship drive and development of creative concepts
- Summer and fall employer newsletters

#### **About Commuter Connections**

Commuter Connections is a network of transportation organizations coordinated at a regional level through the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Commuter Connections offers free commuter services to workers in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Major services include ridematching for carpools and vanpools, and administration of the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program in the Washington, DC and Baltimore regions. Other key elements include TDM evaluation, incentive programs, and special events. Through its Employer Outreach Representatives, Commuter Connections also assists employers with establishing and enhancing commuter programs, including telework and offering free collateral materials.

Organizations represented in the Commuter Connections Regional TDM Marketing Group include:

- Arlington County Commuter Services
- Bethesda Transportation Solutions
- City of Alexandria GO Alex
- City of Fairfax
- District Department of Transportation
- Dulles Area Transportation Association
- Enterprise Rideshare
- Fairfax Connector
- Fairfax County Commuter Services
- GW Ride Connect
- Loudoun County Commuter Services
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- Maryland State Highway Administration
- Maryland Transit Administration
- Montgomery County Commuter Services
- Montgomery County Ride On
- National Institutes of Health
- North Bethesda Transportation Center
- Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

- OmniRide (PRTC)
- Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation
- Rappahannock Area Development Commission
- Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission
- TransIT Services of Frederick County
- Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
- Tysons Partnership Transportation Council
- U.S. General Services Administration
- Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Railway Express
- Washington Area Bicyclist Association
- Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

#### **Brand Character**

Commuter Connections delivers a brand promise as the preeminent and trusted regional network of transportation organizations in the Washington, DC region, providing free commuting services and solutions for more than 45 years. Through Commuter Connections' online Ridematching system, commuters are given free direct access to others who are looking to carpool and vanpool, along with access to routes and other alternative mode options such as transit, bicycling, and teleworking. Sharing a ride to work positively affects air quality and mobility for the region.





#### **Regional Recovery Campaign**

The thrust of the FY22 Regional Recovery Campaign was deployed during the month of August 2021, although a small portion was released in late June 2021 and some components also ran through the first week of September 2021. The campaign's message of "Look Again" aimed to provide reassurance and help transition commuters back to using non-SOV methods of travel in a safe and healthy manner. The objective was to prevent traffic congestion from exceeding pre-pandemic levels, due to avoidance of public transit and ridesharing.

The campaign reached Commuter Connections' general target audience and also those in Equity Emphasis Areas. Equity Emphasis Areas are small geographic areas that have concentrations of low-income or minority populations, or both, compared to the regional average. A noteworthy percentage of Equity Emphasis Area households are transit dependent.

The total cost of the Regional Recovery Campaign media buy was approximately \$397,900.

Recovery Campaign Equity Emphasis Area			
Budget	Gross Cost	COG Cost	Impressions
Pandora	\$29,768.46	\$25,303.19	893,041
Spotify	\$79,278.00	\$67,385.00	4,595,197
WTOP	\$41,455.00	\$35,236.75	2,784,100
El Zol	\$17,285.00	\$14,692.25	636,300
WPGC	\$24,860.00	\$21,131.00	819,800
WHUR	\$24,025.00	\$20,421.25	1,934,200
MARC	\$15,112.00	\$12,845.00	197,316
VRE	\$15,411,76	\$13,100.00	157,853
NBC (Streaming)	\$59,635.00	\$50,689.76	616,352
YouTube	\$736.00	\$736.00	59,548
Instagram	\$410.00	\$410.00	61,316
PoPville	\$705.00	\$600.00	3,231
Totals	\$308,681.22	\$262,550.20	12,758,254

Recovery Campaign General Audience Budget	Gross Cost	COG Cost	Actual Impressions
Pandora	\$60,000.00	\$51,000.00	3,745,406
Spotify	\$32,942.00	\$27,999.99	1,469,070
NBC4 (Broadcast)	\$37,410.00	\$31,798.50	2,419,000
Audacy Newsletter	\$2,941.00	\$2,499.85	67,000
WTOP	\$24,396.00	\$20,736.60	1,744,700
YouTube	\$736.00	\$736.00	69,217
Instagram	\$590.00	\$590.00	94,857
Totals	\$159,015.00	\$135,360.94	9,609,250

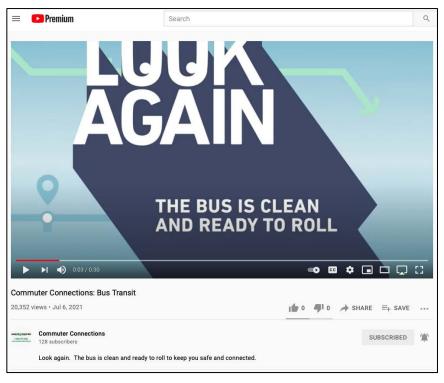
### Added Value Summary

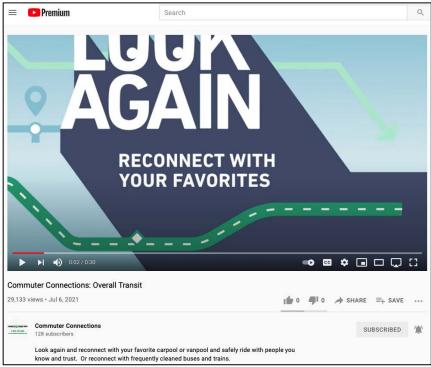
Below is a summary of the added value placements that were negotiated with various media partners.

Media Partner	Added Value	Estimated Value
NBC4	30 spots (:30 length)	\$18,525
Pandora	Banners 300x250	\$36,000
Spotify	Banners 640x640	\$28,000
WTOP	47 spots (:30 length)	\$15,935
WLZL	60 spots (:30 length)	\$4,860
WHUR	30 spots (:30 length)	\$5,625
WPGC	60 spots (:30 length)	\$6,000
Audacy	Social media campaign	\$15,000
Totals		\$129,945

#### YouTube Videos

Two :30-second animated videos were created for the Regional Recovery campaign and ran as paid advertising on YouTube. One of the videos was bus-focused and the other was a catchall video touching on carpooling, bus and train.





#### Social Media

A series of "Look Again" social media posts were created for the Regional Recovery Campaign and placed onto Facebook, some of which were animated while others were static images.

















#### Transit Ads - Commuter Rail

Paid ads were place on MARC trains and VRE trains and stations to support the Regional Recovery campaign, with a sub headline of "Glad to Have You Safety Back on Board!". The "Look Again" signage promoted Guaranteed Ride Home and included a QR code.





#### Transit Ads - Bus

Complimentary ad space was donated by four transit agencies from throughout the region. The "Look Again" bus exteriors and shelter ads boasted "The Bus is Clean and Ready to Roll". In total, 121 ads appeared in on Montgomery County Ride On, Prince George's County's The Bus, the Fairfax County Connector, and Prince William County OmniRide.









