COMMUTER CONNECTIONS
RIDEMATCHING COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 20, 2017
10:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
COG Board Room

Chairperson: Holly Morello, PRTC
Vice Chairperson: Alan Doran, Harford Commute Smart

COG Staff Contact: Stephen Finafrock, 202/962-3385 or sfinafrock@mwcog.org

1. Introductions

The meeting was brought to order by Chairperson Holly Morello of the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC). Attendees were asked to introduce themselves and sign the attendance sheet.

2. Minutes of the March 21, 2017 Meeting

Approval was sought for the March 21, 2017 Ridematching Committee Meeting Minutes. An initial motion to approve was made by Mark Sofman of Montgomery County and a second made by George Clark of the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSM). The minutes were approved as written.

3. Upcoming Fairs and Promotions

Anne Arundel County

- Parole Center Concerts for Annapolis Residents
- Guaranteed Ride Home Promotions
- Geofencing advertisements have started
- Radio Advertisements on "iHeartRadio" starting late August or early September

Baltimore City Department of Transportation

- Baltimore's "Artscaspe" arts festival from July 21st – 23rd
- Transportation Happy Hour on July 20th
- Several promotional block parties
- Baltimore book festival

Bethesda Transportation Solutions

- Commuter day information events:
- General Global Assistance Health Benefits
- Ice cream social
- AOTA
- 4330 East- West Highway

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD, 777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.E., SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, DC 20002-4239

THE COMMUTER INFORMATION SOURCE FOR MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WWW.COMMUTERCONNECTIONS.ORG   1-800-745-RIDE

- 4340 East- West Highway
- 4350 East- West Highway

Enterprise Rideshare

- Vanpool service agreement with the University of Maryland
- General formation meetings with Freddie Mac
- Transportation Fair at the Mark Center
- Meeting and open house with USNRC

GWRideConnect

- VRE 25th anniversary event
- Print advertisements
- Social-media advertisements
- Radio advertisements

Harford Commute Smart
- Health Expo
- Car-free day with Harford Transit Link and Harford Community College
- Maryland State BBQ Bash

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)

- Event at the Washington Navy Yard
- USGS Earth Day Event
- Department of Commerce Event
- USPTO Green Fair
- DHHS Earth Day Event (Rockville)
- DHHS Earth Day Event (D.C.)
- FDA Earth Day Event
- Transportation Fair at the Pentagon
- Bike to Work Day
- Transportation Fair at the Department of the Interior

North Bethesda Transportation Center (NBTC)

- Bike to work day new location at Pike & Rose
- CID at USP
- Health and wellness benefit
- Outdoor BBQ in Rock Spring park
- CID at USNRC, focusing on vanpools
- CID at Marriott, focusing on vanpools
- Walk and ride preparations for the October start date
- Fall surveys will be held in the in conjunction with Montgomery County
- NIH relocation
- Ice cream social at NIAID/JBG

Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

- Earth Day events with Freddie Mac and Lockheed Martin
- Pentagon Commuter Fair
- Bike to Work day
- National Science Foundation commuter fair
- Ft. Belvoir commuter fair
- Mark Center commuter fair
- Customer outreach event
- Currently running ridematching advertisements

TransIt Services of Frederick County

- Earth Day with TransIt
- Commuter Appreciation Day at the Mark Train station
- Bike to Work day
- Dump the Pump day
- Summer freedom pass promotion
- SafeTrak outreach
- Various community events
- Outreach efforts on new routes and changes to local transit

Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSM)

- Bike to Work day
- Pentagon commuter fair
- Calvert County green expo
- ACT Chesapeake Chapter Summit
- Expo in Detroit, MI.
- Mark Center commuter fair
- MTA Rideshare meeting
- ACT national conference
- State of Charles County transportation

4. TDM System Update

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, began this agenda item by announcing that route-based ridematching is now available for both the Delaware and Charlottesville TDM sites. Mr. Finafrock then logged into the TDM system as a user to demonstrate various route-based ridematching results. Those in attendance were urged to reach out to the commuter support inbox if any technical errors are encountered.

Mr. Finafrock then addressed the reported "too many redirects" error experienced when an admin attempts to create an account with an existing email address. This issue has been fixed and the TDM system now displays the correct error message. COG/TPB Staff is looking into the possibility for the TDM system to provide the current user's profile when attempting to enter an existing email address within the system. Mr. Finafrock then addressed another recent software bug where administrators are unable to add a new employee while in the "Employee Admin" module. Mr. Finafrock encouraged administrators to use the workaround in place until this issue is solved. Administrators can still add an employee by viewing a user's profile, clicking on "Employer Information" then clicking "Update Employer." The admin can then search for the new employer. If it is not found within the TDM system, the administrator will be prompted to enter the employer's information. COG/TPB staff is working with their developers on fixing this issue.

