

**Commuter Connections Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

Chairperson: Gabriel Ortiz, City of Alexandria
Vice Chairperson: Lorraine Taylor, (WMATA) Washington D.C.
Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos (202) 962-3313

Item #1 Introductions

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

Gabriel Ortiz, called the meeting to order by introducing himself and asking the rest of the attendees to do so.

Item #2 March 15, 2011

Approval was sought for the March 15, 2011 Commuter Connections Meeting Minutes.

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

Item #3 2010 Bike to Work Day Event Draft Survey Report

Nicholas Ramfos of COG/TPB Staff briefed the Subcommittee on substantive changes made to the 2010 draft BTWD event report.

Mr. Ramfos briefed the Subcommittee on the 2010 Bike To Work Day event draft report. The draft report was distributed at the March 15th Subcommittee meeting and a comment period was established for April 5th. There were some changes made to the report based on review. There were some language changes in the highlights and survey data collected sections. On figure one there were some changes made to the language in the chart. On pages 7, 8 and 11 the percentages were changed. There was a motion to release the 2010 BTWD event report and the motion was approved. Mr. Ramfos stated that results would be used in the TERM Analysis. The final report will be posted to the publications page on the Commuter Connections web site where Subcommittee members will have the opportunity to download the report.

Item #4 Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) TDM Initiatives Briefing

Peggy Tadej of Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Jean Friedberg of the Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee briefed the Subcommittee on TDM initiatives.

Ms. Tadej briefed the committee on the regional solutions needed to meet challenges and new BRAC facilities. For every BRAC facility being built there will only be sixty percent parking capacity available. I-95/395 is an important and unique corridor because it serves current and future military bases. Along with the Pentagon, I/95/395 serves five BRAC locations: Ft. Myer/Henderson Hall, Mark Center, Fort Belvoir, Engineering Proving Grounds/Belvoir North, and Marine Corp Base Quantico, combined they employ 84,000 people. The funding needed for the realignment for the Marine Base at Quantico is \$26 million and the Fort Belvoir/Mark Center is \$366 million. The Transit Capacity for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) Study, indicates that there will be a need for 100,000 additional annual vehicle revenue hours, and there are bus bay capacity issues at five Metro stations, there will also be a need for 47 new buses (\$26 million) at an annual operating cost of \$9 million.

Mr. Friedberg briefed the Subcommittee on the MD BRAC TDM Initiatives. The Fort Meade Regional Growth Management Committee consists of eight counties and two cities. The Fort Meade mission is intertwined with and dependent on support from the public and private sectors. Fort Meade agencies employ 48,000 of which 85% are permanent civilian employees. The current growth phase will be adding 40,000 plus jobs by 2015-2020. Fort Meade's projected related job growth is estimated to accrue 41,520 jobs between 2015-2020. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) proposed objective and principles for Fort Meade is to use a combination of structures and methods in order to restrain future FGGM SOV volume to sustainable level.

Item #5 Virginia Telework Tax Credit

Ms. Jennifer Alcott, CDRPT briefed the Subcommittee on Virginia's new Telework Tax Credit for employers.

Ms. Alcott briefed the Subcommittee on Virginia's new Telework Tax Credit for employers. The employees that companies count for the tax credit must be new teleworkers and must have started teleworking on or after July 1, 2012 but before January 1, 2014. Each company is eligible for up to \$50,000 for total tax credit for tax years 2012 and 2013. There is a cap of one million total tax credits per year statewide. If requests through the application process exceed one million dollars, pro-rating will occur. DRPT will be providing assistance to the Dept. of Taxation. The estimated annual VMT reduction is over 30 million miles.

Item #6 2011 Bike to Work Day Event

Douglas Franklin of COG/TPB Staff briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the BTWD Event.

Mr. Franklin, COG TPB staff briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the regional Bike To Work Day Event slated for May 20th, which will cap off National BTWD week. Mr. Franklin distributed rack cards and posters to the committee. This year there are 49 pit stops and in the previous year there were 35. In 2010 there were 9,200 event registrants. In 2011 the committee approved a goal of 10 percent above last year, which will bring over the goal to over 10,000 event participants for the first time. An example of the BTWD T-Shirt was displayed and a BTWD commercial was played.

Item #7 Clean Air Partners Update

Lorraine Taylor of WMATA briefed the Subcommittee on upcoming Clean Air Partners activities.

Ms. Taylor briefed the committee on the upcoming Clean Air Partners Activities. The annual board meeting was scheduled for May 18th at the National's Ball Park. A budget of \$75,000 will be used for the upcoming Clean Air Partners promotional campaign. About sixty thousand of the budget will be used for bus and radio ads. Another \$15,000 will be used for online ads. The partners that will be participating in the campaign includes WMATA, Prince George's County, TransIT services of Fredrick County, City of Fairfax, Commuter Connections & Howard Transit. Clean Air Partners has retired the previous brochures and will be implementing new ones. Ms. Taylor will share the new brochures at the next Subcommittee meeting in July as well as the radio, bus and online ads for the campaign.

Item #8 Car Free Day Event Update

Douglas Franklin COG/TPB Staff briefed the Subcommittee on the regions's Car Free Day Event.

Mr. Franklin briefed the subcommittee on the upcoming Car Free Day event to be held on Thursday, September 22, 2011. This is the fourth year for this regional event. The goal for this year is 10,000 participants, in 2010 there were about 7,000 participants. COG/TPB staff is currently in the process of updating the event web site, by resetting the pledge counter and updating the event pledge form, The web site will be ready by mid June. The next CFD steering committee is scheduled for July 13th.

Item #9 3rd Quarter Budget Report

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/DTP staff, distributed and discussed the 3rd Quarter Budget Report.

A copy of the third quarter Commuter Connections budget report for FY11 and the Quarterly Work Program Progress Report was distributed to the Subcommittee. Mr. Ramfos reviewed the report and went over the Commitments and Expenditures for FY 11 (July 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011) and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Item #10 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, July 19, 2011 at 12 noon.