

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments First Half FY06 Marketing Campaign Summary Final Report

BACKGROUND:

Since 2002 Commuter Connections has implemented a continuing and extensive integrated communications program aimed at the Washington metropolitan region to develop awareness and understanding of Commuter Connections' services and the various alternatives to commuting alone by car, including public transit, telework and carpools. Additional focus was also given to marketing the Guaranteed Ride Home program. By most accounts, overall awareness levels are high.

According to the 2004 State of the Commute survey results:

- 66% of all regional commuters said they had heard of Commuter Connections
- 40% knew that Commuter Connections sponsored the Guaranteed Ride Home program
- 28% knew the organization offered general rideshare information
- 16% knew the organization offered help finding a carpool or vanpool partner

Based on these findings the 2006 regional TDM marketing program was developed to convert high awareness levels into increased action. Specific tactics for accomplishing this include:

- Solidifying the base by continuing to drive awareness levels through high reach and frequency marketing such as radio, for the overall benefits of alternative commuting, Guaranteed Ride Home and Ridematching Programs. This tactic is supported by the following State of the Commute findings:
 - 69% of respondents who had taken some action said the advertising they saw or heard encouraged the action*
 - 70% of respondents who took an action* were driving alone at the time
 - 61% of respondents who sought information but had not made a commute mode change were likely to try using an alternative mode within the next year
- Focusing on an undercapitalized opportunity through increased promotional emphasis on ridesharing. According to the State of the Commute, 47% of area workers did not carpool because they did not know anyone with whom to carpool. Additionally, only 16% of respondents knew Commuter Connections offered help finding a carpool or vanpool partner. We intend to capitalize on this opportunity by communicating that

finding a potential rideshare partner is Free, Quick and Easy through Commuter Connections.

*Action may include seeking a carpool/vanpool partner, starting an alternative mode, seeking out commuter service information via Internet or contacting a commuter organization.

Leveraging partnerships with area employers to implement a more focused "community based" program. Social science research indicates that we are most likely to change our behavior in response to direct appeals from others. The community in this instance is the work community – a significant and influential community in terms of commuter behavior. This has also been validated by the State of the Commute which reported that respondents were more likely to know about Commuter Connections if they worked for a large employer and if their employer offered commuter benefit programs at the worksite.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Radio was again selected as the primary communication vehicle for the fall campaign, since it is the most efficient way to target SOV commuters, specifically during "drive times" when they are feeling the most frustration. Radio provides both consistency for the Commuter Connections brand as well as the foundation for maintaining awareness levels. Supporting this communications strategy, Total Traffic Network sponsorship spot ads were used during this period. Currently, a direct mailer is being planned to target those having the highest propensity to carpool or vanpool. This information will be revealed through the PRIZM analysis of the Commuter Connections Rideshare database (inclusive of records containing carpool and vanpool commuters). This analysis was conducted in late November and early December 2005.

General Marketing:

- 1. To reinforce awareness of alternative commuting options in order to change commuting behavior through spot radio
- 2. Supplement spot radio schedules with traffic sponsorships on Total Traffic Network (:15)
- Three new 60 second spots were produced that emphasize the frustration of traffic and the benefits of participating in the commuting solutions offered through Commuter Connections
 - a. Super Commuter (General Marketing Message) a commuter informs listeners of how using Commuter Connections helped him find an alternative commuting method, making him feel like a super hero. He then lists all the services that are backed by the GRH program.
 - b. **Satisfaction Guaranteed (GRH)** uses real testimonials to talk about the benefits of the GRH program. The voice over announcer then tells the listeners how they too can take advantage of the GRH program.
 - c. **Men, Women and Sharing (Ridematching)** opens with a man and women talking about the different things that men and women like to share with their own gender but they find a common ground when it comes to ridesharing.

MARKETING MEDIA SCHEDULE:

The total media outlay for the first half of FY06 is \$184,202.

The radio spots that aired across 13 radio stations effectively covered a spectrum of target groups. The flight was slightly skewed for morning drive time for both the local key counties and outlying counties (Daypart Mix for Paid Spots: 50% am drive, 40% pm drive, 10% M-F 6a-7p, Daypart Mix on Outlying Stations: 45% am drive, 40% pm drive, 15%Sa/Su 10a-7p).