#### **Military Guides**

Each year, Commuter Connections places ads in about a dozen military base guides throughout the region. Artwork was refreshed to coincide with the "Look Again" message as part of the Regional Recovery Campaign. The display ads are credit card-sized format.



#### Radio

Traditional and internet radio served as the main media components for the Regional Recovery Campaign. Thirty second spots aired for six weeks throughout August and into the first week of September on a mix of station formats including: Pandora and Spotify (internet radio), WHUR (urban adult contemporary radio), WLZL (Hispanic), WPGC (heritage rap, hip-hop & R&B), and WTOP (news/talk).

#### **Scripts**

#### :30 Second Transit Radio Script

Look again—the bus is clean and ready to roll. Your local transit service is working hard to be here for you, to keep you safe and help you stay connected. You've been at work for others—and your favorite transit is here for you. Take another look, reconnect and ride with us, safely, whether it's your local bus, Metrorail, commuter bus or train. Learn more at Commuter Connections Dot Org or call 1.800.745.RIDE. That's Commuter Connections Dot Org.

#### :30 Second Carpool/Vanpool Radio Script

Reconnect with a carpool or vanpool and ride with people you know and trust—safely. By forming a commute circle with your rideshare group, and following current safety guidelines, you can enjoy your favorite way to get to work in a safe manner. For more ways to ride safely to and from work, visit Commuter Connections Dot Org or call 1.800.745.RIDE. That's Commuter Connections Dot Org or 1.800.745.RIDE.













#### **Digital Banner Ads**

Digital banner ads were created to accompany Spotify and Pandora audio, and for valued ad media.









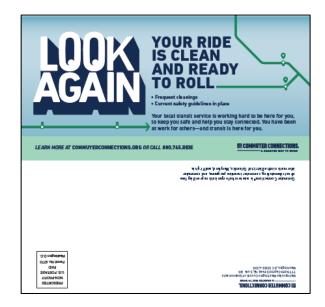


#### **Direct Mailer**

A self-mailer was sent to approximately 500,000 households within the region to promote ridematching services and the GRH program. Printing and postage cost for the mailing totaled \$105,084.38. The mailing was sent to a 60/40 split of Equity Emphasis Area households and general audience households.



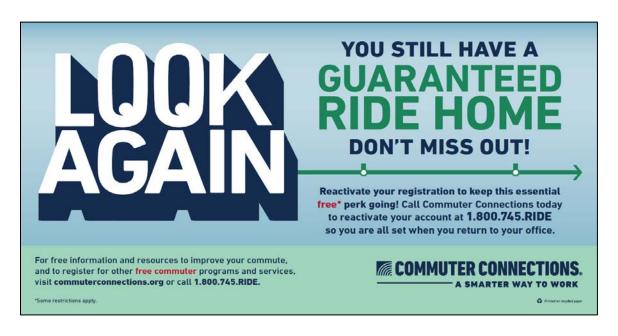


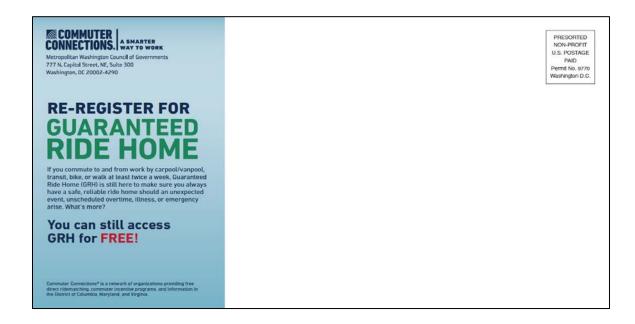




#### **GRH Renewal Postcard**

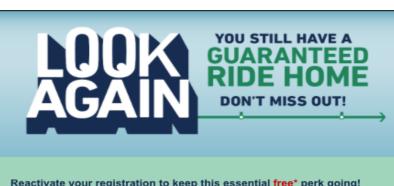
Postcards were sent to about 400 previous GRH customers who did not re-register for GRH during the pandemic. The 6" x 11" postcards were sent leading up to Labor Day and urged former GRH members not to miss out on taking advantage of GRH, so that the essential perk was ready to go for the return to the workplace. The printing and postage costs for the summer 2021 mailing totaled \$532.20.





#### **GRH Re-register HTML Email**

An HTML email was sent to approximately 12,500 past GRH members who failed to re-register.



Reactivate your registration to keep this essential free\* perk going! Call Commuter Connections today to reactivate your account at 1.800.745.RIDE so you are all set when you return to your office.

# RE-REGISTER FOR GUARANTEED RIDE HOME

If you commute to and from work by carpool/vanpool, transit, bike, or walk at least twice a week, Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) is still here to make sure you always have a safe, reliable ride home should an unexpected event, unscheduled overtime, illness, or emergency arise. What's more?

#### You can still access GRH for FREE!

For free information and resources to improve your commute, and to register for other free commuter programs and services, visit commuterconnections.org or call 1.800.745.RIDE.

\* Some restrictions apply.

Commuter Connections® is a network of organizations providing free direct ridematching, commuter incentive programs, and information in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.



#### **Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

777 N. Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20002-4290

Unsubscribe

#### PoPville Article

A sponsored article was placed on the popular DC blog, Popville in August , touting the safe return of ridesharing and transit.

#### **SPONSORED**

# Local Transit and Ridesharing is Back, Offering Commuters a Safe Ride to Work

PoP Sponsor August 23, 2021 at 12:15pm



After working from home for so long, preparing to go back into work will feel a bit strange. You've got to find real clothes to wear, remember how to act "normal" around coworkers and pack lunch — but you don't have to worry about your commute.

Local transit and ridesharing is back, and D.C. commuters can get from point A to point B safely thanks to <u>Commuter Connections</u>, the regional network of transportation organizations, a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

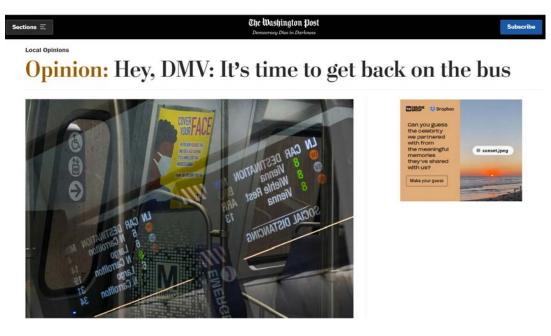
Whether you're taking the local bus, commuter rail, Metrorail or Metrobus, you can be sure each method of public transportation is following all current safety guidelines.

