



Promoting Commuter Programs at the Maryland Department of Transportation & Beyond

Commuter Choice Maryland



Where We Started: Spring 2023

Enter search term

Home Business Careers Programs About MDOT Quick Links MBE

MDOT MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MDOT Careers Home

MDOT Benefits

Free Transit Services

Permanent MDOT employees may ride all Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) services for free. This includes:

- Baltimore Bus, Light Rail, and Metro Subway;
- Commuter Bus; and
- MARC (new benefit as of July 1!).

These options are available at **no cost** any time of the day or evening, including weekends. A **valid MDOT State ID is required**, which shows "MTA," "MDOT," "MDTA," or "MDOT/MVA" printed over the Maryland flag background.

Additional Free Commuter Programs:

- Register for the free **Guaranteed Ride Home** program if your commute ends in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area.
- Find commuting options and earn rewards when you log your commute with the **incentrip** app.
- Register for the free **ridematching** program to find potential carpool and vanpool options:
www.commuterconnections.org/ridesharing

SharePoint Search in SharePoint

MDOT MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MDOT HUB MDOT MAA MDTA MDOT MPA MDOT MTA MDOT MVA MDOT SHA MDOT TSO

My Apps Portal

Meet the Secretary

Need to Reset your Password?

MDOT Modal Sites

- MDOT MAA
- MDTA

WORKING AT MDOT HAS BENEFITS

FLEXTIME AND TELEWORK

Many MDOT agencies offer their employees flexible work schedules. There is a Teleworking Program in which eligible employees and their supervisors have an arrangement where the employees may work at home, at a satellite office, or at a Telework Center on selected work days.

Start your job search at governmentjobs.com/careers/mdotmd or call 410-865-1073.

Our Aspirations

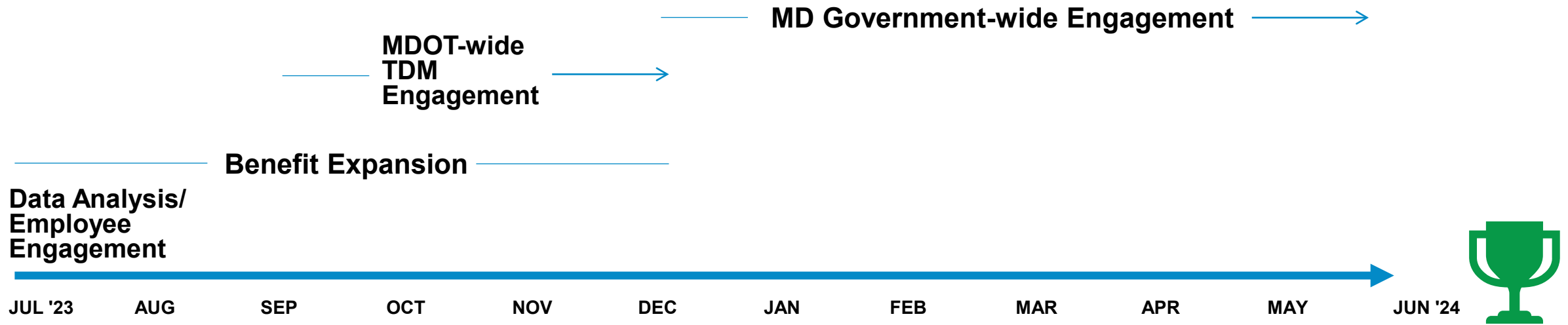
- **MDOT leads by example in building a robust commuter benefits program that:**
 - helps recruit and retain talent.
 - **serves as a model to help other State agencies and external employers build and expand programs.**
 - helps achieve the Moore-Miller Administration's goals related to greenhouse gas emissions, public transportation access, and air quality.

Recommended short-term actions:

- Expedite completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) Project and secure a record of decision.
- Accelerate the completion of the Purple Line, and work to ensure schedules and ticketing are integrated into Washington Metro and MARC trains.
- Establish a funding program to accelerate Bus Rapid Transit planning, design, and construction, including expansion of Montgomery County's FLASH.
- Reinvigorate the Maryland Commuter Choice program by increasing incentives and planning support for the state's employers.





Expanding Commuter Benefits: The Vision




Making Our Progress: Summer 2023

Free Transit for Permanent MDOT Employees As of July 1!

