



**COMMUTER CONNECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Chairperson: Jim Sebastian, DDOT

Vice Chairperson: Adrienne Moretz, Frederick County TransIT

Staff Contact: Nicholas Ramfos 202/962-3313

Item #1 Introductions

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

Jim Sebastian, DDOT staff, called the meeting to order by introducing himself and asking the rest of the attendees to do so.

Item #2 Minutes of January 20, 2015

Approval was sought for the January 20, 2015 Commuter Connections Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

There was a motion by Mark Sofman, Montgomery County Commuter Services Section, and seconded by Traci McPhail, North Bethesda TMD, to approve the minutes of the meeting as written.

Item #3 FY 2014 Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) Customer Satisfaction Draft Survey Reports

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB staff, will briefed the Subcommittee on substantive changes made to the FY2014 GRH Customer Satisfaction Survey reports from the Washington DC and Baltimore metropolitan regions.

Mr. Franklin, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the 2014 Guaranteed Ride Home Customer Satisfaction Draft Survey Report. He stated that very few changes were submitted as a result of the open comment period, established at the January 20, 2015 meeting. For the GRH Washington draft survey report, a few changes were incorporated on page 16 as complaints. For the GRH Baltimore draft survey report, the Maryland Transit Administration was added as a funder, the data was updated based on a correction that was made on the timeline of when survey responses were received. Initially, the survey responses for the Baltimore region were calculated based on all survey's received from the inception of the program in October 2010; however since the survey was only focused on FY 2014 survey responses received between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014, survey results were updated to reflect this time period. This adjustment brought the survey response rate for the Baltimore region in line with that of the Washington survey response rate which was 15%.

Transportation service was rated as good or excellent by 90% of respondents for GRH Washington, while 77% rated the same for GRH Baltimore. Response time was rated as good or excellent by 87% of GRH Washington users and 70% of GRH Baltimore users. The response time

for each program, respectively was 17 minutes and 44 minutes. Overall services were rated as good or excellent by 94% for Washington and 93% for Baltimore. The primary reason for trips and Washington and Baltimore was "personal illness." The secondary reason in Washington was "Other Emergency," while in Baltimore the reason was "Overtime."

Jim Sebastian made a motion to endorse the document for release and Mark Sofman supported the motion. Approval was unanimous.

Item #4 FY 2015 Applicant Placement Survey

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff briefed the Subcommittee on the latest draft of the FY 2015 Applicant Placement Survey. A comment period was established.

Mr. Ramfos provided a brief update of the draft FY 2014 Applicant Placement Rate Survey results conducted in November 2014. The survey is conducted triennially through internet and phone surveys. It assesses the current and previous commute patterns, travel changes, motivations for change, types of services accessed, and use of services by commuters.

In addition to explaining the purpose of the report, Mr. Ramfos also discussed data collection methodology, results including demographics of the sample and the respondent's commute patterns. He stated the primary motivators for change continue to be "save time/money" and "change of job/work hours." Section IV of the report discusses program performance measures and goals. About 50% of applicants make actual travel behavior changes based on the information they receive from Commuter Connections. Mr. Ramfos also mentioned that the information collected for the Applicant Placement Survey would be used in the TERM Analysis to be produced in 2017.

Mr. Ramfos requested comments and edits on the draft report be submitted by close of business April 10, 2015. The report will be available through SharePoint and comments should be submitted through docomments@mwcog.org.

Item #5 Briefing on the Transportation Sector Group of the COG Multi-Sector Working Group to Examine Greenhouse Gas Reductions

Kanti Srikanth, COG/TPB staff, presented information on the TPB's report of the COG multi-disciplinary professional working group to develop a multi-sector plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Kanti Srikanth, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on requested ideas that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region. COG/TPB staff has been working with the Multi-Sector Working Group (MSWG) to brainstorm and compile strategies with public input through the end of April. Through the spring and summer, the MSWG will work on technical analysis through subgroups and submit an interim draft report to the COG Board, TPB, MWAQC and CEEPC.