Plus, if you experience an unexpected emergency, those who commute at least two days a week by transit, ridesharing, bicycling, scootering or walking can use <a href="Guaranteed Ride Home">Guaranteed Ride Home</a> — for free, up to four rides per year.

Or, if you'd prefer to carpool/vanpool, share a ride to work with your coworkers, neighbors or household members and follow current safety guidelines. You can even form a commute circle with your rideshare group for added safety.

#### **Earned Media**

The Recovery Campaign's earned media efforts garnered significant attention, including the authoring and publication of Commuter Connections Director Nicholas Ramfos' call-to-action Op-Ed in the print and digital editions of the Washington Post.



By Nicholas Ramfos July 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. EDT

Nicholas Ramfos is director of Commuter Connections, a regional network of transportation organizations coordinated by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

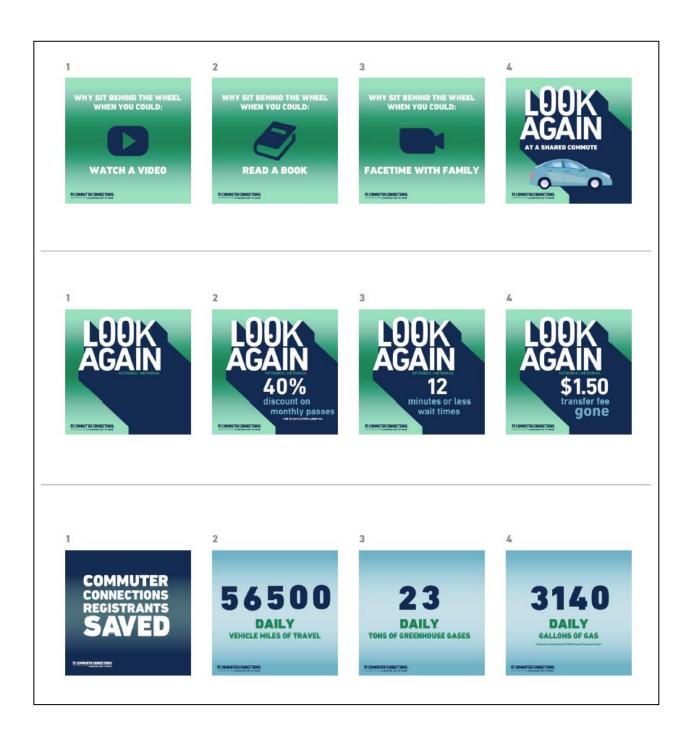
I remember the morning of April 19 as if it were yesterday. The somewhat sunny weather, the top half of people's faces — all crystal clear in my head...

#### For the complete article, visit:

www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/07/16/dmv-public-transit-work-commute/

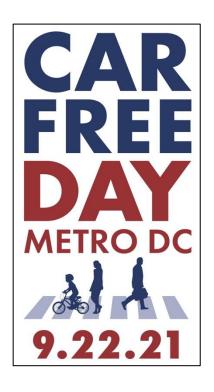
#### Infographics

A series of three animated infographics were place on Instagram to support, carpooling and transit ridership.



#### Car Free Day 2021

Car Free Day was celebrated on September 22, 2021. The event promoted alternative travel modes for both commute and non-commute trips, by encouraging commuters and the general public to take the pledge to use car free or car-lite transportation. The total number of 2021 Car Free Day pledges reached 2,993.



#### **Media Objectives**

Car Free Day challenged drivers to leave their cars home for the day and go car free or car-lite. The campaign promoted the use of alternative modes of transportation such as taking transit, carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, scootering and walking in a safe and healthy manner. In addition, participating by teleworking was also included. The objectives were to encourage people to take the Car Free Day pledge to reduce traffic congestion and auto emissions. The campaign also looked to engage employers, area universities and the general public.

The Car Free Day media buy consisted of radio, text messaging, posters, YouTube, key influencer blog, and digital banner ads. Other efforts to promote Car Free Day included social media, earned media, and complimentary transit ads.

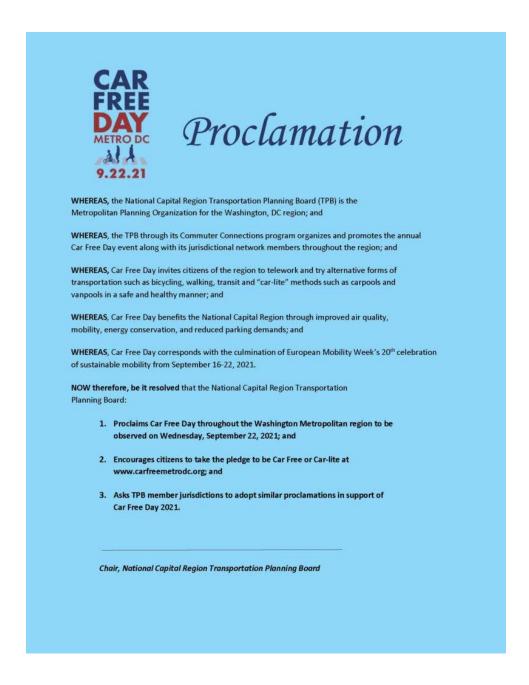
Car Free Day Media Spending	Gross Dollars	COG Net Cost	Actual Impressions
Spotify	\$10,588.50	\$9.000.00	613,667
YouTube	\$750.00	\$750.00	77,763
WTOP	\$26,095.00	\$22,937.25	534,463
WPGC	\$5,895.00	\$5,010.75	215,000
WHUR	\$5,950.00	\$5,057.50	595,500
El Tiempo Latino	\$1,412.00	\$1,200.00	46,170
PoPville	\$705.00	\$600.00	2,777
Text Messages	\$471.00	\$400.00	5,090
Totals	\$51,866.50	\$44,955.50	2,090,430

#### Value Add

A total of approximately \$20,000 in value add was negotiated for Car Free Day.

#### **Proclamation**

The Car Free Day 2021 Proclamation was signed by DC Councilmember and National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TBP) Chair, Charles Allen at a virtual TPB meeting held by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. The Proclamation recognized September 22, 2021 as Car Free Day throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan region.



#### **Car Free Day Poster**

The poster imagery from the previous year's event was modified with more emphasis given to transit and ridesharing modes due to the anticipated post-pandemic return to the workplace in fall 2021. The poster was distributed to employers and stakeholders throughout the region.



#### Radio

New radio spots were developed for Car Free Day 2021 and aired on three radio stations: WPGC (95.5), WHUR (96.3), and WTOP (103.5).