 Secretary MDOT
 To

 You forwarded this message on 7/14/2023 1:42 PM.



A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY PAUL J. WIEDEFELD

Good morning, Team MDOT:

Thanks to the thousands of hard working and dedicated team members at the Maryland Transit Administration, our state provides one of the most safe, convenient, efficient and reliable transit systems in the nation.

MTA's Bus, Light Rail, Metro Subway, Commuter Bus and MARC offer fantastic options to meet our daily mobility needs, while also reducing emissions, fighting climate change and providing a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable future for generations to come. Transit also provides a lower-stress daily commute, a cost savings with leaving the car at home, and an opportunity to use the transportation system that you help operate and support.

As a permanent MDOT employee, you may ride all MTA services for free as of July 1. This includes:

- Baltimore Bus, Light Rail, and Metro Subway;
- Commuter Bus; and
- MARC (new benefit as of July 1).



Free Transit? Let's Go!

All permanent MDOT employees have access to these MTA services:

- BaltimoreLink Bus, Light Rail, and Metro Subway
- MTA Commuter Bus
- MARC (new as of July 1)


Free fares! Even on weekends!

Enjoy a stress-free commute!


Valid MDOT State Employee ID required showing "MTA," "MDOT," "MDTA," or "MDOT/MVA" printed over the MD flag background.

Learn more about these and other commuter incentives.




 Stacey King • You
 Helping people and organizations win the commute!
 11mo • Edited •

TDM confession: today is the first day I took the train to work instead of driving alone since starting my new role last October. Why? Because my employer's transit benefits, which are good, were just expanded ...see more



Making Our Progress: Summer 2023

Take Employee Commute Survey by August 18

Secretary MDOT

A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY PAUL J. WIEDEFELD

Good afternoon, Team MDOT:

We aim for the Maryland Department of Transportation to be a leading employer in the state. A key element supporting your commute. I am reaching out today asking you to take a few minutes to complete an [Employee Commute Survey](#) to better understand our employees' commutes and how we can meet your needs.

This survey will help us understand what influences your commute choices and where opportunities are available to help you commute. This will set a great example for other Maryland employers as we ask them to help their employees commute to work in more affordable and efficient ways. The survey is **anonymous** and takes approximately 10 - 12 minutes to complete. **Please complete the survey no later than August 18.** If you would like to be contacted, please contact commuterchoicemaryland@mdot.maryland.gov

And don't forget that MDOT employees have access to a range of commute incentives and programs, and **you may use all Maryland Transit Administration services for FREE -- including the MARC train as of July 1!** Using driving together in carpools and vanpools, biking, and walking are all important commute options that help reduce traffic and emissions.

CommuterChoice Maryland

2023 MDOT Employee Commuter Survey

Help us understand your commute needs and preferences! This questionnaire will take about 10-12 minutes. Your responses are completely anonymous.

* 1. Which MDOT Modal Agency do you work for?

Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA)

Summary of the 2023 MDOT Employee Commuter Survey

1,934 Total Responses Average One-Way Commute: **24 miles | 38 minutes**

How We Commute...

- 71% Drive Alone
- 0.4% Ride Hail
- 3% Transit & Paratransit
- 1.4% Carpool & Vanpool
- 0.9% Bike & Walk
- 22% Telework & CWW

Commuter Satisfaction

- 41.9% Satisfied
- 27.6% Neutral
- 30.5% Dissatisfied

Most Influential Factors

- Commuter Time
- Traffic on Roads
- Commuter Cost

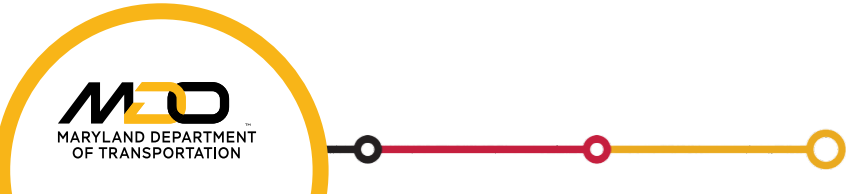
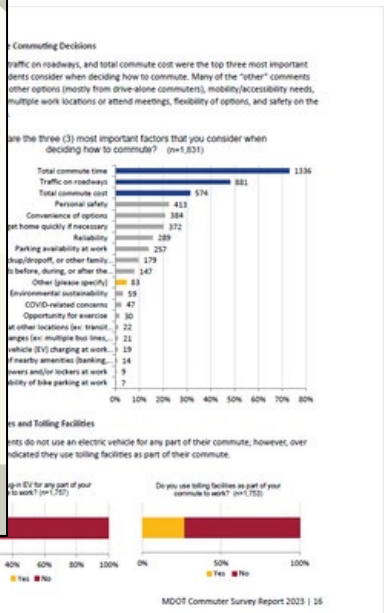
Interest in Commute Options