Mr. Finafrock then showcased all the special events that have been loaded into the TDM System by COG/TPB staff. This includes all major sporting events for the region and various community events. George Clark, Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, suggests that the character limit in the description box be expanded to allow for a more elaborate description of the event being entered. COG/TPB staff will work with their developers on improving this.

Mr. Finafrock then logs into the TDM as a user to display the functionality of the special events module. A special event is selected by the user and added to their profile. The user can then choose to run a special events match by selecting the added event and running a match request. Any other users that have added that same event to their profile will appear as a match.

Mr. Finafrock then encouraged all in attendance to add any special events occurring in their jurisdiction, and he recommended talking about this functionality during the coming marketing events.

Mr. Finafrock also noted that the park and ride section on the Commuter Connections website has been updated. Network members were encouraged to view the information relevant to their jurisdiction and check for any errors or changes that need to be made.

Heidi Mitter, VDOT, asked if park and ride information will be available on the Commuter Connections mobile app. Mr. Finafrock confirmed that the park and ride info is currently available to those using the mobile application.

5. Mobile Applications Update

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, reiterated that CarpoolNow is available for download for iOS, Android and BlackBerry. Mr. Finafrock also stated that the newest version of the Commuter Connections mobile app is live and available for download. Mr. Finafrock then stated the following download stats for each app by operating system:

CarpoolNow download stats

- iOS – 974
- Android – 368
- BlackBerry – 2

Commuter Connections download stats

- iOS – 1313
- Android – 731
- BlackBerry – 84

Mr. Finafrock then began explaining the various updates that have been made for the newest version of the Commuter Connections mobile app. Users now have the ability to log their trips using their mobile device. This enhancement has been suggested by users and should result in a higher level of participation for those enrolled in an incentive program. COG/TPB staff plans on integrating the Flextime Incentive program into the mobile app. This means giving the app the ability to push out notifications to its users enrolled in the program. More information regarding the flextime integration will be available during the Fall.

Enhancements have been made to the overall look and feel of the Commuter Connections mobile app, which should make it more appealing and intuitive for its users.

6. GIS Update

Ross Edgar, COG/TPB staff, updated the Committee on the status of the upcoming bike routing module. Mr. Edgar began by logging into ArcGis online to access the bike-routing web application. As of now, the routing only includes Washington, D.C., and will be expanded throughout the region during FY2018. Mr. Edgar then explained the map's legend and how the user can control what is showing on the app. A prominent feature of this bike-routing map will be the user's ability to "point and shoot" to select points on the map and have ArcGis route the optimal bike path. Users may also type in the directions for their route. Mr. Edgar then began his first example by zooming in to view the Metropolitan Branch Trail to show how a roadway connects to an off-street bike path. A user can then select multiple points to draw the desired route. This will create step-by-step directions for the user to click on. Clicking on a step will highlight the specific section of the route it refers to.

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, reminded those in attendance that there used to be a bike routing system as part of the TDM Software. The new map in progress is introducing new technology and will be a vast improvement compared to the old bike-routing map.

Mr. Edgar then showed how the bike-routing system can seamlessly take users off a bike path and onto the street network. Mr. Edgar then showed that this bike-routing module may select the faster route over the bike trial. Users may click the route and drag it onto the bike path if they prefer.

7. Client Site | Round Table

No topics were discussed at that time.

8. July 2017 Resource Directory

Steven Osborn, COG/TPB Staff, gave an update to those in attendance regarding the status of the July 2017 TDM Resource Directory. The Resource Directory was currently in draft form. Mr. Osborn urged those in attendance to send any updates as they become available. Members do not have to wait for the update solicitation.

Mr. Osborn then reminded Committee members to note any transit-related updates that need to be included in the Directory.

Mr. Osborn reminded those in attendance that outreach effort will continue be made if no response is received by COG/TPB staff.

9. Quarterly Progress Reports

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, discussed the FY2017 3rd quarter CCW Progress Report. Mr. Finafrock reviewed the report and encouraged those in attendance to view it and report any errors or changes to be made to commutersupport@mwcog.org.

Nancy Huggins, MTA, clarified that ARTMA is no longer part of this report and that their information needs to be displayed under Ann Arundel County. Mr. Finafrock agreed to make the change on the next progress report.

10. Other Business | Upcoming Agenda Items

Stephen Finafrock, COG/TPB staff, mentioned that individuals can submit suggestions for agenda items for future meetings. They may email COG/TPB staff directly or submit their ideas to commutersupport@mwcog.org.

Darlene Nader, North Bethesda Transportation Center, suggested that a revision be made for table 6B for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Next meeting of the Commuter Connections Ridematching Committee will be held on September 19, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. Visit www.mwcog.org/accomodations or call (202) 962-3213 (TDD)