



DRAFT

**Commuter Connections Employer Satisfaction Survey Report
Fiscal Year 2006
January 16, 2007**

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INTRODUCTION

At the conclusion of FY06, Commuter Connections conducted its seventh annual survey of employers participating in the Commuter Connections Employer Outreach program. The survey, the *Employer Satisfaction Survey*, is intended to measure the employer's use of and satisfaction with the products and services provided through Commuter Connections member organizations.

Employer survey candidates were selected from the regional employer database. Updated electronic files are provided monthly by local jurisdictions in the form of synchronizations with the regional Employer Outreach database. The main criterion for the survey respondents' selection was the employers' basic contact with local sales jurisdictions. The surveys were mailed to the contacts listed for 1,657 employers region-wide on June 26 and July 6, 2006. An incentive for response was offered for all on-time responses (the date for final responses was July 28th). The incentives given were a travel pack cooler, with the Commuter Connections logo on the front cover, or a compact portfolio with the Commuter Connections logo on it, or CD carrying cases (the total incentive items sent was 45).

Response to the survey decreased eight percent over last year's response with 195 forms returned reflecting a 11 percent response rate for the survey. These responses provide a range of opinions in line with responses from previous years and provide informative data. The responses show specific employer reaction to Commuter Connections products and services and will be helpful in improving the individual and overall outreach efforts.

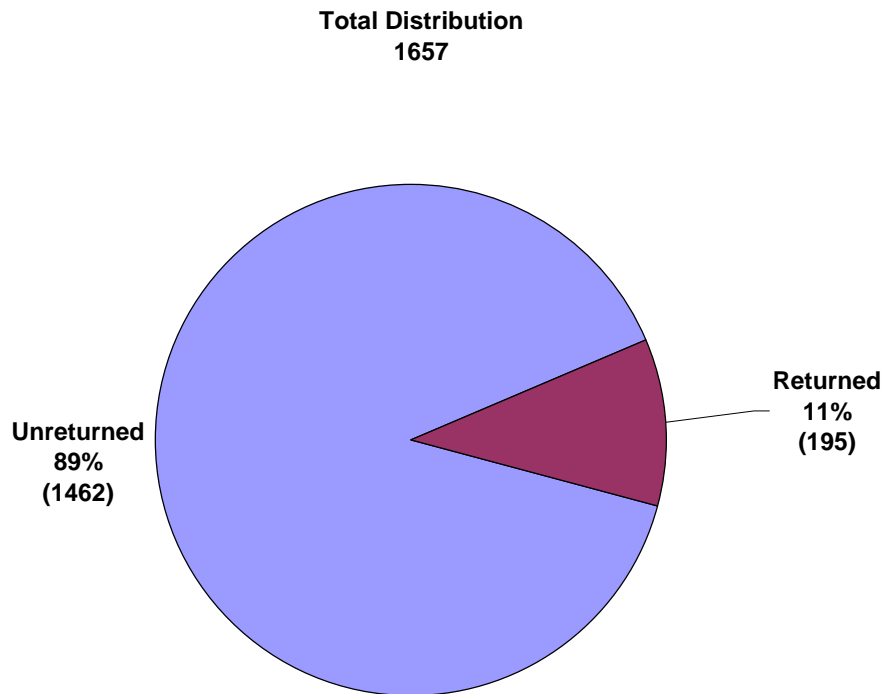
The Appendix contains a copy of the survey instrument and cover letter. The cover letter was customized for each jurisdiction. The letter listed the name of the local sales organization(s) and the names of the employer outreach representatives servicing that jurisdiction.

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

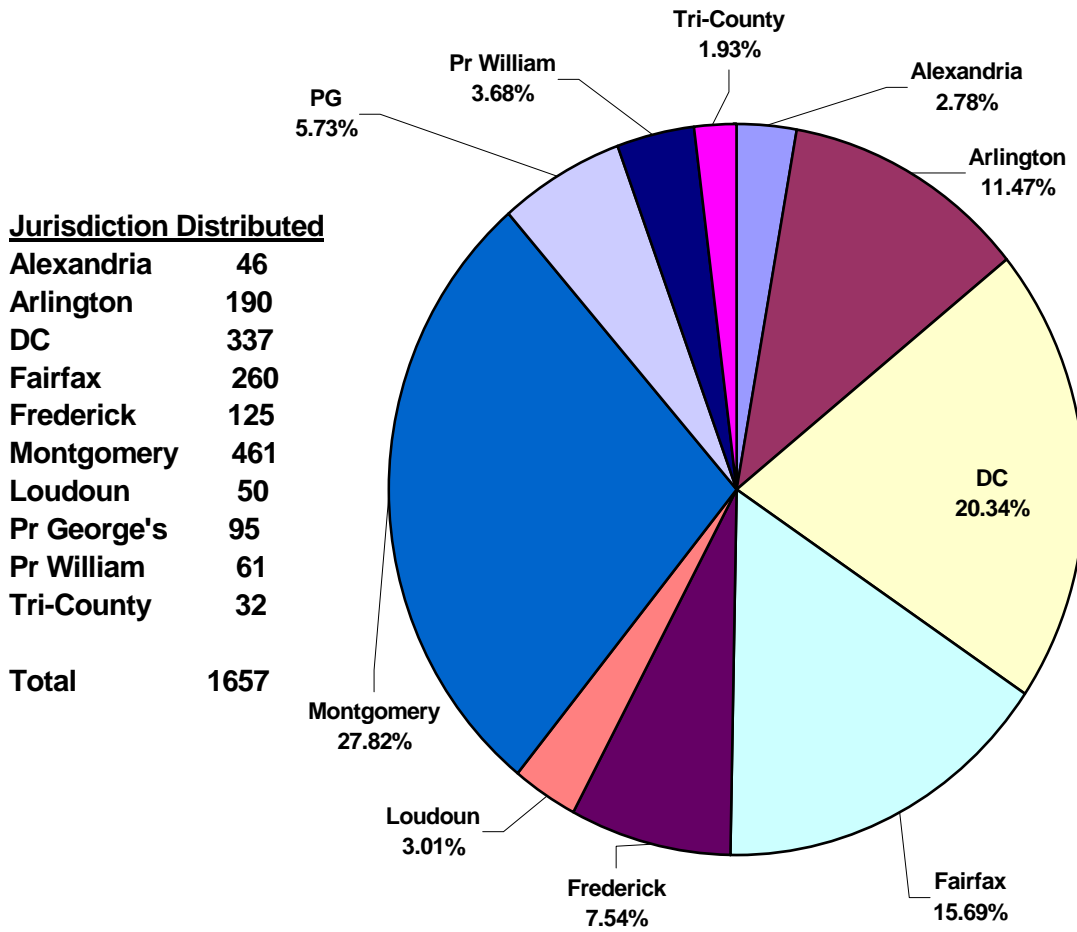
RESPONSE RATE:

A total of 1,657 surveys were distributed to all sales jurisdictions. An 11 percent response rate was achieved. The number of forms distributed in each jurisdiction depended on the number of employers contacted about Commuter Connections Employer Services programs. The next two graphs illustrate overall response and distribution by jurisdiction.