- Compressed Work Week
- Telework
- Car/Van Pool
- Transit
- Bike
- Walk

Program Awareness

- Highest: Free MTA services
- Lowest: Live Near Your Work


Thank you for taking the survey! Have questions about your commute? Contact us! commuterchoice@mdot.maryland.gov | 410-865-1100



Making Our Progress: Summer/Fall 2023

Human Resources presentations

MDOT HR Group Power Hour | August 15, 2023
Commuter Choice Maryland | sking@mdot.maryland.gov



Why are we here? Some background:

- MDOT leadership has approved a plan for MDOT to lead by example in building a robust commuter benefits program that helps recruit and retain talent, serves as a model for other state agencies and external employers, and helps achieve the Moore-Miller Administration's goals related to greenhouse gas emissions, public transportation access, and air quality.
- Commuter Choice Maryland is a statewide program that helps employees identify their best commuting options, helps employers establish impactful commuter benefits programs, and administer statewide commuting incentives (Commuter Tax Credit, Employer Partner Program, and IncentTrip).

Our major tasks over the next year:

- Develop a baseline understanding of commuting choices and supportive infrastructure
 - o Launched a commuter survey to understand commute option choices, awareness, and willingness to use non-drive alone options (closes August 18).
 - o Collecting data on parking availability, proximity to transit, bike/walk infrastructure, etc.
- Explore opportunities to test new ideas and expand our commuter benefits.
 - o Pre-tax vs. subsidies
 - o Transit options not currently covered (Amtrak, WMATA, local systems)
 - o Parking at transit stations
 - o Vanpool discounts and carpool incentives
 - o Active commuter benefits (bike/bikeshare, scooters, walk/run)
- Engage with MDOT employees to promote commuting options and incentives.
- Evaluate expansion of commuter benefits to other state agencies.

What are commuting-related challenges at your locations?

- Is commuting to work a pain point for your recruitment and/or retention efforts?
- Are your locations in a parking crunch?
- "I would take the train but..." / "I hate driving but..." / "I'd like to carpool but..."
- Share any thoughts and suggestions for improving commuter experiences.

How can Commuter Choice support you?

- Provide information on commuting programs for distribution (digital, paper, or both)
- In-person or virtual support: tabling, participation in wellness/benefits events, vanpool demo, bikeshare intro, carpool matching, transit days, "reintroduction" to commuter benefits, etc.
- Anything is up for consideration!

How can your office support Commuter Choice?

- Share materials, invite us to your events.
- Suggest and pilot new initiatives; help us work through any challenges.
- Join or volunteer colleagues for our internal quarterly Commuter Choice Maryland workgroup.

MDOT HR Power Hour | 1



GET TO BWI

FAST Trains every 10-20 minutes

EASY 1-seat ride from Baltimore

FREE! Just show your MDOT badge for Permanent State Employees

Could you use MARC train instead? The Penn Line stops at the BWI train station and a free shuttle will take you the rest of the way!