#### **Radio Scripts**

#### "Car Free Day 2021":30 seconds

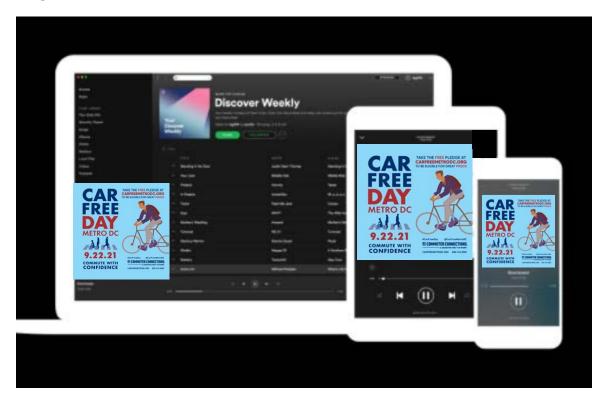
Commute with Confidence on Car Free Day! Use transit, rideshare, bike, walk, scooter, or telework on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Take the free pledge at Car Free Metro D-C Dot Org for special promotions and free raffle entry for great prizes, even if you're already car free or car-lite. And remember to use safe and healthy practices as part of your trip. Take the free pledge today! Visit Car Free Metro D-C Dot Org.

#### "Car Free Day 2021":10 seconds

Commute with Confidence on Car Free Day! Use transit, rideshare, bike, walk, scooter, or telework on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Take the free online pledge at Car Free Metro D-C.

### Spotify

A:30-second radio spot ran on internet radio station, Spotify, and was accompanied by a companion image.



#### **Banner Ads**

Digital banner ads were placed on www.ElTiempoLatino.com, the Spanish-language website of the weekly newspaper published in Washington, D.C.









Haz un compromiso gratispara poder ganar grandes premios, incluso si no tienes carro o lo usas poco.

#CarFreeDay @CarFreeMetroDC

#COMMUTER CONNECTIONS.

A SMARTER WAY TO WORK

CARFREEMETRODC.ORG 800.745.RIDE

#### YouTube Video

A :30 second animated video was developed and advertising was purchased on YouTube to promote the Car Free Day event over a four-week period, leading up to September 22, 2021. A link to the YouTube video was mad available on the Car Free Day website.



#### Car Free Day Social Media

Social Media was used to keep friends and followers up to date on activities and sponsors donated prizes for the Car Free Day raffle. Car Free Day is "liked" by 4,686 Facebook fans and has 740 followers on Twitter.

#### Facebook



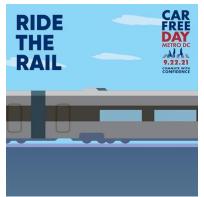
#### **Twitter**



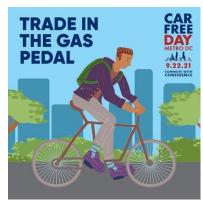
#### **Facebook Social Media Posts**

A series of images featuring each travel mode was developed for use on social media. A different image was posted along with promotional copy, every several days during the month of September, leading up to Car Free Day.













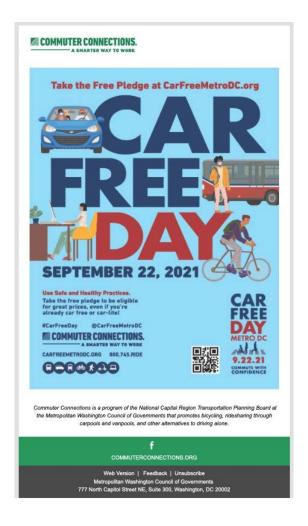






#### **Email Blast**

An email blast was sent to 44,000 participants from the past three year's Car Free Day and Bike to Work Day events.



#### **Native Article**

A paid sponsored article on PoPville, a popular local blog chronicling D.C. area neighborhood happenings, was utilized to help reach local audiences. PoPville sitewide traffic yielded 32,200 pageviews on the day of the article.

#### SPONSORED

# Pledge to Go Car Free on September 22 and Become Eligible to Win Prizes

PoP Sponsor September 16, 2021 at 12:15pm



Did you know Car Free Day is an international event? Yup — mark your calendars for September 22.

Car Free Day is exactly what it sounds like — a day people are encouraged to travel without driving alone in cars. Here in the DMV, <u>Commuter Connections</u>, the regional network of transportation organizations coordinated by the <u>Metropolitan</u> <u>Washington Council of Governments</u>, is hosting the annual event.

Here's how it works: When you take the free <u>pledge to go car-free</u> (or car-lite, which would include carpooling or vanpooling), on Wednesday, September 22, you'll get a \$30 promo code to Nift (Neighborhood Gift) to spend at local businesses, and you'll be entered for a chance to win a bunch of prizes, including a Samsung tablet, gift cards, transit passes and more.

#### **Text Messages**

When participants took the Car Free Day pledge at carfreemetrodc.org, they could opt-in to receive text messages about the event. Three messages were sent throughout the campaign. The first was to 2020 registrants thanking them for participating last year and prompting them to take the pledge again in 2021. The second message was sent to 2021 registrants encouraging them to ask coworkers, family, and friends to take the pledge. The final last-change message, sent two days before the event, encouraged those who took the pledge in 2020, but still haven't yet done so this year, to take the pledge. Over 5,000 messages were sent during this campaign, and no person received more than two text messages.

#### September 1, 2021 - Message #1:

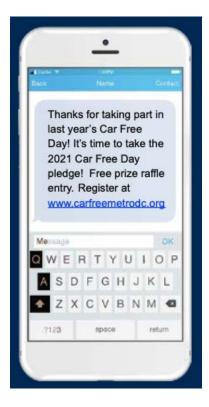
Thanks for taking part in last year's Car Free Day! It's time to take the 2021 Car Free Day pledge! Free prize raffle entry. Register at www.carfreemetrodc.org.

#### September 13, 2021 - Message #2:

Thanks for taking the 2021 Car Free Day pledge! Please ask your coworkers, family and friends to take the free pledge too, at www.carfreemetrodc.org.

#### September 20, 2021 - Message #3:

Wed Sept 22 is Car Free Day! Last chance to take the free pledge to get FREE promotions and raffle entry for great prizes! www.carfreemetrodc.org



#### **Transit Signage**

Complimentary ad space was donated by the following transit partners. Bus exteriors, interiors, and shelters promoted Car Free Day.

- Arlington Interior Bus Cards
- Prince George's County Bus Shelters (including digital)
- Fairfax County Connector Bus Tails
- Metrobus Interior Bus Cards
- Montgomery County Bus Exteriors



#### **Earned Media**

The Car Free Day earned media (media coverage) efforts included calendar listings sent out in July 2021, and press releases on August 4, 2021 and September 17, 2021. Promotional tool kits were sent to universities to help them promote Car Free Day, and to this year's sponsors to help them publicize their support of the event. Media placements of note included WJLA-TV, WTOP radio, and Greater Greater Washington. A total of 17 placements and 21 calendar listings were generated.