During November and December 2015, the final report will be compiled and submitted to the COG policy committees, TPB and MWAQC. The final report will go to the COG Board in April 2016.

As part of this agenda item there was a question regarding the definition of an Activity Center. Mr. Ramfos stated that the definition would be posted in a follow-up message to Subcommittee members.

March 27, 2015 is the deadline for submission of ideas and those submitted will be compiled in April 2015. Any ideas, strategies, programs or other initiatives to reduce travel in the region as part of the Transportation Sector Group of the COG MSWG to examine Greenhouse Gas reductions are being sought. A list of potential strategies will be posted to the Subcommittee's SharePoint site for review and input. Subcommittee members were asked to forward any comments or suggestions to be considered by COB (5:00 p.m.) Thursday, March 26th to docomments@mwcoq.org.

Item #6 Briefing on Study to Identify High-Impact Complete Streets Access Improvements for Rail Station Areas in the Washington Region

John Swanson, COG/TPB staff, briefed the Subcommittee on Transportation, Community, and Systems Preservation (TCSP) Discretionary Grant received by the TPB to identify strategic recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian access improvements using complete streets approach that will support housing and employment development close to rail stations.

John Swanson briefed the Subcommittee on the federal grant project that is designed to improve access to transit stations and thereby promote their usage. Through this promotion, it would allow the region to tap underutilized capacity on the rail system. He stated there were 25 opportune stations that would benefit from this grant. Joining Mr. Swanson was Lamont Cobb, COG/TPB staff. Mr. Cobb demonstrated the database used to track the stations, improvements and their progress through the grant program.

The TCSP presentation will be posted to the meeting page and will also be made available on the Subcommittee's SharePoint site. An interactive map showing the locations and other details of the access recommendations is available at <http://wikimapping.com/wikimap/Opportune-Rail-Station-Analysis.html>. Subcommittee members were asked to provide any comments to Mr. Cobb, COG/TPB staff, no later than Friday, April 3, 2015 by COB (5 p.m.) at lcobb@mwcoq.org.

Item #7 Share Use Mobility Status Update

Nicholas Ramfos, COG/TPB staff briefed the Subcommittee on the status of the Transportation Network Companies (TNC's) operations in DC, MD and VA.

Mr. Ramfos, COG/TPB staff, informed the Subcommittee on the status of the Transportation Network Companies' (TNC's) operations in DC, MD and VA. There is current legislation in both DC and Virginia regulating TNC's.

He noted that last year legislation was proposed to strengthen licensing for TNCs in Maryland but was not passed. Mr. Ramfos explained through a new proposed regulation in Maryland which is slated to be passed during the current legislative session, TNCs would be able to operate throughout the District, Maryland and Virginia. Since the beginning of TNC operations back in 2009, it has taken several years for the states to act to regulate the companies. With proper regulation, they will be able to offer yet another solution to the transportation challenges of Metropolitan Washington and Baltimore.

Item #8 2015 Bike to Work Day Event

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB staff, discussed the FY 2015 Bike to Work Day Event.

Douglas Franklin, COG/TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on planning for FY 2015 Bike to Work Day (BTWD) is May 15, 2015, rain or shine. The goal for registration is 19,000 participants for FY2015.

The BTWD website launched last week and participants can log in and sign up at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org. A press release announcing that registration is open is planned for March 18th. The TPB will also be asked to approve a regional Proclamation at their April 15th meeting. The event will include elected officials and will have 79 pit stops this year.

Item #9 2nd Quarter Progress Report

Barbara Brennan, COG/TPB staff, discussed the FY 2015 2nd Quarter Progress Report.

Barbara Brennan, COG/TPB Staff, briefed the Subcommittee on the 2nd quarter budget report for FY 2015.

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, May 19, 2015 at 12 noon.