Response Rate and Survey Distribution



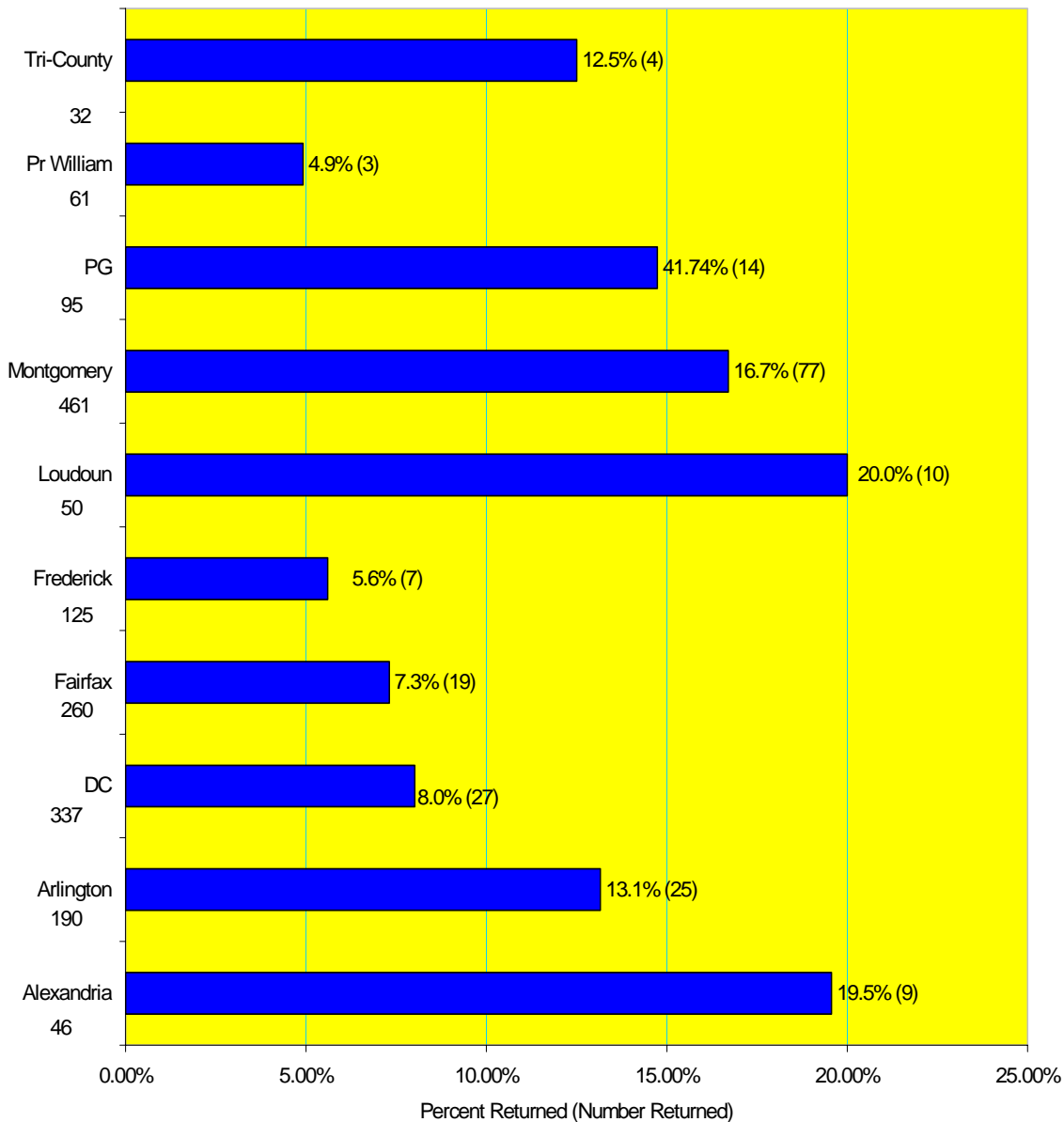
Forms Distributed by Jurisdiction



RESPONSE BY JURISDICTION:

This chart shows the percent of total forms returned (195) from each jurisdiction for the overall distribution of the survey. Response rates (forms returned from jurisdictions/forms distributed to jurisdiction) were also calculated for each jurisdiction relative to the number of surveys sent to each jurisdiction. For example, Alexandria achieved a 19 and a half percent response rate with 46 surveys distributed in its jurisdiction and 9 forms returned. * The figures listed below the jurisdictions represent the number of surveys distributed and the numbers following the percentages show the total response.

Response Rate By Jurisdiction



Satisfaction Survey Report FY06

Breakdown of distribution

CUSTOMER SERVICE SATISFACTION SURVEY 2006

Jurisdictions	Surveys sent	Responses	Returns	Percentage/Response	Percentage/Return
Alexandria	46	9	2	20%	4%
Arlington	190	25	16	13%	8%
DC	337	27	11	8%	3%
Fairfax	260	19	9	7%	3%
Frederick	125	7	6	6%	5%
Loudoun	50	10	7	20%	14%
Montgomery	461	77	23	17%	5%
Prince George's	95	14	8	15%	8%
PRTC	61	3	6	5%	10%
Tri-County	32	4	4	13%	13%
Total Surveys sent	1657	195	92	12%	6%

*The Responses column represents completed surveys sent back to Commuter Connections.

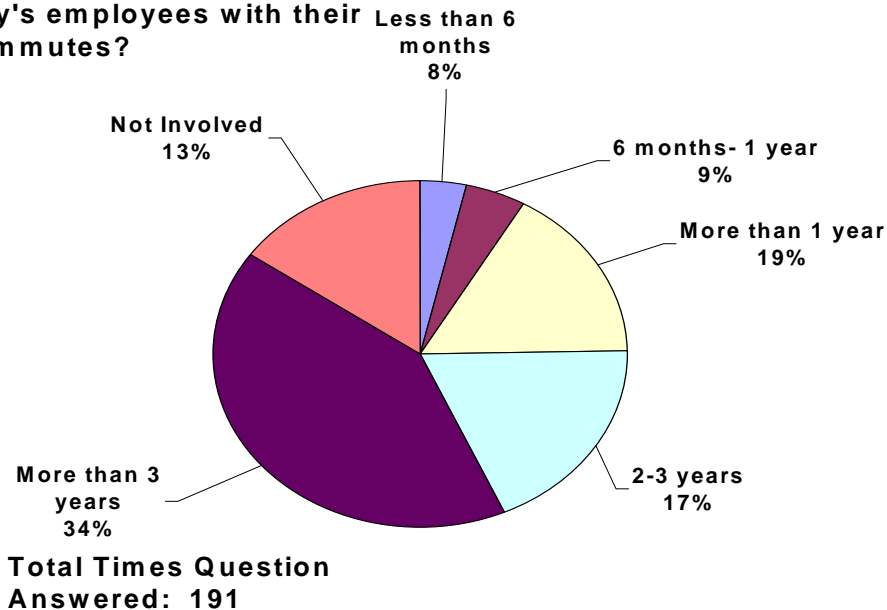
** The Returns column represents surveys that had bad addresses and could not be delivered to their intended recipients.

***For a year by year comparison, please see the Addendum on page 21.

Question 1.

Respondent's Involvement with Assisting Employees with Daily Commutes

Question 1. How long have you been involved with helping your company's employees with their daily commutes?



A question concerning the employer contact's length of involvement in assisting employees with their commutes to work was included to gauge the level of familiarity that employer contacts have with the products and services associated with alternate commuting. Surveys were sent only to contacts listed by outreach representatives in the Employer Outreach database.

As the pie chart illustrates, a substantial proportion of respondents, 34 percent have been involved with assisting their employees with commuting options for over three years. This result suggests that significant turnover among employees tasked with coordinating employee transportation issues has remained very low and combined with the percentage for two to three years participation (17 percent) shows that oversight of onsite programs has remained steady.

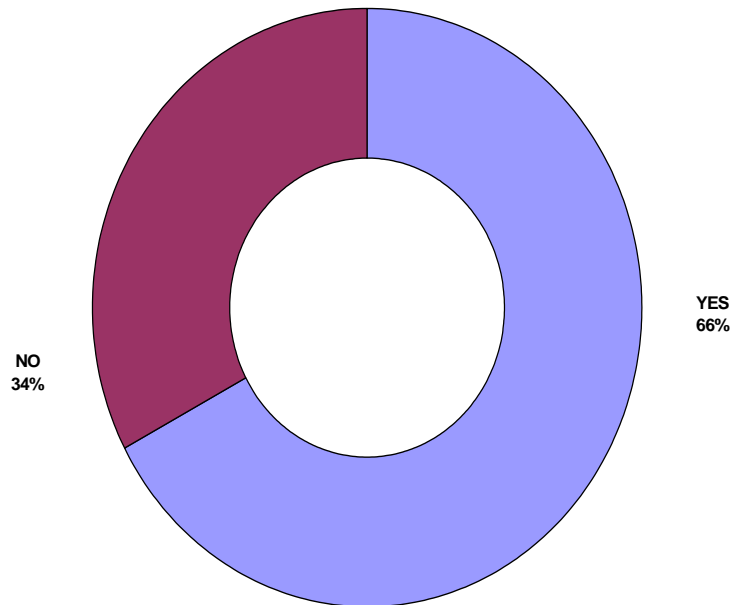
Thirteen percent of respondents indicated that they are not involved with helping their employees plan their commutes to work. Turnover is indicated with at least 17 percent of those involved with TDM programs having done so for one year or less. This information reinforces the importance of maintaining a current relationship between the outreach representatives and their Employee Transportation Coordinators (ETCs).