- Press Releases:
  - 8/4/2021: Take Your Foot off the Gas and Take the Free Pledge: Car Free Day 2021
     Registration Open!
  - o 9/17/2021: Last Chance to Take the Pledge for Car Free Day

#### **Prizes**

Each event registrant who took the pledge to go car free or car-lite received a \$30 Nift Gift credit to use with local participating businesses in the DC area. Registrants were also entered into a raffle for a chance to win sponsor donated prizes. In-kind sponsors received a logo/link on the Car Free Day website and mentions on social media posts. New sponsors this year included Caboose Tavern Brewery and Georgetown Running Company.

## College Campus Challenge

Colleges were provided with a digital toolkit to promote the Car Free Day event. A special seal was added to the PDF version of the poster and forwarded to university contacts. The college with the greatest number of pledges in 2021 was the University of Maryland. Their win was promoted on the Car Free Day Facebook and Twitter accounts.







## **Clean Air Partners**

Clean Air Partners serves the metropolitan Baltimore-Washington region by empowering individuals and organizations to take simple actions to reduce pollution and protect public health. Clean Air Partners leveraged a network of local "digital ambassadors" (influencers) to build engagement around Car Free Day 2021. Below is just one of ten ambassador posts and a sample of follower's comments. The comments provide anecdotal indications that the social media campaign increased awareness of Car Free Day and visits to the Car Free Day website to take the pledge.

Hip Mama's Place - Story:





### Hip Mama's Place - Follower Comments:



iellenah Oh I had no idea! Thank you for raising awareness 👸

2w 1 like Reply



mommakez3 Thanks so much for sharing 😍

2w Reply



juelz\_jourdan Love this! Wish we had a better option!!

2w Reply



carly.chambers3 Oh wow I didn't know this!

2w Reply



kyaustin\_in\_kc I never knew this!

2w Reply



beingtessiebelle This is such a great cause de That's so cool

2w Reply



piccolo\_sings Ohhhh I love this! Car free days are the best!

2w Reply



evatuckett That's cool. I never heard of the car free day

2w Reply



my.horsford.home This is a great message

2w Reply



beachesarebananas What a fun environmentally friendly event

2w Reply



keepingupwiththecripps Such a great cause to support! Car free day!!!



2w Reply



becrayonized yes and it is a good exercise too!

2w Reply



ashleymarieblog\_ This is such a cool

2w Reply



juliannehopestyling Wow this is

2w Reply



erikalaurenbennett That so cool about the car free day!

2w Reply



busytexasmomofthree This is all so important!

2w Reply



adamsjoyce Such a great cause! Really a great idea

2w Reply



ginabhomeschool What a great cause! Love that you are part of this

2w Reply



life\_after\_kids\_ Such a great event!

2w Reply



auzzieshiela Oh what a great idea

2w Reply



whatawonderburger I love the big red chair! I always support car free!

2w Reply



herfempire Thank you for sharing this post!

2w Reply

# **Bike to Work Day**

Commuter Connections began its annual sponsorship drive in October 2021 for the May 2022 Bike to Work Day event. Outreach is being made to past and prospective sponsors. The sponsorship drive will remain open until January 31, 2021. To date, five sponsors have been secured for a cash total of \$13,650.

bike to work day	Please Ret	urn by January	31, 2022
	•		
Please check one of the follo	wing Sponsor Levels:	Cash	In-Kind
GOLD SPONSOR LEVEL Mentioned as sponsor on over (traditional radio and/or equival Social Media, plus all Silver an	400 Radio ads lent online media impressio	ons),	
SILVER SPONSOR LEVE Logo on 20,000 T-shirts, Press Bronze level items			
BRONZE SPONSOR LEV Logo on Website and 90,000 F			
If in-kind donation, please de	escribe:		
cash and \$2,250 in acceptable merchana from this regional sponsorship declaration	on and is typically available at no e	Work Day pit stop loc	ations is separa
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## **Employer Recognition Awards**

The Employer Recognition Awards program recognizes employers who initiate outstanding worksite commute benefits and/or telework programs to assist their employees. FY 2022 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this prestigious event. Self-mailers with a loose application form were mailed in late November to more than 3,200 level 3&4 employee transportation coordinators, level 3&4 executive level contacts, and Chamber of Commerce's throughout the region. The printing and postage cost for the mailing totaled \$3,180. PDF's of the materials were also made available online.





## **Nomination Brochure**





#### Easing the way for what's to follow

Ridesharing, commuting by public transportation, bicycling, walking, or teleworking contribute to loss traveled roads. That often means smoother, easier, and faster commutes, and a reduction in harmful vehicle emission.

# Opening new doors... and getting in

Commuter Connections encourages area businesses and commuters to discover innovative ways to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles on the road.

angue-occupant ventures on the road.

The Communic Connections Employer
Recognition Awards acknowledges
employers who initiate or improve
programs encouraging communing
atternatives. Companies who impleme
these programs and services make
a difference to their organization,
employees, local community, and
the region.

CONNECTIONS.



INCENTIVES
Offering a host of commuter incentive to encourage and reward employees for using atternative means of transportation to and from work.

MARKETING

Educating about and championing for the use of alternative transportation options by frequently promoting available commuter programs to employees in creative and effective ways.

TELEWORK
Providing a policy framework and technology to allow employees to seamlessly work from home, or at a local telework or co-working center, one or more days per week.



Has your organization made a difference in any of the following areas? If so, apply now.



AIR A LERTS
Receiving free e-mail Alerts from Clean Air Partners about forecasted unhealthy Code Orange/Red days to encourage employees to improre air quality by teleworking, bicycling, walking, ridesharing, or taking transit.

#### BICYCLING AND WALKING

Providing bike racks, Fixit stations, lockers, and/or shower facilities for bicyclists and walkers. Offering a direct monthly bicycle benefit for purchases, improvement, repair, or storage.

CLEAN ENERGY VEHICLES
Providing electric car charging stations, or a company fleet of clean energy vehicles or hybrids.

# DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIPS

Offering discount memberships to nearby gyms, bikesharing, and/or carsharing services.

GUARANTEED RIDE HOME
Promoting and/or supplementing Commuter Connections' free
emergency ride home program for employees during unexpected
personal or family emergencies/illnesses, or unscheduled overtime

PARKING STRATEGIES
Offering reduced parking fees and/or preferred parking spaces for carpools and vanpools. RIDESHARING

#### TELEWORKING

TRANSIT AND VANPOOLS
Offering monthly transit and vanpool pre-tax or direct benefits, through SmartBenefits\* Providing shuttle services to and from the workplace and transit stations.