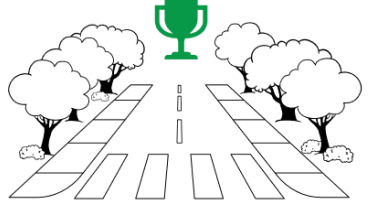





Our short-term plan

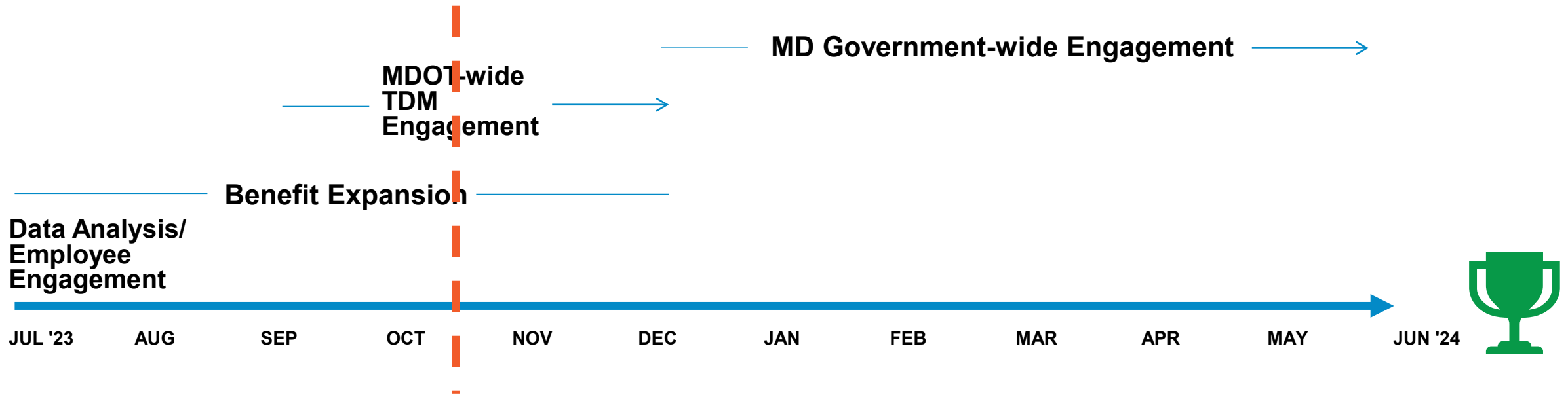
Establishing Maryland as a Leading Employer

Our major tasks over the next year:

- Develop a baseline understanding of commuting choices and related infrastructure at MDOT.
- Explore opportunities to test new ideas and expand upon commuter benefits.
- Engage with MDOT employees to promote commuting options and incentives.
- *Support promotion and expansion of commuter benefits to other state agencies.*

Expanding Commuter Benefits: **The Reality**



Making Our Progress: Fall/Winter 2024

Internal and external newsletters

COMMUTER NEWS
Commuter Choice Maryland
MOT MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FALL 2023 EDITION

This issue includes:

- Promoting Employee Commuter Resources
- Employer Partner Spotlight: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Maryland Department of Transportation Employee Commuter Testimonials
- ICYMI: incenTrip Webinar Recording
- Resources

Promoting Employee Commuter Resources

There's never a bad time to promote commuter benefits, but the fall can be a perfect time with children returning to school, employees returning to work, and the start of benefits fair season. As everyone adjusts to their fall schedule, now is the time for your organization to start rethinking your commuter benefits.

Maryland Department of Transportation Employee Commuter Testimonials

Ever wonder how MDOT employees get to work? We're sharing some of our own commuter stories because there is no "one size fits all" approach!

On occasion, I bike into work to maximize my physical exercise time. I eliminate 25 minutes of driving each way and get to enjoy biking through the Patapsco State Park and Old Ellicott City.

When I bike, I have less commuting stress, save an hour of time and get the benefit of being healthier.

-Tyson Byrne, Regional Planning Manager

On average, I am able to carpool two days per week to MDOT from home. With a commute of 55 miles each way, it is nice to share the drive with someone else. It helps to alleviate some of the congestion and stress, especially as traffic builds during the school year, not to mention the benefit of saving on gas costs!

-Michelle Martin, Deputy Director, Office of Planning and Capital Programming

During my three-month rotation with MDOT, I've been taking the MARC train on weekdays from Baltimore Penn Station to get to and from work. My morning trip includes a 10-minute walk to Penn Station, a 25-minute ride to the MARC BWI Airport stop, and then a seven-minute walk from the station to MDOT along the pedestrian bridge. I've enjoyed the convenience of the trains leaving every 30 minutes, and the chance to get some exercise before and after work. Oh, and there's never any traffic!