Question 2.

The question concerning the respondent's knowledge of available commuter services for employers provides positive news for the outreach program as a whole. Sixty-six percent of respondents indicated that they had knowledge of a person or organization that could assist them in developing a commuter transportation program. This percentage has remained the same with last year's results. These responses suggest that a great majority of employers know that there are organizations that can help them develop a transportation management program at their worksite, and their relationships with their corresponding outreach representatives appear to be improving.

Respondent's Knowledge of Available
Commuter Services for Employers

Question 2.
Do you know a person or
organization that can assist
you in developing and
implementing a commuter
transportation program for
your employees?



Forms Distributed:	1657
Forms Returned:	195
Total Times Question Answered:	189

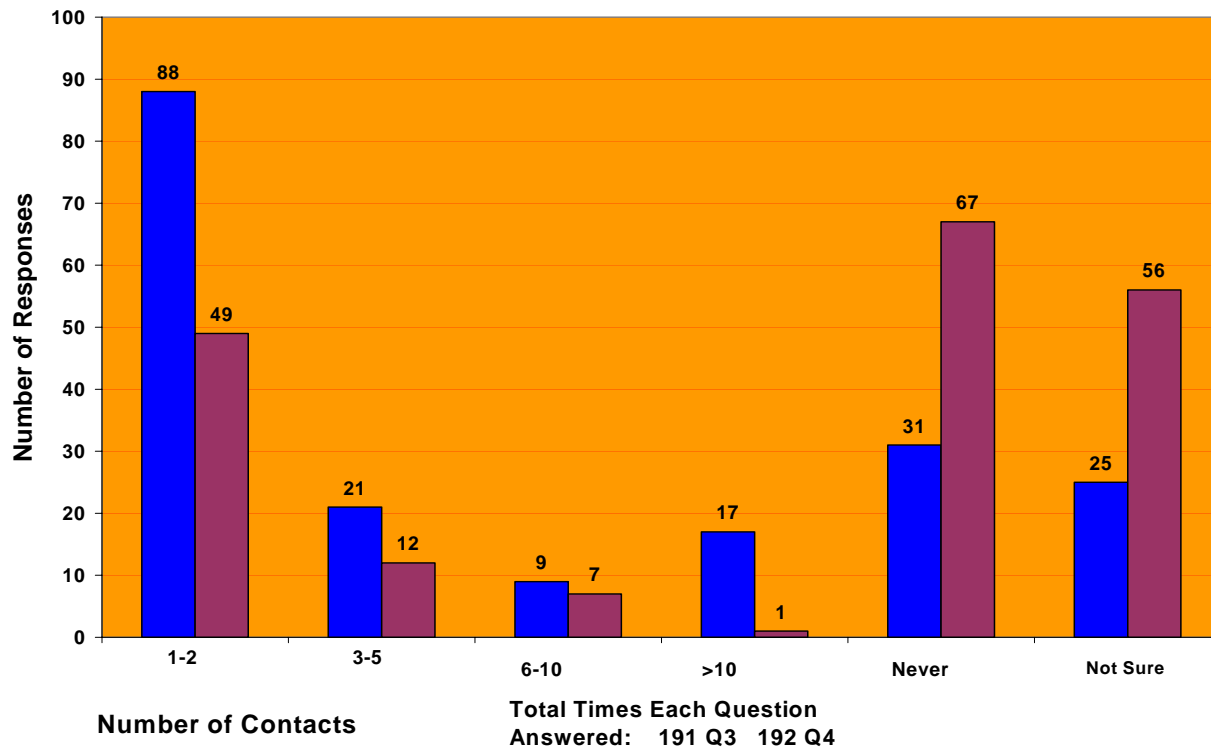
Question 3 and Question 4.

These questions were included to measure the outreach representative's contact with employers. These are important measures of the effort expended by the regional sales force. The largest group of respondents (88 out of 191 for Question 3) were those who were contacted 1 or 2 times during the year. The largest number for Question 4 was those not being contacted, or never with 67 responses. Overall, the outreach effort shows a continued concentration on phone contact and there is also the impact of having on-site employer visits that are viewed integral in implementing a commuter transportation program at the worksite.

Contact with Employer Outreach Representative

● Question 3. How often were you contacted by a representative who can assist you in developing and implementing a commuter transportation program, during the past 12 months?

■ Question 4. How often were you contacted by your representative in person?

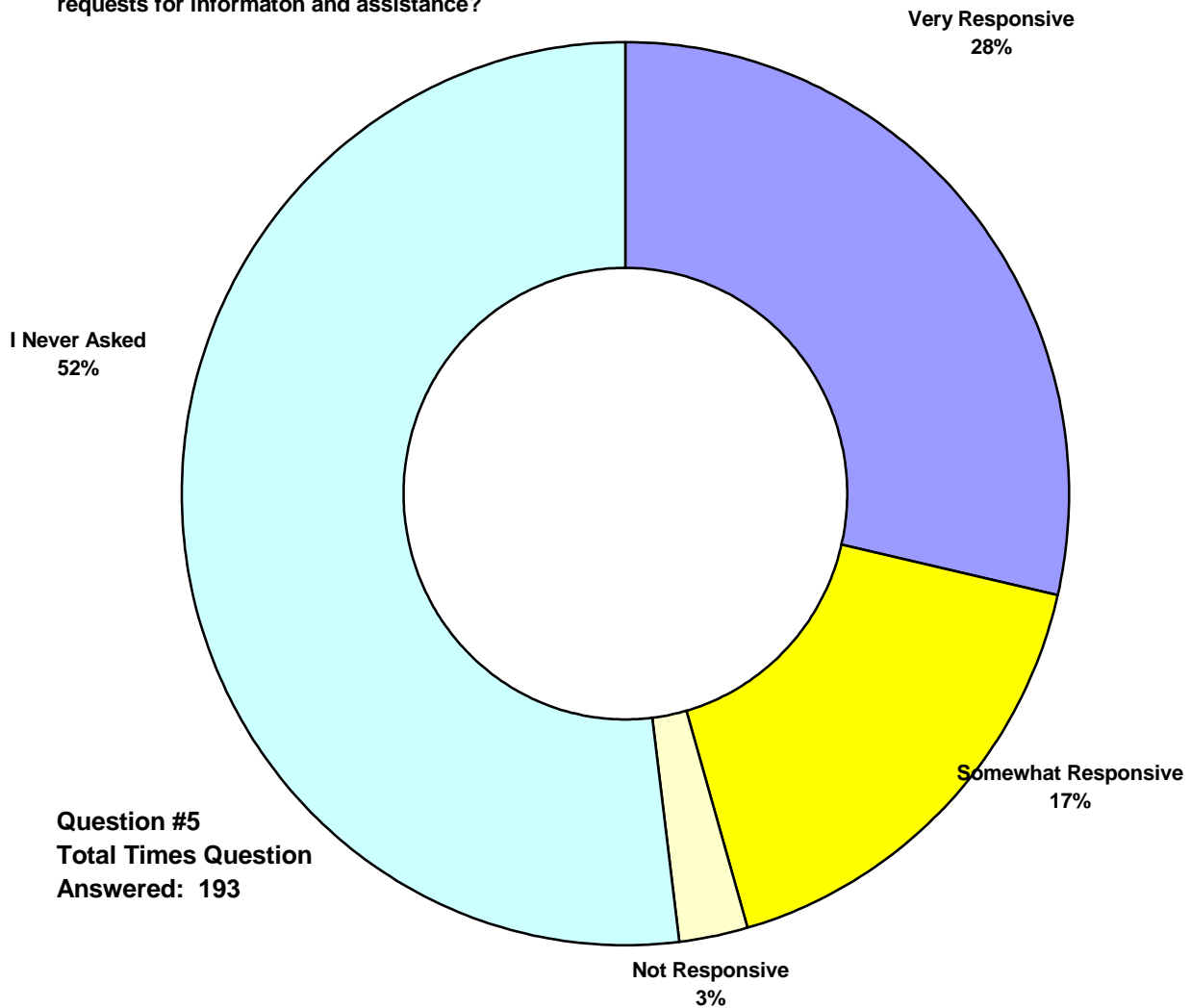


Question 5.