WORK SCHEDULE ALTERNATIVES
Offering flexible or staggered start and end times, or compressed work week schedules, such as 4 days/40 hours, or 9 days/80 hours

# A bit about last year's winners:

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

**Commuter Connections** 

Please visit commuterconnections.org or call 800.745,7433 for more info.

## MARKETING

# GEICO Chevy Chase, MD

OBIDO is one of the fastest-growing auto insurers, holding more than 18 million policies nationwide and covering over 22 million autos. GEO employs more than 3.100 in the region and matches employee contributions to Mercro's SmartBenefits, up 16 10 per month. The company is abort wall from the Metroral station and encourages committed by the company is abort wall from the Metroral station and encourages committed by the company is the company in the company is abort wall control to the employees. The CEOTO has provided base decided classes to the employees, and has installed numerous bitle racks, footers, and showers.

GROOD promotes in commutate benefits program to employee sthrough new hire orientations, b-annual benefits faris, intranet, enaits, and brochers within the calebrai and break rooms, GRICO also partners with Metigamery County Commutate Nervices to promote participation in County Commutate Nervices to promote participation in the towork Day, Through marketing of its commuter programs to employee which to a heigher deuce employee which can miles by 1,344,000 and sere 62,910 gallons of gasoline animally.



#### INCENTIVES

## NIAID Rockville, MD

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NAMD is part of the National Institute of Health and Advances Infectious Glossae research is improve public advances infections Glossae research is improve public including carpool and varpool parking, electric whicle including carpool and varpool parking, electric whicle charging stations, secure bile parking, a bite trail, and showers and lockers. It offers employee health and wisless classes, finess areas, and other on-site amenit that excourage employees to stay on campus throughout heavening.

town oxacus, of Dits 4,500 employees in the region, 40 percent telework up to eight days a month, supported by NAID's flexible scheduling. NAID within walking distance to a Metrcrail station and 27 percent of employees receive a transportration subsidy up to the federal timest, as a result of its various commuter benefits and amenities. NAID has saved an average of 17,000,000 employee which emiles and an estimated 514,000 gallons of gasoline annually.



#### TELEWORK

## ASHA Rockville, MD

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is a national organization with 218,000 members and affiliates made up of pathologists, sudiologists, scleniotis, and students. Since 2004, ASHA has grown its telework program from one of every six employees to one of every two employees to every two employees teleworking up to 66 percent of their total workdays.

up to so ye act to a time to war only.

In response to the parademic ASHA protect to an entirely remote work force and provided laptops, moretors, and deak chairs: plus employes were sey host 500 to purchase home-effice supplies are represented to the parademic sequence of the parademic sequence could maintain control veiblin a home of file to esting. The organization has a too maintained a faitness program that allows staff to manage their individual work schedule arrangements. ASHA is stereors and another schedule alternatives programs have helped reduce employee vehicle mittee by 1940-804 and wars of 1940-804 and 1940-804



## **Nomination Form**



Signed. Trile  4. PROGRAM SUMMARY NARRATUE  Please attach 1.0 page writin summary about your program, answering and elaborating on as many questions below that apply, Address 4.0, R. C. D. in a separate paragraph and provide measurable results of the program, wherever possible.  4. R. C. D. in a separate paragraph and provide measurable results of the program, wherever possible.  5. R. C. D. in a separate paragraph and provide measurable results of the program, wherever possible.  6. R. C. D. in a separate paragraph and provide measurable results of the program.  6. Description and points to address in narrathe if a splicitable:  6. Description and points to address in narrathe if a splicitable:  6. Description of Program  6. What was the situation or condition that led to the creation of your program?  6. What was the internation paragraph spots and how has it been successful in meeting its goals?  6. What have the results been compared to provious years?  6. What have the results been compared to provious years?  7. What was the internation paragraph spots and how that it been successful in meetings are differed to employees and how many take advantage of each?  6. How are the various programs gromoted within your workshill?  6. In areas the residence is in the cere employee goal of employee goal, are carpools given discounts or preferrential parking spaces?  6. It areas there is described as an out of pocked repember by our organization, paid by employees, or a combination of both?  6. It areas there is subdicted, what is the dollar amount provided to employees?  7. Dry our benefits that services between your workshill and many trained centers?  8. Dry our benefits the survices between your workshill and many trained centers?  9. Dry our benefits the intrinsification, and/or shower facilities?  10. You have blue racks, lockers, First stations, and/or shower facilities?  10. You have blue racks, lockers, First stations, and/or shower facilities?  10. You have blue racks, lockers, First stations, and/or shower	ır what
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What type of training and/or ameniles are offered to management and to employees who telework?  Is your telework program informal or do you have a formal telework policy?  Reployer and Employee Benefits  Describe how the program has:  In provide employee moralia, productivity, absenteeism.  Increased your organization's ability to attract and retain qualified employees.  I leighor factor, employee communing times and stress.  Outstructure Descriptione employee with telemental fibrations.  C. Economic and Financial Benefits  C. Economic and Financial Benefits	
- Is your telework program informal or do you have a formal telework policy?  8. Employer and Employee Benefits  Beneziche how the program has:  - Improved employee moralite, productivity, absentereism.  - Improved employee moralite, productivity, absentereism.  - Increased your organization shallly to attract and retain qualified employees.  - Helport reduce employee community times and stress.  - Contributed to better employee work-life demands/fastance.  C. Commits and Financial Rewritis	
B. Employer and Employee Benefits Describe how the program has: I improved employee morals, productivity, absenteeism. Increased your organization's ability to attract and retain qualified employees. I include cemployee communing times and stress. I include the other employee work in its definition of the other employees. I contributed to better employee work life demands/fusions. C. Economic and Financial Benefits  C. Economic and Financial Benefits	
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<ul> <li>Improved employee morale, protectivity, absenteeism.</li> <li>Increased your organization's ability to attract and entain qualified employees.</li> <li>Include through employee community times and stress.</li> <li>Contributed to better employee work lile domands/balance.</li> <li>C. Economic and Financial Rewritis</li> </ul>	
- Increased your organication's ability to attract and retain qualified employees Helped reduce employee communing times and stress Outrobuded to better employee work life demands/halance C. Economic and Financial Benefits - C. Economic and Financial Benefits	
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- Contributed to better employee work-life demands/balance. C. Economic and Financial Benefits	
C. Economic and Financial Benefits	
Describe how the program has:	
Helped reduce employee commuting expenses.	
<ul> <li>Reduced your organization's costs associated with providing commuter parking and/or office space.</li> </ul>	
Provided other dividends for your organization or employees.	
D. Environmental Impacts	
Describe and quantify the benefits to the community. Describe how the program has:	
· Reduced traffic congestion. How many vehicles have been taken off the roads? How many annual vehicle miles have been reduced? To calc	ulate
vehicle miles reduced, please visit commuterconnections.org/commuting-resources/vmt-calculator.	
<ul> <li>Reduced gasoline consumption and emissions. What is the number of estimated gallons of gas saved annually?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Affected your awareness or support of air quality. Does your organization provide air quality alerts to employees and allow teleworking on s</li> </ul>	uch da
Nomination Form COMMUTER COMMETCH COMMET	

## **Email Blast**

An email blast was sent to approximately 2,100 employer contacts in early December 2021.