Due to the overcrowded conditions of transit, increased emphasis has been given to marketing to potential carpoolers. Hence, the three radio spots were rotated at 50% Ridematching, 25% GRH and 25% Marketing for the entire flight.

Stations:

WTOP-AM	All News
WJFK-FM	Talk

WARW-FM Classic Rock WMZQ-FM Country Urban Oldies WMMJ-FM WHUR-FM Adult Urban Smooth Jazz WJZW-FM

WBIG-FM Oldies

Stations in Outer Markets:

WSMD-FM	Classic Rock, Oldies	Calvert & Charles Counties
VVCIVID I IVI	Classic Rook, Claics	Carreit & Chanes Counties

Country WFRE-FM Frederick County WAFY-FM Adult Contemporary Frederick County WBQB-FM Hot AC Frederick County

Spotsylvania & Stafford Counties WFLS-FM Country

Utilizing the Total Traffic Network, we broadcast 15-second spots (with 5 second billboard) during weekday in prime drive times; 6-10 AM and 3-7 PM. Within the Marketing campaign, Total Traffic Network continues to reinforce the brand message for Commuter Connections and has run between the 2005 flights of 60-second radio, thus increasing our budget efficiency. The traffic report sponsorship aired on all Clear Channel owned stations including, WASH, WBIG, WMZQ, WWDC-FM, WTEM, WTNT, WITH.

MASS MARKETING FY05 1st HALF RADIO CAMPAIGN:

MASS MARKETING FYUS 1ST F			OBE			VEM			т	OTAL
MEDIA							DEK			NET COST
TOTAL TRAFFIC NETWORK	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	TILL COST
All Clear Channel Stations										
:15				50	50	50	50			
WASH, WBIG, WMZQ, WWDC-FM				30	50	50	30			
WTEM, WTNT, WITH										
Total Sponsorship Buy										\$25,500.00
SPOT RADIO										Ψ25,500.00
Target: Adults 35-54										
WARW FM (Classic Rock) :60				14	14	14	14	14		\$17,298
:15				20	20	20	20	20		\$0
				20	20	20	20	20		ΨΟ
WBIG FM (Oldies) :60				18	18	18				\$8,621
:30				9	9	9				\$1,766
:15				5	5	5				\$0
										7.0
WHUR FM (Urban AC) :60							28	28		\$11,008
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WJFK FM (Adult Talk) :60							34	34		\$6,800
, , , ,										
WJZW FM (Smooth Jazz) :60				36	36	36				\$12,342
:10				9	9	9				\$0
WMMJ FM (Urban Oldies) :60				27	27	27	26	26		\$30,791
:15				6	6	6	6	6		\$0
WMZQ FM (Country) :60				21	21	21	21	21		\$6,205
:30				10	10	10	6	6		\$12,389
:15				3	3	3	3	3		\$0
WTOP AF (All News) :60				17	17	17	17	17		\$32,088
PSAs :30				12	12	12	12	12		\$0
OUTER MARKET STATIONS										
WARNEN (CI : D 1) (O							1.0	1.0		\$1.777
WAFY FM (Classic Rock) :60							18	18		\$1,777
WDOD EM (Ust AC) (O							1.4	1.4		\$2.269
WBQB FM (Hot AC) :60							14	14		\$2,268
:10							3	3		\$0
WEI S FM (Country) :60				17	17	17				\$2.059
WFLS FM (Country) :60				1/	1/	1/				\$2,958
WFRE FM (Country) :60				12	12	12	12	12		\$7,650
:30				10	10	10	10	10		\$7,030
:10				5	5	5	5	5		\$0 \$0
.10										ΨΟ
WSMD FM (Country) :60				18	18	18	18	18		\$4,743
:30				5	5	5	5	5		\$0
1.50										Ψ3
GRPs per Week				152	152	152	153	153		
GRAND TOTAL										\$184,202
Note: GRP Totals do not include ratings from	4									

Note: GRP Totals do not include ratings from outer markets.

Added-Value Opportunities

Added-value opportunities were negotiated with the stations and will be reflected in the next radio flight in 2006.