An essential indicator, responsiveness, is measured in the next question. Again, the outreach effort is represented by the responses. As the chart shows respondents that requested information reported their representative was very responsive (28 percent) to those who said they had never asked for assistance (52 percent).

Employer Representative's Responsiveness

Question 5. How Responsive is your representative to your questions, requests for informaton and assistance?



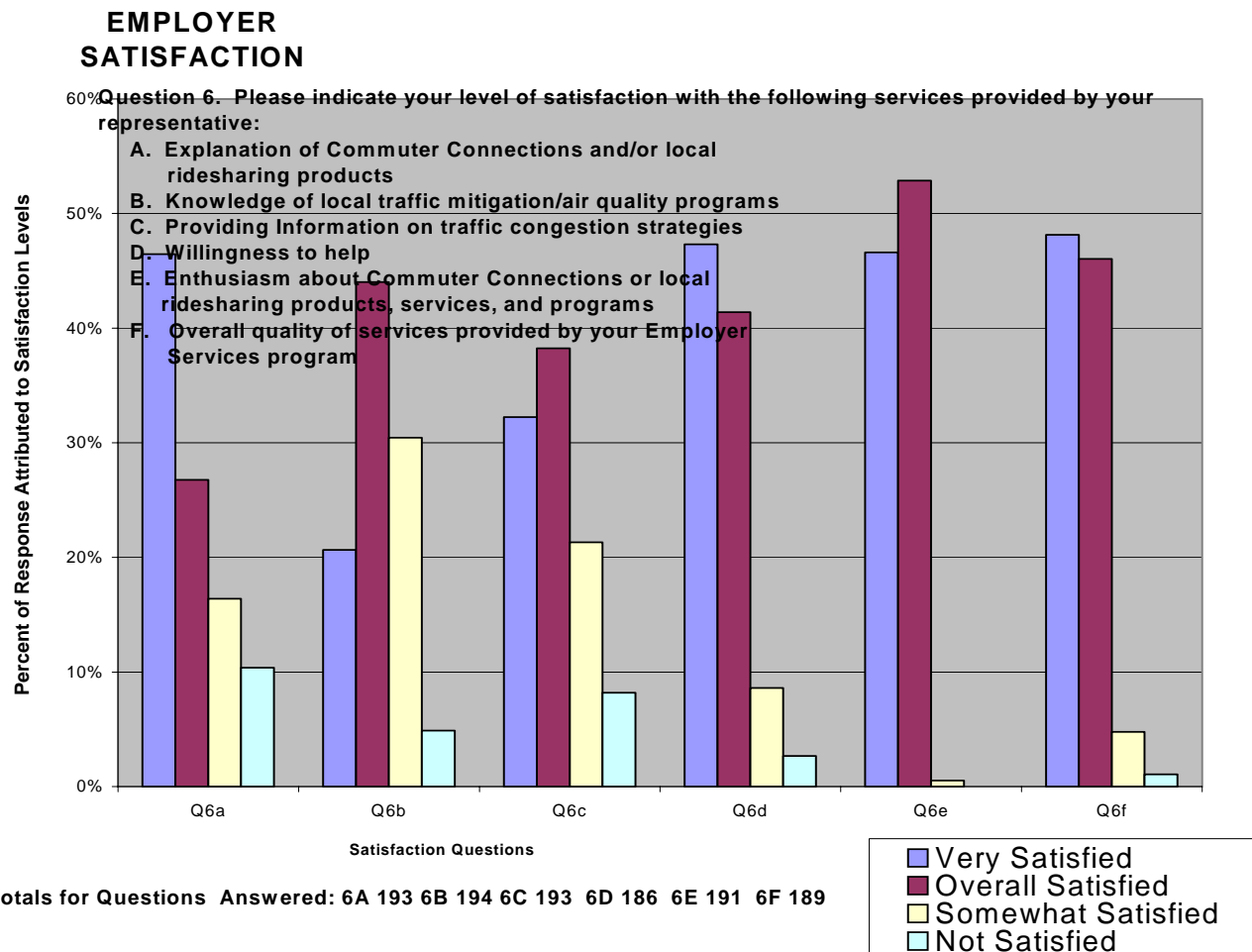
Questions 6A-F.

This series of questions represents the heart of the survey and was included to measure employer satisfaction across a range of topic areas including: explanation of local rideshare products, knowledge of local traffic mitigation, traffic congestion strategies, willingness to help, enthusiasm, and finally overall quality of their local employer services program. The responses show encouraging trends and several areas for improvement.

More than 40 percent of respondents reported they were “Very Satisfied” in four (6A, 6D, 6E, and 6F) out of the six topic areas. To the all-important question of employer satisfaction with the overall quality of employer services (Question 6F), 48 percent of respondents indicated that they were “Very Satisfied.”

Respondents gave high marks for the outreach representatives’ willingness to help (Question 6D) and the enthusiasm with which representative’s communicated the Commuter Connections message, with 47 percent of respondents choosing the highest level of satisfaction.

The “Somewhat Satisfied” category decreased from the previous years’ with an average of 13 percent for all services of employers responding. The overall average for the “Not Satisfied” category dropped from 5 percent to 4 percent for a response this year over last year.

