

**MEETING NOTES
BIKE TO WORK DAY STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, September 5, 2007
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Meeting Room 3, First Floor**

1. Introductions

2. Change of Chairperson

Eric Gilliland from the Washington Area Bicyclist Association was appointed Chairperson for the 2008 Bike to Work Day Steering Committee meeting. Although not present to accept, the outgoing 2007 Chairperson Mimi Murray was presented with a plaque to recognize her service. The plaque will be mailed to Ms. Murray.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2007 Meeting

The minutes were approved as written.

4. 2007 BTWD Slideshow

A slideshow was presented of photos from the 2007 event. Contributions were provided by the following pit stops:

Alexandria	Bethesda	Bowie	College Park
Crystal City	Frederick	Leesburg	NIH
North Bethesda	Rosslyn	Reston	Silver Spring
Sterling	Washington		

5. 2007 Event Recaps from Pit Stop Managers

Pit stop managers gave brief updates on activities surrounding their May 2007 Bike to Work Day events.

Part of the discussion centered on the need for pit stop managers to be more consistent when supervising T-Shirt distribution. After learning that not all pit stops track t-shirt distribution against the list of registrants, it was agreed upon that it become a policy that all pit stops handle the process in the same manner starting with the 2008 event. This will

ensure that T-shirts are first and foremost provided to those who register on the web site in advance and who attend the event.

6. 2007 Employer Challenge

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) once again won the award for the regional employer with the highest Bike to Work Day participation. A reported three hundred seventy bicyclists stopped by the three NIH Pit Stops (Building One, Rockledge and Executive Boulevard). Representatives from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Commuter Connections program and the Washington Area Bicycling Association were on hand to present the award in Bethesda on June 25, 2007. NIH Bike Club president and pit stop manager, Angela Atwood-Moore accepted the award on behalf of NIH. She noted that NIH Bicycle Commuter Club volunteers stepped up for the 2007 event to take on many important tasks, and to promote bicycling to work as a healthy and environmentally-sustainable alternative to drive-alone commuting. In addition to the plaque, Commuter Connections provided a lunch catered by Lido's for all NIH Bike to Work Day participants.

7. 2007 BTWD Draft Report – Mark Hersey

Mark Hersey from COG presented the 2007 Bike to Work Day draft report. Mr. Hersey asked that concise summaries be provided by each pit stop manager and noted that edits are due back by October 12, 2007.

8. Other Business

Nicholas Ramfos of COG distributed an email sent by Montgomery County Executive, Ike Leggett in response to an inquiry by a representative of "Ride to Work Day". Both Commuter Connections and WABA were copied on the Leggett email. Ride to Work Day promotes motorcycle and scooter riding as a way to reduce congestion and fuel consumption. The Leggett email suggested the possibility of incorporating Ride to Work Day into the Bike to Work Day event. Steering committee members who provided verbal comment at the meeting were not in favor of combining the events. Mr. Ramfos asked the steering committee to provide any written comments either in favor or against the concept by September 14, 2007 and that an official response would be sent to the Ride to Work Day representative by Eric Gilliland, and COG and Ike Leggett's office would be copied.

Eric Gilliland discussed the DC CarFree Day event scheduled for September 18, 2007. This is being celebrated locally as part of the world

wide car free day event on September 22nd. CarFree DC aims to raise awareness of alternatives to car dependence, such as but not limited to bicycling. Other socially and environmentally responsible alternatives to cars may include walking and public transit. Mr. Gilliland suggested that the Bike to Work Day Steering Committee get involved in some way in support of this endeavor for 2008.

Danielle Milo from Bethesda Transportation Solutions mentioned the Foundation Center as a possible source for obtaining grants for the BTWD event. The Foundation Center specializes in connecting nonprofits and grant makers.

Eric Gilliland of WABA mentioned that he would like to share highlights of bicycling to work data from the U.S. Census Bureau report at a future BTWD Steering Committee meeting.