-Kelley Dolan, Transportation Planner (Rotation)

Virtual Lunch & Learn for MDOT employees 134 attendees

February Lunch & Learn Commuting Programs & Incentives

Existing Commuter Programs – Ridesharing

- Free ridematching platform at www.commuterconnections.org.
- 'Pool Rewards' offers \$130 for new carpools and \$200/month for new vanpools.
- CarpoolNow for real-time ridesharing – free for passengers, \$10 incentive for drivers.

Watch on YouTube

Participants: Stacy K., Arva K., Laura A., Stephen..., Latasha..., Michele..., Jacquelin..., Sarah Ch..., Tonya W., Mary Bar..., Christy F., Indra Jay..., Timothy..., Debra St..., David H., Mark Wall, Priscilla J., +74

Making Progress: Spring 2024

New employee materials

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW COMMUTE
Resources for your trip to work from Commuter Choice Maryland

Free Transit for State Employees **New benefit!**

Permanent state employees may now ride all MTA services for free!

- BaltimoreLink Bus, Metro Subway, Light Rail, MTA Commuter Bus, and MARC train.
- Weekdays and weekend use.
- Show your badge to the operator.

Free commuting programs and paid rewards

Sign up at commuterconnections.org

- Guaranteed Ride Home**: \$ free trip home per year for emergency situations.
- Free Ridesharing**: Find commuters along your route.
- incentrip**: Earn points for commuting that turn into cash with benefits.
- CarpoolNow**: Earn \$10 for sharing your drive to work using CarpoolNow.
- POOL REWARDS**: Get Paid to Drive Together! \$130 for 3 months (carpool) \$200/month (single transport)
- Flextime Rewards**: Earn \$10 for deferring trips in specific high-traffic corridors.

GET IN TOUCH
Have questions about your commute? Contact us!
commuterchoice@mdot.maryland.gov | 410-965-1100

Acceptable Badge Examples

incentrip

FLEXTIME

Commuter Choice Maryland

Intranet page

SharePoint

MDOT HUB Office of Planning and Capital Programming

Employee Commuter Benefits

At MDOT, you can access many free programs and incentives that help you find the best commute to work. Check out the resources below to learn more about transit, finding or starting a carpool or vanpool, biking or walking to work, using telework and alternative work schedules, and more.

Contact the Commuter Choice Maryland team at commuterchoice@mdot.maryland.gov or 410-965-1100 for any questions related to commuting options.

Resources and Links

- Networking Information Center
- Guidance for Teleworkers
- incentrip: Earn cash by choosing a smart commutator. Free Incentrip App
- Mobile city transportation: Park & Ride Map/Details

Free Transit? Let's Go!
All permanent MDOT employees have access to these MTA services:
BaltimoreLink Bus, Light Rail, and Metro Subway
MTA Commuter Bus

Virtual Bike Month Lunch & Learn

MDOT
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Taking you places!

MDOT Lunch and Learn: Bike to Work Week
Wednesday May 8, 2024
Meg Young and Stacey King

A New Reason to Engage with ALL State Employees

Are traffic jams the new normal after Key Bridge collapse?

Daniel Zawodny 4/9/2024 5:45 a.m. EDT



Traffic backs up on northbound Maryland 295 on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, a day after the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse. State officials are urging motorists to allow extra time for rush-hour travel. (Kylie Cooper/The Baltimore Banner)

Key Bridge collapse turns neighborhood roads into highway thoroughfares

Rona Kobell, Royale Bonds and Daniel Zawodny 4/19/2024 5:30 a.m. EDT



Trucks coming back from the way of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which was toppled by a massive container ship on March 26, 2024. The loss of the bridge, a key segment in the Baltimore Beltway, has left drivers looking for other routes around the city or to and from the Port of Baltimore. (Kylie Cooper/The Baltimore Banner)



KEY BRIDGE RECOVERY RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Following the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge (I-695) and the painful loss of six construction crew members who were working on the bridge, our MDOT family, Maryland residents, employees and employers are now experiencing "the new normal" that follows such a tragic event.

First, our continued thoughts are with every

We'd like to remind everyone about options to consider for your commute to TSO even if you only use them occasionally.

- MTA services: the MARC train is now free for permanent MDOT employees in addition to all other MTA services. The BWI Station on the MARC Penn Line offers a direct connection to TSO from Washington, DC, and the greater Baltimore/Harford County areas.
- The Penn Line schedule is available on the MTA website: <https://www.mta.maryland.gov/schedule/marc-penn>
- Need to drive to your closest station? Here are the parking lots and applicable costs: <https://www.mta.maryland.gov/marc-parking-details>
- Show your MDOT badge to the conductor to board the train.
- When you arrive at the BWI Rail Station, go to the second floor of the Southbound Platform and exit the station to the boardwalk. TSO is about a 7-8 minute walk on the boardwalk – there are lights and call boxes along the way.
- You can plan your trip using the MTA Trip Planner (<https://www.mta.maryland.gov/trip-planner>), download the free Transit app (<https://www.mta.maryland.gov/transit>), or contact CommuterChoice@mdot.maryland.gov for commute planning assistance.
- Ridesharing: create a free Commuter Connections account at www.commuterconnections.org to search for and contact commuters who live or work near you that could share the drive.
- Guaranteed Ride Home: don't forget that if you take transit, rideshare, or bike or walk to work, you can use six free rides home per year for emergencies and unscheduled overtime with Guaranteed Ride Home. You just need to register in advance at www.commuterconnections.org.

Site-specific transit guidance



A New Reason to Engage with ALL State Employees

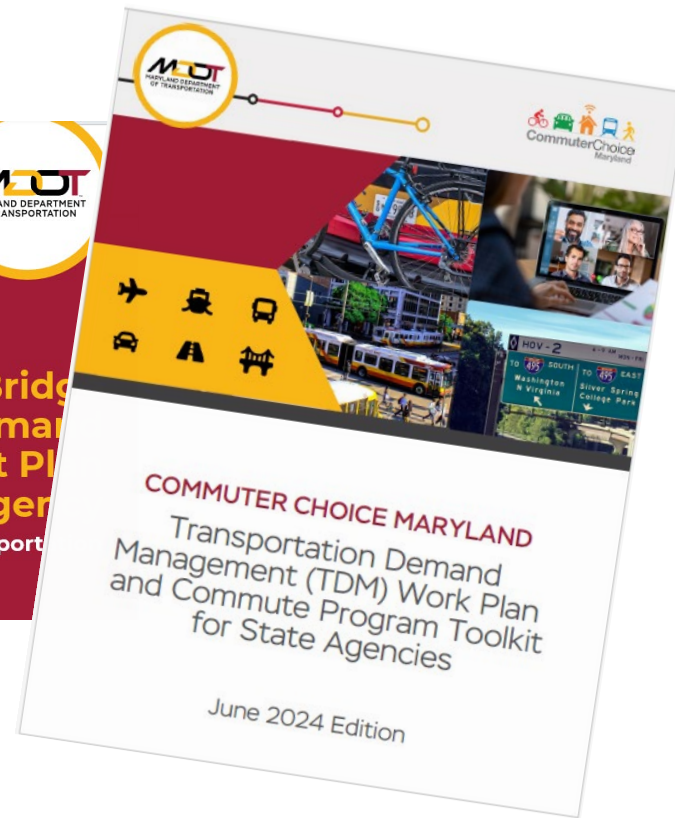


Maryland Department of Transportation

Francis Scott Key Bridge Transportation Demand Management Plan For Your Agency

Maryland Department of Transportation

Icons: Airplane, Bus, Car, Train, Bicycle, Carpooling



Maryland Department of Transportation

COMMUTER CHOICE MARYLAND

Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Work Plan and Commute Program Toolkit for State Agencies

June 2024 Edition

Icons: Airplane, Bus, Car, Train, Bicycle, Carpooling



FREE TRANSIT? LET'S GO!

New commuter benefits for you!

Relax and let us do the driving

- Permanent state employees may ride MTA for free
- BaltimoreLink Bus, Metro Subway, Light Rail, and more all MTA Commuter Benefits (MABC) work every day and weekend
- Weekdays and weekends only
- Show your badge to the operator

Your local transit options

Sign up for these free programs and rewards!

Sign up at commuterconnections.org

GET IN TOUCH: Have questions about your commute? Contact us at commuterchoice@mdot.maryland.gov | 410-865-1100

GUARANTEED RIDE HOME (GRH)

Taking the "what ifs" out of your day.