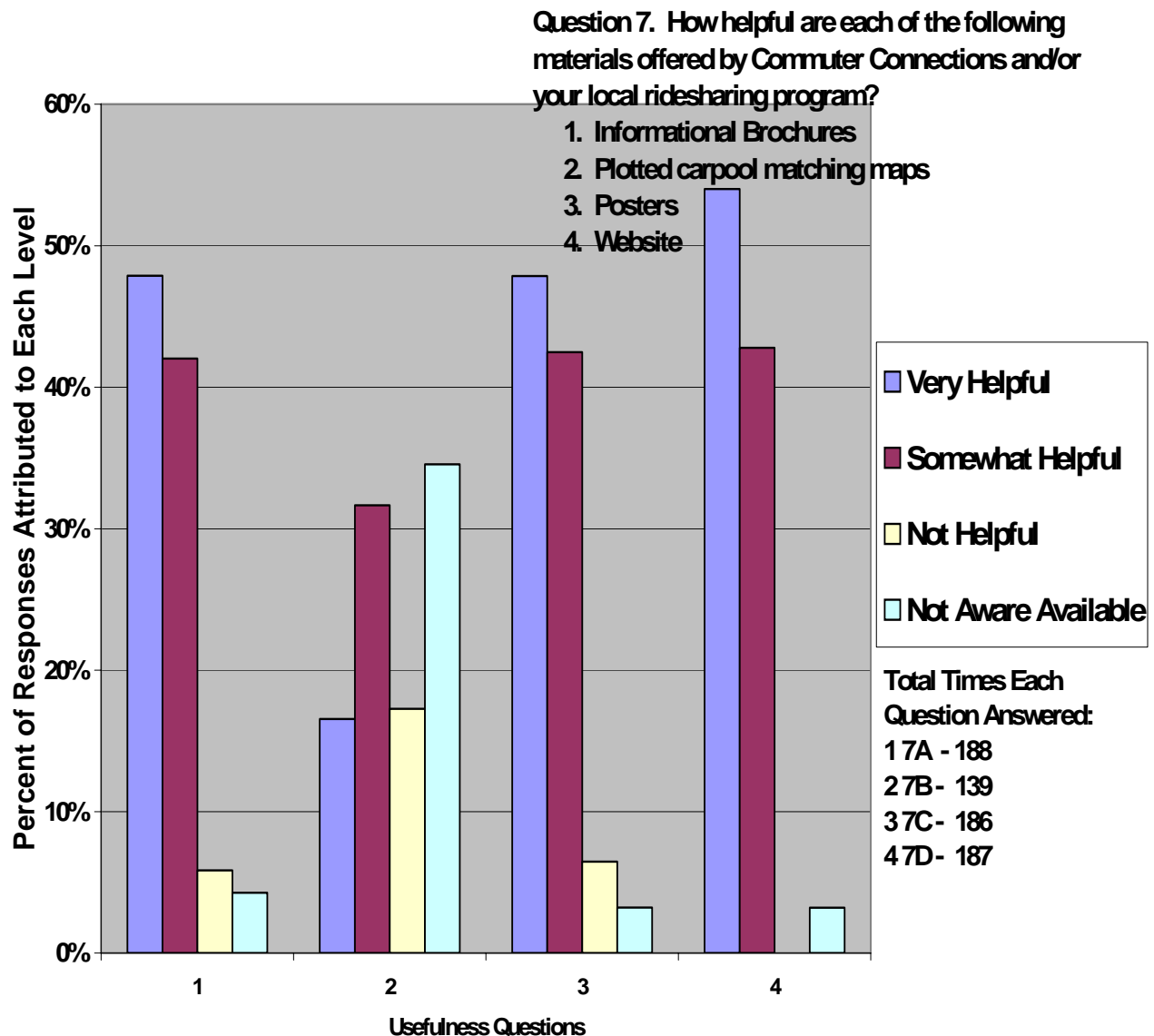


Questions 7A-7C.

With a great volume of Commuter Connections materials produced, the next series of questions attempts to measure the employer's perception of the usefulness of these materials.

As the graph illustrates, most respondents reported that the web site was seen as very helpful (53 percent). Plotted carpool matching maps received a lower response with 18 percent reporting that they are very helpful and 32 percent that they are somewhat helpful. Informational brochures were viewed in a favorable light with 48 percent of the employers responding said that they were very helpful and 43 percent seeing them as somewhat helpful. Overall, a small number of respondents indicated they were unaware of the available materials and their usefulness (11 percent).

Usefulness of Commuter Connections Materials



Question 8-8C.

This series of questions was included to measure the use of the commuter survey and the outreach representative's use of the statistical reports of the results. Of the 80 total respondents to this question, 15 percent indicated a commuter survey was conducted at their worksite. The table below summarizes the results.

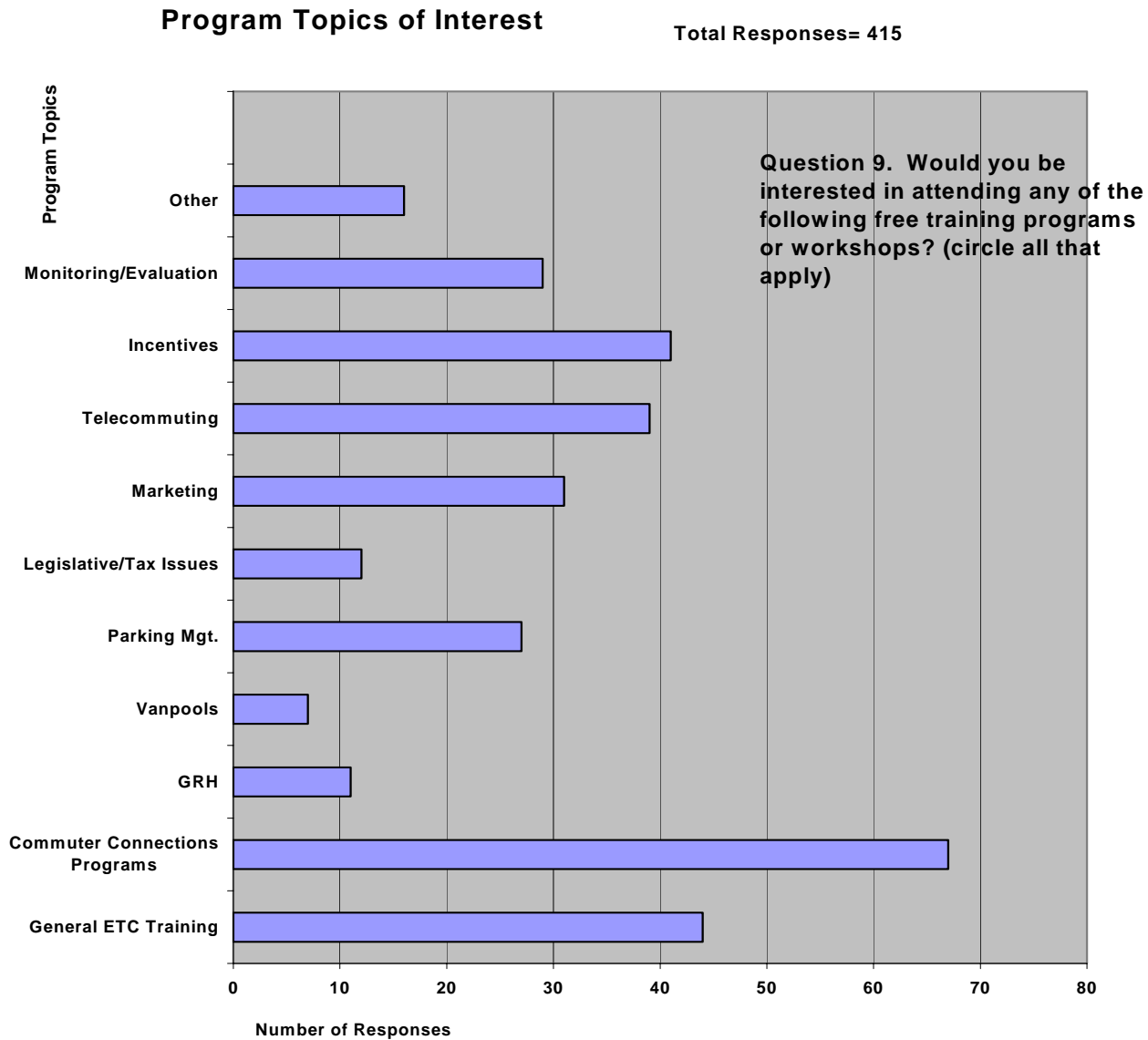
Table 1. Employer Commute Survey Use

QUESTIONS	Possible Responses	# of Responses	Percent of Total
Have you used the Commuter Connections employee Commute Survey or another commute survey during the past year?	YES (answers 8A)	12	15 percent
	NO	44	55 percent
	NOT SURE	24	30 percent
	TOTAL RESPONSES	80	
Q8A. Did your representative give you a copy of the statistical summary of your employee Commute Survey?	YES (answers 8B)	45	75 percent
	NO	10	17 percent
	NOT SURE	5	8 percent
	TOTAL RESPONSES	60	
Q8B. Did Your Representative use your statistics to create an employee commute program or to promote ridesharing in general?	YES	17	53 percent
	NO	4	12 percent
	NOT SURE	11	35 percent
	TOTAL RESPONSES	32	

These results suggest that a fair amount of employers were not being surveyed during FY2006 (or they are unaware of their most recent completed survey), or they are uninterested in conducting a survey. *There were no responses for Question 8C.

Question 9.