Internet Activity

A free web banner is running from December 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 on TrafficLand.com. Total AdViews (impressions): 526,517 Total AdClicks: 287





Tired of sitting (and sitting) alone in rush hour traffic?



1-800-745-RIDE www.commuterconnections.org

Collateral

General Services Brochure, GRH Brochure, Ridesharing Brochure are under development and expect to be available by the end of the year or early in 2006.

General Services Brochure



Ridesharing Brochure



GRH Brochure



Operations Center Update

Newsletter

The Commuter Connections newsletter is targeted to approximately 5,200 employer contacts on the COG Employer Outreach ACT! database as well as TDM Stakeholders, both regionally and nationally. Beginning in FY06, the newsletter has been given a fresh look to tie it in with the new collateral that is being created. The newsletter is also converted into a pdf file and made available on the Commuter Connections website.

In the first half of FY06, the summer and fall issues of the Commuter Connections Newsletter were completed.

Summer Issue and ETC Insert

The cover story highlighted the summer 2005 Employer Awards Ceremony. Other stories included the Wilson Bridge project, expansion of VRE commuter trains, and the annual Bike to Work Day Employer Challenge Winners.

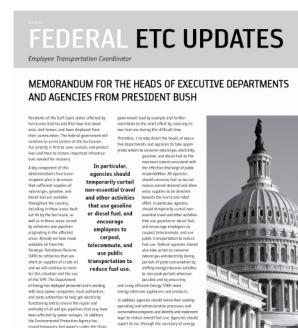




Fall Issue and ETC Insert

The cover story looks at shifts in commuting behavior due to the impact of high gasoline prices. Other stories included results of the Ridesharing Contest, sponsored by Gevalia Kaffe and Commuter Connections.





2006 Employer Recognition Awards Efforts

Brochures and application forms for the 2006 Commuter Connections Employer Recognition awards have been developed and distributed. The application due date is February 3, 2006. Distribution included employers, chambers, Fed ETC's and Employers. The application is also available online.





YEAR TO DATE COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE RESULTS

Key findings for the first half of FY06, beginning July 2005 are as follows:

Cumulative impact of all marketing efforts for Commuter Connections' programs has resulted in awareness levels of 66%, according to the 2004 State of the Commute Survey Results

Web visits to www.commuterconnections.com are up 20.2% from 37,401 (July – December 2004) to 44,944 (July – December 2005)

Calls to 800-745-RIDE have increased slightly by 2.3% from 12,801 (July – December 2004) to 13,094 (July – December 2005)

The number of Guaranteed Ride Home applications are down 29.5% from 5,144 (July – December 2004) to 3,629 (July – December 2005)

The number of Rideshare Applications are down 17.3% from 4,862 (July – December 2004) to 4,021 (July – December 2005)

Web Visits www.commuterconnections.org				
	FY05	FY06		
July	6,330	6,766		
Aug	5,979	7,978		
Sept	6,133	8,820		
Oct	6,973	7,801		
Nov	6,315	7,229		
Dec	5,671	6,350		

37,401 44,944

The number of Commuter Connections web visits increased 20.2% from July through December 2005 compared to the same period during 2004.

Phone Calls				
	FY05	FY06		
July	2,335	1,902		
Aug	2,217	2,162		
Sept	2,150	2,135		
Oct	2,302	2,154		
Nov	1,922	2,663		
Dec	1,875	2,078		
Total	12,801	13,094		

The number of Commuter Connections phone calls increased slightly by 2.3% from July through December 2005 compared to the same period during 2004.

GRH Applications Received				
	FY05	FY06		
July *	1,316	531		
Aug	770	637		
Sept	716	769		
Oct	747	644		
Nov	846	574		
Dec	749	474		
	5,144	3,629		

The number of Guaranteed Ride Home Applications decreased by 29.5% from July through December 2005 compared to the same period during 2004.

Rideshare Applications				
	FY05	FY06		
July *	1,107	590		
Aug	800	707		
Sept	834	861		
Oct	862	715		
Nov	513	618		
Dec	746	530		

4,862

The number of Rideshare Applications decreased 17.3% from July through December 2005 compared to the same period during 2004.

4,021

^{*}The application numbers are disproportionate in July FY05, reflecting a direct mail campaign in July 2004.