### **Newsletters**

The summer and fall 2021 editions of the Commuter Connections newsletter were issued during the first half of FY22. The six page, 4-color newsletter is produced and distributed quarterly to employers and stakeholders. The newsletters are also available in PDF format on the Commuter Connections website.



## EMPLOYER AWARD WINNERS LEADING THE PACK

For 24 years, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and Commuter Connections have honored employers who are "Leading the Pack" in commute programs. And in a year that saw teleworking soar, many DC region employers faced new challenges.



The winners of the 2021 Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards were the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), GEICO, and American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). These employers have responded to challenges with good communications, planning, and open minds. All have designed and implemented innovative and successful commuter and telework programs.

The Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards annual program acknowledges employers who offer outstanding commuter benefits, amenities, and tools to facilitate the use of alternative commuting methods such as ridesharing, transit, teleworking, bicycling, and walking.

Charles Allen, District of Columbia Councilmember and chair of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, congratulated the winners and provided key insight, "We hope that through their example, other organizations will embrace similar initiatives, creating more opportunities to help maximize the efficiencies of shared commutes," he said.

Qualified applicants within the Washington, DC region were evaluated by a Selection Committee of industry experts and professionals from the Washington, DC metropolitan region and moderated by a third party. Winners were chosen for their ability to track performance metrics for their commute programs such as a decrease in vehicle trips and miles traveled. Winners also implemented policies that have improved the lives of their employees and those within the National Capital Region.

### Employer Award Winners Incentives Award National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases



The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is a scientific organization within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that advances research used to improve the health of millions of people around the world. Started over 130 years ago in Staten Island, NY, NIAID research led to increased knowledge of addressing public health crises caused by infectious disease outbreaks.

NIAID features an array of commuter amenities such as reserved carpool and vanpool parking, a bus shelter,

Continued on page 2

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS. A SMARTER WAY TO WORK

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- 3 Ev Charging Stations At The Workplace And Beyond
- 5 Dash Bus Goes Fare-Free
- 5 Transit Service Update



The Commuter Information Source for Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia



#### **EMPLOYER CASE STUDIES**

With the holidays upon us, the new year is fast approaching. As you are making that list of personal and work-related resolutions, resolve to blow the dust off that employee commuter plan and review, revise, and re-energize it. Wonder what other Washington, DC, area employers do for their commuters? Take some tips from the Employer Case Studies at-a-glance previews below.



#### American Institutes for Research

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) is a global scientific foundation with employees at five locations within the Washington, DC metropolitan region. When the pandemic hit, AIR decided to move some DC staff to Arlington, VA, sooner rather than later. AIR extended telework to more employees and maintained transit benefits for essential frontline staff.

AIR offers a transit benefit and a bicycle benefit.

Preferential parking spaces were planned, line-painted, and promoted to encourage carpooling and vanpooling.

AIR also offers flextime to allow employees to alter their start and end times.

AIR cites high workforce retention and morale as key benefits of the program, which has been particularly important during the pandemic.

#### **Capital One Financial Corporation**

Capital One Financial Corporation, with its headquarters in Vienna, VA, was among the first big financial firms to introduce comprehensive teleworking to select employees in March 2020.

A full-time telework program for employees was put in place within the main office and was extended to other employees on a rolling basis.

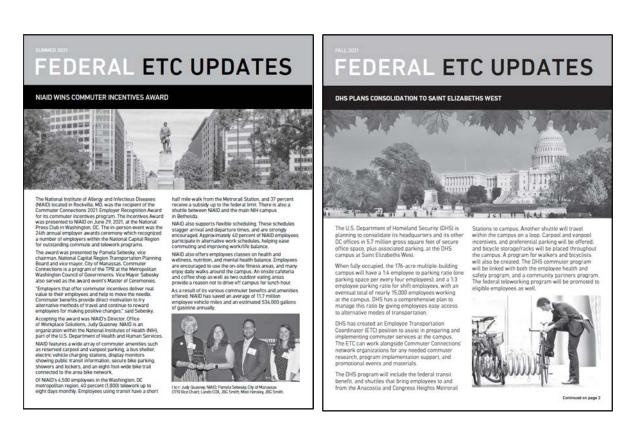
In summer 2021, Capital One introduced a new hybrid telework program, which allows employees to telework on Mondays and Fridays, and be in the office midweek. A company spokesperson said, "The impact of going full-time telework has been seamless and, with the aggressive efforts to streamline, the in-house and virtual workforce has made significant gains and reassured employees during the pandemic. Capital One sees the future as one that can successfully have a hybrid program for all employees."

#### Lockheed Martin

Defense contractor Lockheed Martin is headquartered in Bethesda, MD, and has multiple office locations throughout the region. The Prince George's County location in Seabrook, MD, provides a transit benefit for employees who need to commute into the office. Telework is also prevalent, with 65 percent of employees currently working remotely. All eligible employees were able to telework during the pandemic. Flextime hours are available for employees and preferential parking is provided at locations where free parking is available. Lockheed Martin operates a shuttle between Metro stations and its various worksites. The company reports that workforce retention was very high during the pandemic.

## **Federal ETC Updates Newsletter**

The summer and fall 2021 editions of the Commuter Connections Federal ETC Updates newsletter were produced during the first half of FY22. The two-page black & white newsletter is produced and distributed quarterly to Federal Employee Transportation Coordinators via GSA. It is also available in PDF format at www.federaletc.org .



## **E-Newsletters**



### **Employer Award Winners Lead the Pack**

During an in-person awards ceremony on June 29, 2021 at the National Press Club, Commuter Connections honored employers who are "Leading the Pack" in commuter benefits and telework programs.

More News



## Region to Celebrate Car Free Day - September 22

Car Free Day celebrates travel alternatives to driving alone. Employees who take the pledge to be car free or car-lite on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 will be entered into a free prize raffle.



#### **Employer Case Studies**

Take some tips from case studies of other Washington, DC area employer commuter programs. This edition covers at a-glance previews for American Institutes for Research, Capital One Financial Corporation, and Lockheed Martin.

More News



#### **Employer Recognition Awards Call for Nominations**

Commuter Connections is celebrating its  $25^{th}$  Annual Employer Recognition Awards and is currently seeking nominations from employers who offer outstanding commuter and/or telework programs.