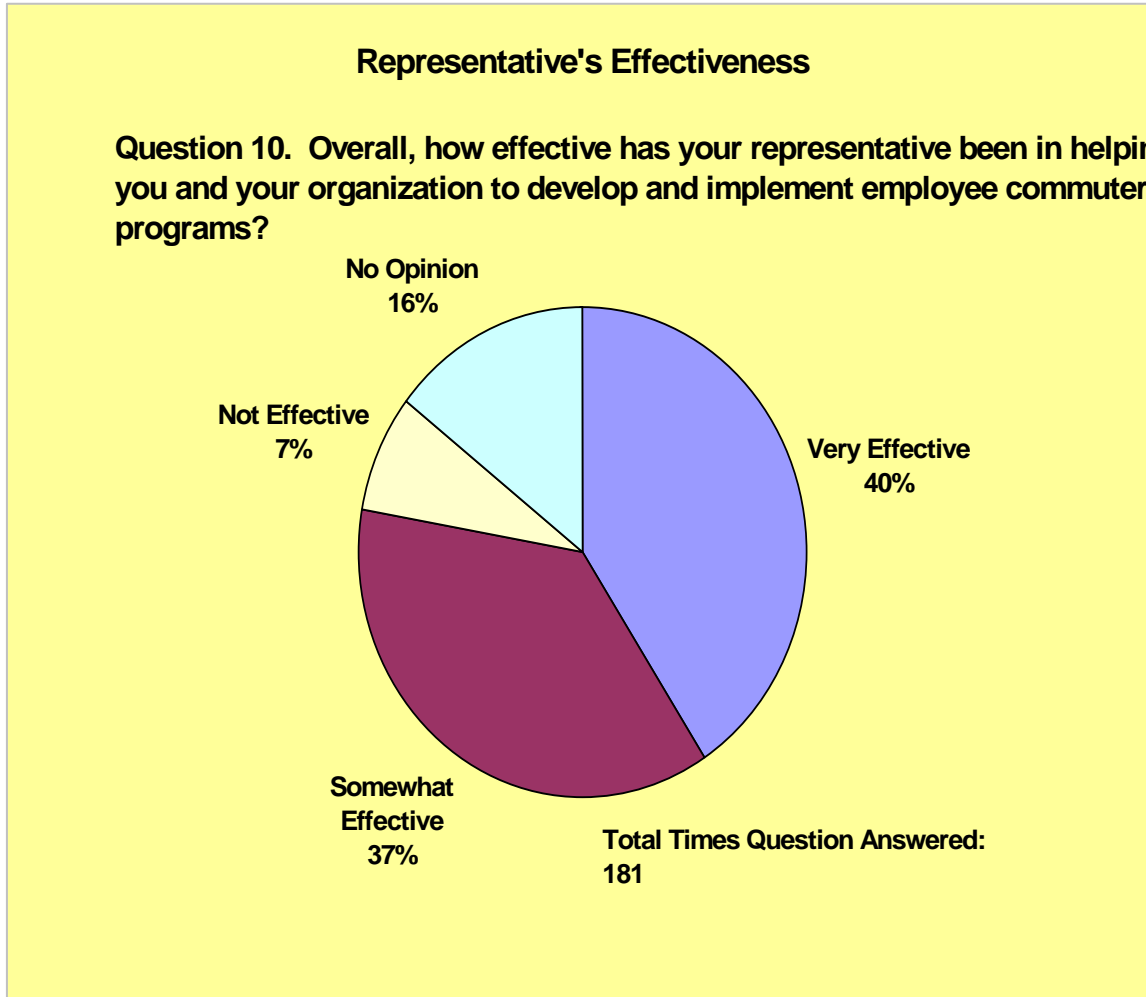
The next question reveals a great deal about what type of informational seminars employers need to help them better assist their employees.



As the graph shows, the three most popular topic areas indicated were Commuter Connections programs, General ETC Training, and incentives. This is slightly different from previous years' responses where GRH would receive the most or the second most responses.

Question 10.

Like the responsiveness and satisfaction measures, this question provides an overall indicator, effectiveness. As the graph illustrates, the responses to this question are unequally distributed between the categories.



As the pie chart illustrates, the largest group of respondents (40 percent) reported that the representatives were *very effective*. Thirty seven percent indicated that their representative(s) is *somewhat effective*. Seven percent said that their representative was *not effective*. The combination of the first two groups demonstrates that the majority of respondents (77 percent) find that the efforts of their outreach representative are effective in helping them implement commute programs at their worksites. Sixteen percent of the respondents indicated that they had *no opinion* about their representatives' effectiveness. Though this represents a drop in negative impressions from years prior, the numbers do represent potential challenges for the outreach representatives to translate their efforts to effective programs. Overall, this is a significant improvement in the measurement of the outreach effort's effectiveness.

Question 11.

Do you have any suggestions for improving Commuter Connections' effectiveness in promoting commuter programs and in assisting organizations such as yours in developing commuter programs?

I think the development of "New Town Alexandria" will essentially gridlock the Eisenhower – Telegraph – Van Dorn corridors. No connection to Duke from Van Dorn to Telegraph. There is essentially a stop light on each corner of Duke and Eisenhower. See no relief for those who must drive and work in New and Old Town Alexandria.

I am new so I would like to meet a rep.

Increase Metrochek subsidies and have employers offer incentives.

More bus routes in Prince George's County.

Make Ride-On free countywide.

Question 12.

Please write in any additional comments you have about Commuter Connections Products, services, or your representative.

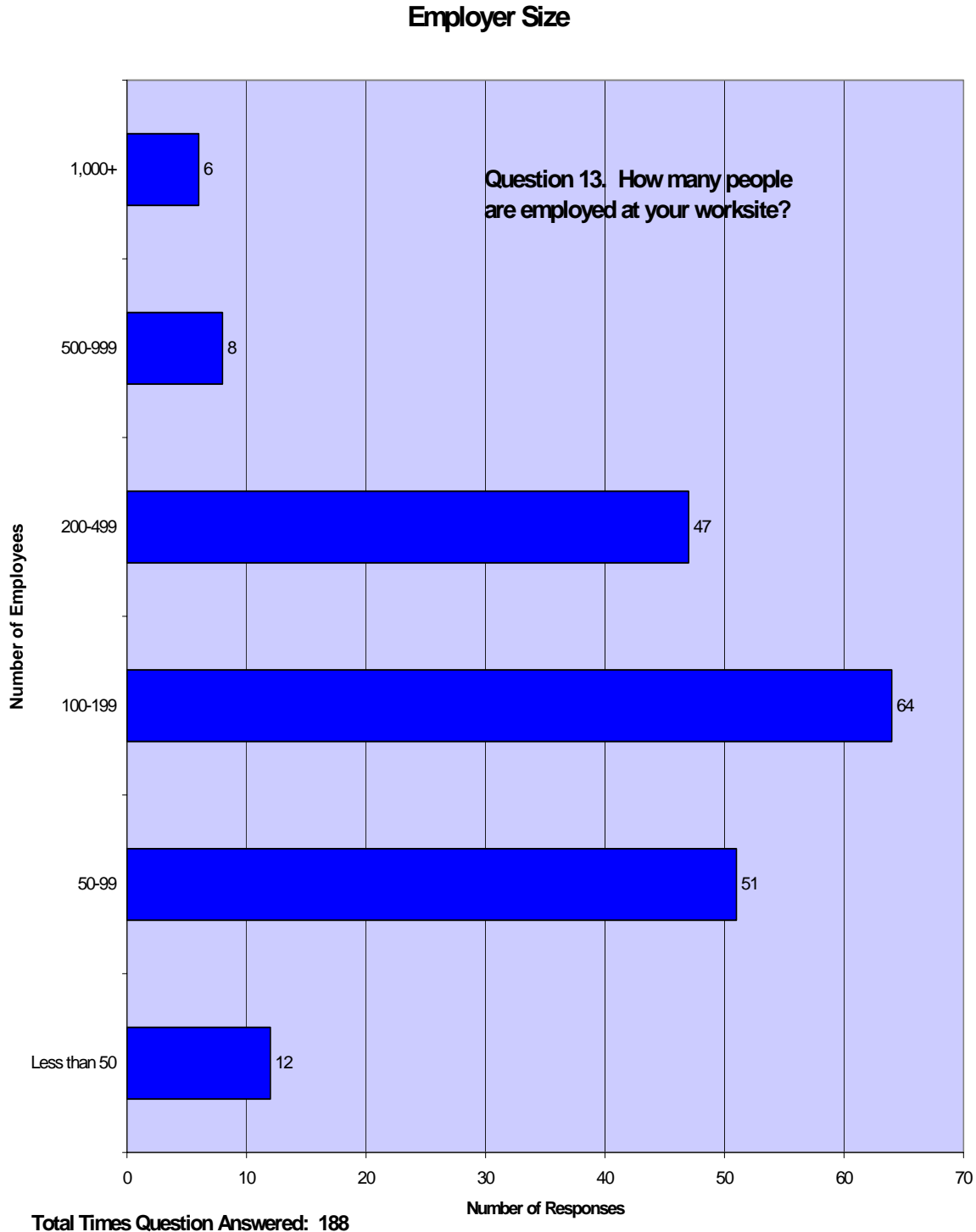
We are a small organization.