- Six free rides home from overtime for emergencies
- For commuters in greater Baltimore metropolitan areas
- Take transit, carpool, walk to work at least

Sign up for GRH today. Get all the program details at commuterconnections.org

GET IN TOUCH: Have questions about your commute? Contact us at commuterchoice@mdot.maryland.gov | 410-865-1100

FLEXTIME REWARDS

Earn rewards for avoiding traffic!

FlexTime Rewards pays you for delaying or avoiding commute trips in certain corridors during times of heavy traffic congestion.

Sign up through the IncentTrip app and select a corridor that applies to your commute. If you receive an alert on a heavy traffic day and can delay your trip, you'll earn \$8 when you log your commute in IncentTrip.

Get all the program details and register at commuterconnections.org or call 1-800-745-RIDE.

More free programs!

- Guaranteed Ride Home
- Free Ridebacking

GET IN TOUCH: Have questions about your commute? Contact us at commuterchoice@mdot.maryland.gov | 410-865-1100

Icons: Airplane, Bus, Car, Train, Bicycle, Carpooling



COMMUTE BETTER TOGETHER

Share the ride - and the savings!

Earn up to \$600 in rewards per year. Register for free: www.commuterconnections.org 1-800-745-RIDE

QR code

Icons: Airplane, Bus, Car, Train, Bicycle, Carpooling



CASH IN ON YOUR COMMUTE!

incentTrip

Plan your trip. Earn your points. Pick your rewards. Repeat every commute.

Icons: Airplane, Bus, Car, Train, Bicycle, Carpooling





COG TOTAL REWARDS compensation

work-life balance,
lifestyle, and mobility

health & wellness benefits

financial security
and retirement

benefits

continuous learning opportunity

leave for self renewal
and other personal needs

other perks and resources
for daily living

public transit
assistance program

disability plan

bike to work

remote work

life insurance

education and tuition
assistance

annual leave

leadership training

benefits

benefits

leave for self renewal
and other personal needs

other perks and resources
for daily living

public transit
assistance program

work-life balance,

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WORK-LIFE BALANCE, LIFESTYLE AND MOBILITY

FLEXIBILITY AND REMOTE WORK

COG offers a flexible telework opportunity to work from home and at COG offices. This flexibility saves commuting time and can improve work-life balance.

REMOTE TOOLS

The Information Technology Department provides tools for you to do your job from home. A monthly stipend for cell/Internet access, provision of laptop and other accessories are just some of the assistance IT provides.

PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

To encourage staff to use public transit in their commute to and from work, all COG employees who use public transit on a regular basis, are eligible for a monthly transit subsidy. COG will reimburse employees up to \$300 per month for transit and parking expenses.

BIKE TO WORK PROGRAM

COG encourages biking to work. A dedicated space is provided for bike users. COG provides bike benefits of \$75 per quarter.

COG also coordinates the region's annual Bike to Work Day with stops in DC, VA, and MD with giveaways like free T-shirts, food, and beverages.

TRAVEL LIABILITY INSURANCE

For automobile travel on COG business, each employee is insured for property damage, liability, and bodily injury. In addition, COG has a business travel accident insurance policy for each employee covering non-automobile travel. All of the above are in addition to your regularly provided life and disability coverage.

FITNESS CENTER

The Fitness Center is available for COG staff. To use the Fitness Center, please contact Facility for details.



OTHER PERKS AND RESOURCES FOR DAILY LIVING

COG provides other benefits and resources to perk up your life through social events, awards and recognition, special day honoring administrative support and diversity celebrations. If you need legal and will writing assistance, Employee Assistance Programs and other resources please contact OHRM.

Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM)

Imelda Roberts, OHRM Director
Janet Ernst, Human Resources/Benefits Manager
Farai Nzuwah, Sr. Human Resources Analyst
Larissa Fitzhugh, Sr. Human Resources Analyst

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20002
Phone (202)-962-3316 * Fax: 202-962-3715
Website: www.mwcog.org
General email: OHRM@mwcog.org

Important Note:

Fringe benefits are not available to temporary employees or for employees working less than 30 hours. Compensation and benefits may change. Check with OHRM for any changes on benefits, terms and cost of participation.



Download the ADP mobile app

Scan the QR code to access your pay and benefits info on your mobile device through ADP's secure and simple mobile app.