#### EV Charging Stations at the Workplace

EV charging stations are becoming a more common site within parking facilities at the workplace and beyond. As the price at the pump remains

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Performance Measures**

# Web Visits

Month	FY 2021 Web Visits (Sessions)	FY 2022 Web Visits (Sessions)	Year to Year # Change	Year to Year % Change
July	4,113	5,346	1,233	30.0%
August	4,356	9,271	4,915	112.8%
September	3,702	9,103	5,401	145.9%
October	4,180	5,321	1,141	27.3%
November	3,713	4,912	1,199	32.3%

20,064 33,953 13,889 69.2%

# **Phone Calls**

Month	FY 2021 Phone Calls	FY 2022 Phone Calls	Year to Year # Change	Year to Year % Change
July	261	203	(58)	-22.2%
August	158	289	131	82.9%
September	143	370	227	158.7%
October	191	232	41	21.5%
November	171	232	61	35.7%
- MOVERNOON	924	1,326	402	43.5%

# **GRH Applications**

Month	GRH FY 2021 Applications	GRH FY 2022 Applications	Year to Year # Change	Year to Year % Change
July	192	145	-47	-24.5%
August	206	197	-9	-4.4%
September	151	231	80	53.0%
October				
November				
December				

549 573 24 4.4%

# **Rideshare Applications**

Month	Rideshare FY 2021 Applications	Rideshare FY 2022 Applications	Year to Year # Change	Year to Year % Change
July	748	542	-206	-27.5%
August	423	1,136	713	168.6%
September	634	844	210	33.1%
October				
November				
December				

1,805 2,522 717 39.7%

APPENDIX B

Regional Recovery Campaign Digital Media Results

Program	Media	Amount Spent	Impressions	Interactions (Click Thrus)	Interaction Rate (CTR)	Cost Per Interaction
Recovery Campaign EEA	Pandora	\$25,303	893,041	438	0.05%	\$57.77
Recovery Campaign EEA	Spotify	\$67,385	4,595,197	1,311	0.03%	\$51.40
Recovery Campaign EEA	NBC (Streaming)	\$50,690	616,352	286	0.05%	\$177.24
Recovery Campaign EEA	PoPville	\$600	3,231	416	12.88%	\$1.44
Recovery Campaign EEA	Instagram	\$410	61,316	5,951	9.71%	\$0.07
Recovery Campaign EEA	YouTube	\$736	59,548	33,537	56.32%	\$0.02
		\$145,124	6,228,685	41,939	0.67%	\$3.46

EEA = Equity Emphasis Areas

Program	Media	Amount Spent	Impressions	Interactions (Click Thrus)	Interaction Rate (CTR)	Cost Per Interaction
Recovery						
Campaign						
General	Pandora	\$51,000	3,745,406	525	0.01%	\$97.14
Recovery						
Campaign						
General	Spotify	\$28,000	1,469,070	292	0.02%	\$95.89
Recovery						
Campaign						
General	YouTube	\$736	69,217	45,742	66.08%	\$0.02
Recovery						
Campaign						
General	Instagram	\$590	94,857	9,793	10.32%	\$0.06
		\$80,325	5,378,550	56,352	1.05%	\$1.43

# **APPENDIX C**

# Car Free Day Digital Media Results

Program	Media	Amount Spent	Impressions	Interactions (Click Thrus)	Interaction Rate (CTR)	Cost Per Interaction
Car Free Day 2021	Spotify	\$9,000	613,667	139	0.02%	\$64.75
Car Free Day 2021	El Tiempo Latino	\$1,200	46,170	320	0.69%	\$3.75
Car Free Day 2021	Popville	\$600	2,777	460	16.56%	\$1.30
Car Free Day 2021	YouTube	\$750	77,763	92	0.12%	\$8.15
		\$11,550	740,377	1,011	0.14%	\$11.42

# **APPENDIX D**

# Car Free Day Earned Media Placements

# Media Coverage

modia obvoluge	Media Coverage  Car Free Day 2021 Media Coverage						
Television Inter							
WJLA	09/21/2021	Car-Free Day in the District					
Print/Online Co	verage						
08/05/2021	Prince William Living	Take Your Foot off the Gas and Take the Free					
		Pledge: Car Free Day 2021 Registration Opens!					
08/07/2021	InsideNOVA	Registration for Car-Free Day now open					
08/30/2021	Greater Greater Washington	Events: New year, new moniker, new murals					
09/01/2021	Carlyle Council	Car Free Day 2021					
09/15/2021	Patch - Manassas Park, VA	Prince William County Government: Leave The					
		Cars At Home For A Day					
09/15/2021	Potomac Local News	Transit agency offers prizes for those who go car-free, work from home					
09/15/2021	Prince William Living	Car Free Day 2021					
09/16/2021	Popville	Pledge to Go Car Free on September 22 and					
		Become Eligible to Win Prizes					
09/17/2021	Bristow Beat	OmniRide Asks Residents to Pledge to Go Car					
		Free on September 22					
09/17/2021	Montgomery Community	Montgomery County Celebrates Car Free Day					
	Media	with Prizes, Gift Cards					
09/20/2021	Montgomery Community Media	What is Car Free Day?					
09/20/2021	Greater Greater Washington	Events: GGwash's Fall Mixer is next week					
00/20/2021	Groater Groater Washington	Evolto: Gawaon o Fair Wilkor to Hoke Wook					
09/20/2021	Downtown DC	Car Free Day Celebrates Sustainable					
		Transportation					
09/21/2021	Aws for DP	'Car Free' DC is Wednesday					
		(0 - (0 - 1 D0 ) - We lead					
09/21/2021	WTOP	<u>'Car free' DC is Wednesday</u>					
		Wednesday is Car Free Day					
09/21/2021	Greater Greater Washington						
Calendar Listing							
Arlington, Patch		Greater Greater Washington					
	portation Partners	Leesburg, Patch					
Baltimore Sun		Washington D.C., Patch					

Bethesda Magazine	Prince William Living Magazine
Capital Gazette	The Wash Cycle
Carroll County Times	Washington City Paper
<u>DC Inno</u>	WDCW TV 50
Frederick News Post	WMAR TV
Georgetown, Patch	WRC TV 4 NBC
Georgetown BID	Washington Plaza
<u>goDCgo</u>	

# **APPENDIX E**

# Car Free Day Clean Air Partners Ambassadors Results

Digital Ambassadors Engaged	10
Total Impressions	124,465
Total Engagements	76,997
Likes on Content	53,165
Comments on Content	668
Content Shares	10,202
Content Saves	12,425
Direct Clicks to Website	516
Hashtag Clicks (Instagram Stories Only)	21