Thank you for the information.

We are very satisfied with the efforts of the Bethesda group. They have been great in being a part of employee fairs and information for carpooling.

Questions 13 & 14.

Respondents represented a wide range of employers. The majority of industries represented included: consulting, health services, non-profit organizations, financial services, legal services, and computer services. The respondents are also employed by organizations of various sizes. See the bar graph below:



Employer Size by Jurisdiction

1000 or more employees

Arlington	1
Fairfax	2
Montgomery	2
Prince Georges	1

500 to 999 employees

Arlington	1
DC	2
Fairfax	2
Loudoun	2
Montgomery	2

200 to 499 employees

Alexandria	1
Arlington	6
DC	12
Fairfax	2
Frederick	5
Loudoun	5
Montgomery	11
Prince George's	2
Prince William	2
Tri-County	2

100 to 199 employees

Alexandria	5
Arlington	12
DC	9
Fairfax	7
Frederick	2
Loudoun	3
Montgomery	14
Prince George's	4
Prince William	1
Tri-County	2

50 to 99 employees

Alexandria	2
Arlington	1
DC	4
Fairfax	3
Montgomery	33
Prince George's	4

Less than 50 employees

Alexandria	1
Arlington	4
Fairfax	3
Montgomery	10

CONCLUSIONS

With 11 percent of the surveyed employers responding this year, the Satisfaction Survey gives us some generalizations for use. The distribution of the responses among the jurisdictions lends credence of applying this information to the overall employer outreach effort.

It should be emphasized here that employers were not randomly selected from the universe of employers from the regional database. Employers were selected based on the fact that they have interacted with the local sales jurisdictions, which are indicated, by a level of service (1 through 4). This survey's purpose is to measure the satisfaction of employers that have encountered Commuter Connections Employer Services products. The information demonstrates employer reaction to Commuter Connections' products, services and outreach efforts. The news is encouraging for the most part, with some notes of dissatisfaction and unawareness of the programs offered.

The majority of employers found that the posters were extremely helpful, bolstered no doubt by the Bike Work Day materials just one month prior to the survey. The survey responses show that employers are mostly satisfied with their outreach representative's willingness to help, enthusiasm with which outreach representatives approach them, and the overall quality of the service provided. A fair number of the respondents had no opinion of their Employer Service representative's efforts. This possibly suggests that not enough contact between the employer and outreach representative is going on during the course of the year, or that employers do not wish to be contacted beyond mailings and the like. The survey does show that the responding employers are also interested in seminars focused on commuting incentives, general Commuter Connection's programs and general employee transportation coordinator training/networking.

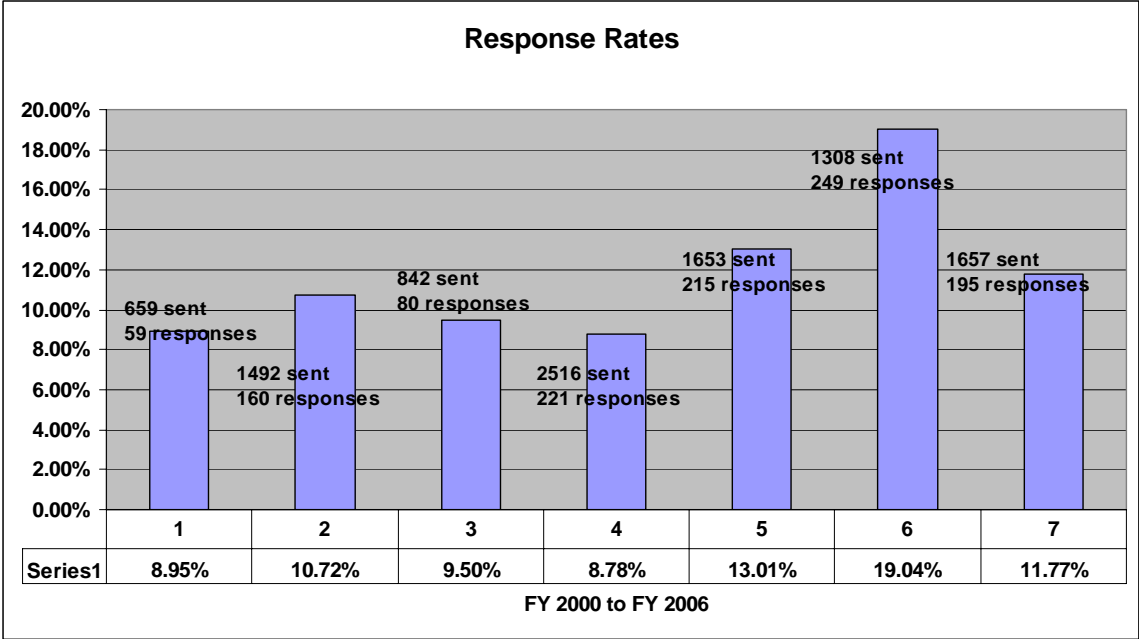
The results also demonstrate some areas for improvement. Thirteen percent of the respondents indicated that they are not directly involved with assisting employees with their daily commutes—which is the same as last year, but still represents a double digit percentage of non-involvement. Further study may reveal why some survey respondents are not involved in assisting their employees with their commutes.

A fair amount of respondents selected the *no opinion* in rating the representative's effectiveness, which possibly suggests a lack of contact with employer representatives. The responses measuring the effectiveness of the Employer Outreach representatives show us that there has been continued improvement over the past three years. Forty percent of respondents selected the highest level of effectiveness and another 37 percent indicated that their representative was *somewhat effective*. The 23 percent that expressed no opinion or indicated that their representative was not effective represent a diminishing number of those either unaware of who their representative is or whether they've ever been in contact with them from the previous year's survey (25 percent).

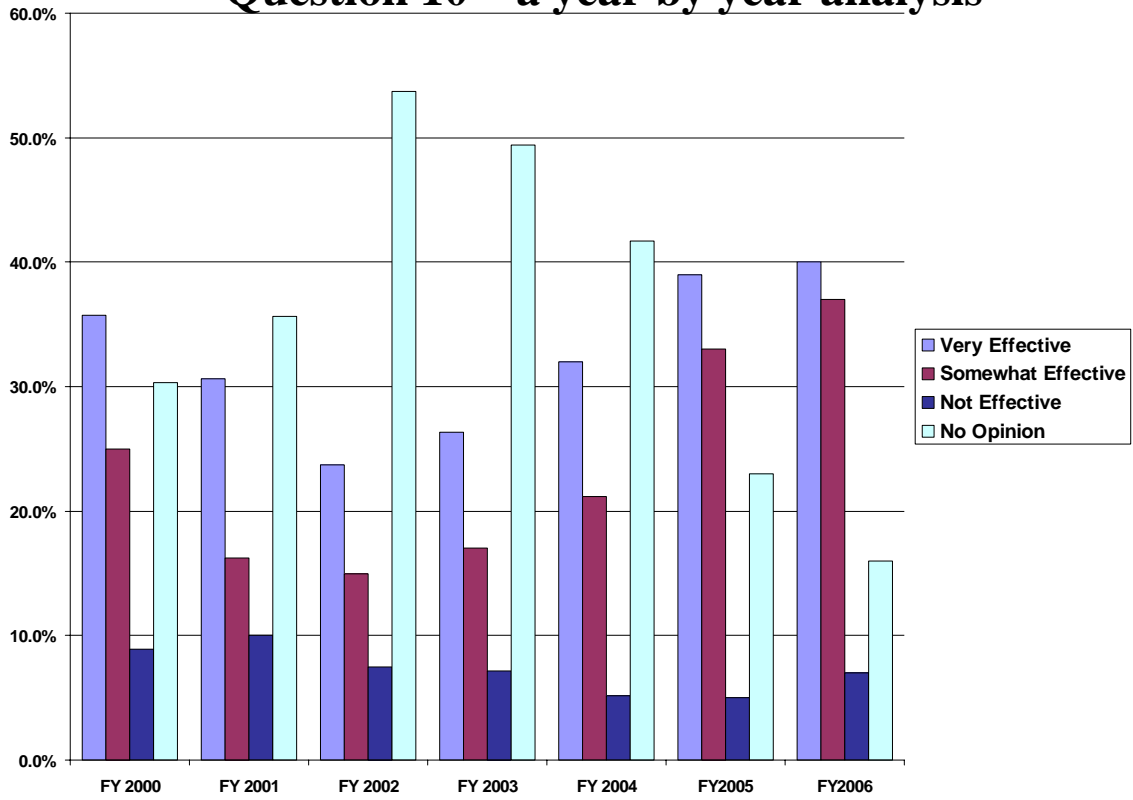
Overall, the results provide a very favorable view of the employer outreach effort as have previous surveys. The main indicators of responsiveness, satisfaction and effectiveness all reveal encouraging trends, but also show room for improvement. In each of these sets of measures, more respondents chose the highest level of satisfaction in rating the employer services program and/or their representative. The Employer Outreach Sales Representatives should view this synopsis as encouraging and the means to build upon the program's continuing success.

Addendum

Year by Year Comparisons



Question 10 – a year by year analysis



Appendixes

Employer Services Employer Satisfaction Survey

This survey is being conducted to find out about the use of and satisfaction with the products and services provided by Commuter Connections, and its member organizations, to help employers implement employee transportation programs.

Your response to this survey is very important to us! All information you provide will be confidential.

Please return your completed survey and gift request form by July 28th, 2006 to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, c/o Commuter Connections, or, fax your completed survey to **202-962-3218**.

1. How long have you been involved with helping your company's employees with their daily commutes? *(Please circle one response)*
 - a. Less than 6 months
 - b. 6 months to 1-year
 - c. More than one-year
 - d. 2 to 3 years
 - e. More than 3 years
 - f. I am not involved

2. Do you know a person or organization that can assist you in developing and implementing a commuter transportation program for your employees?
(Please circle one response)
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

3. How often were you contacted by a representative who can assist you in developing and implementing a commuter transportation program, during the past 12 months?
(Please circle one response)
 - a. Once or twice
 - b. Three to five times
 - c. Six to ten times
 - d. More than ten times
 - e. Have never been contacted
 - f. Not sure

4. How often were you contacted by your representative in person?
(Please circle one response)
 - a. Once or twice
 - b. Three to five times
 - c. Six to ten times
 - d. More than ten times
 - e. Have never been contacted
 - f. Not sure

5. How responsive is your representative to your questions, requests for information and assistance? *(Please circle one response)*
 - a. Very responsive
 - b. Somewhat responsive
 - c. Not at all responsive
 - d. I have never asked for information or assistance

6. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following services provided by your representative: *(circle the number under each response)*

	Very Satisfied	Overall Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not Satisfied
A. Explanation of Commuter Connections and/or local Ridesharing products	1	2	3	4
B. Knowledge of local traffic mitigation/air quality programs	1	2	3	4
C. Providing information on traffic congestion strategies	1	2	3	4
D. Willingness to help	1	2	3	4
E. Enthusiasm about Commuter Connections or local ridesharing products, services and programs	1	2	3	4
F. Overall quality of services provided by your Employer Services program	1	2	3	4

7. How helpful are each of the following materials offered by Commuter Connections and/or your local ridesharing program?

(circle the number under the most appropriate response)

	Very Helpful	Somewhat Helpful	Not at all Helpful	Didn't know Available	No Opinion
A. Informational brochures and fact sheets	1	2	3	4	5
B. Plotted carpool matching maps	1	2	3	4	5
C. Posters	1	2	3	4	5
D. Web-Site	1	2	3	4	5

8. Have you used the Commuter Connections employee Commute Survey or another commute survey during the past year? *(please circle one response)*

- a. Yes (go to question 8a) b. No (skip to question 9) c. Not sure (skip to question 9)

8a. Did your representative give you a copy of the statistical summary of your employee Commute Survey? *(please circle one response)*

- a. Yes (go to question 8b and 8c) b. No (skip to question 9) c. Not sure (skip to question 9)

8b. Did your representative use your statistics to create an employee commute program or to promote ridesharing in general? *(please circle one response)*

- a. Yes b. No c. Not sure

8c. Please write in any additional comments you have about the statistics.

9. Would you be interested in attending any of the following free training programs or workshops? *(circle all that apply)*

- a. General employee transportation benefits coordinator-training b. Briefing on Commuter Connections services and programs

Topic-specific workshops:

- c. Guaranteed Ride Home program f. Legislation/tax issues i. Transit incentives
d. Vanpool formation g. Marketing j. Monitoring and evaluation
e. Parking management h. Telecommuting k. Other (please specify) _____

10. Overall, how effective has your representative been in helping you and your organization to develop and implement employee commuter programs?
(please circle one response)

- a. Very effective c. Not at all effective
b. Somewhat effective d. No opinion

11. Do you have any suggestions for improving Commuter Connections' effectiveness in promoting commuter programs and in assisting organizations such as yours in developing commuter programs?

12. Please write in any additional comments you have about Commuter Connections products, services, or your representative.

13. How many people are employed at your worksite? *(please circle one response)*

- a. Less than 50 c. 100 to 199 e. 500 to 999
b. 50 to 99 d. 200 to 499 f. 1,000 or more

14. Which of the following best describes the kind of work conducted at your worksite?
(please circle one response)

- a. Biotechnology e. Government i. Research and development
b. Commuter hardware/software f. Health Services j. Restaurant or Hotel
c. Educational Services g. Manufacturing k. Wholesale trade
d. Finance, insurance, or real estate h. Retail trade l. Other (please specify) _____

15. What is the zip code of your worksite? _____

OPTIONAL— Gift Request Form

We would like to thank you for participating in this survey. Please complete the items below and return with your completed survey and we will send you a **free GIFT**.

Your Name: _____

Title: _____

Employer Name: _____

Employer Address: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Again, thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please **FAX** to MWCOG, Commuter Connections at **202-962-3218** by **July 29, 2005**.

or mail:

MWCOG
Commuter Connections
ATTN: Satisfaction Survey Coordinator
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002



June 26, 2006

Dear Employer:

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is conducting a survey of employers to find out about the use of and satisfaction with the products and services provided by Commuter Connections, and its member organizations, to help employers implement employee transportation programs.

Member Organization Serving You: Arlington Transportation Partners
Your Employer Services Representative(s): Katie Sihler, Christina Gordon, and Kate Konrad

Your response to this survey is very important to us! All information you provide will be confidential.

The information you provide will be used to help us better understand your employee transportation needs and improve the products and services provided to employers by Commuter Connections and its member organizations.

Please take a few minutes of your time to complete and return the enclosed questionnaire by July 28, 2006. RETURN BY FAX OR MAIL:

Fax#: 202-962-3218
Mail: MWCOG
Commuter Connections
ATTN: Satisfaction Survey Coordinator
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Those responding by July 28 will RECEIVE A FREE GIFT compliments of Commuter Connections.

If you have any questions, please call Mark Hersey at 202-962-3383.

Thank you for your cooperation,

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS