

495 EXPRESS LANES.COM

## 495 EXPRESS LANES EDUCATION PROGRAM

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### **Extensive Education**



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# Educate, equip, motivate to use

- Targets special user groups, including HOV, transit riders and operators
- » Continues through at least February 2013
- » Advertising
- » Festivals & events
- » Employer outreach
- » Media outreach
- » Social media
- » Contests and incentives driving E-ZPass adoption



### **Community Outreach**





- » Ground game touched hundreds of thousands in the region and offered unprecedented access to E-ZPass
- » MINI promotional contest drove greater numbers to booth and E-ZPass adoption

### **Tools for Employers**









- » Dedicated web page with employer toolkit
- » Employer-focused collateral materials and brochures
- » Custom in-office events for employees; E-ZPass available for purchase in most cases
- » Electronic versions of informational pieces provided to employer contacts

### **Preparing Transit Providers**



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- » 495 Express Lanes and DRPT co-hosted workshop in spring 2012
- Continue to maintain open communications with groups to ensure toll-free travel
- » Promoting new bus routes

#### Transit Operators

#### TRANSIT ON THE EXPRESS LANES



The 495 Express Lanes will provide a new travel option for buses to avoid traffic on the Capital Beltway and provide riders with a faster, more predictable trip.

With brand new exit and entry points into Tysons Corner and Merrifield, the Express Lanes will help buses give riders rapid, direct access to popular locations and supply better routes into and out of congested areas.

Buses will have free access to the Express Lanes 24/7 – saving time with a faster trip and direct access to new locations, and money through more efficient routes and by avoiding idling in stop-and-go-traffic.

In order to travel toll-free, you must register your E-ZPass® transponders with the 495 Express Lanes. To register, you will need to fill out an Excel file with the following information:

- Contact name and information at the agency
- E-ZPass® transponder numbers and license plates for buses that will use the 495 Express Lanes
- Description of the buses (i.e., capacity, make and model, year and color.)

Request the Excel file.



#### Omniride's Tysons Express website for more information about the new routes and schedules.

### Partnering with TDM/Transit

- Transit providers and ridesharing organizations attended key employer events, including largest of its kind at SAIC
- » Employees and community members offered host of travel options and representatives best equipped to answer their questions





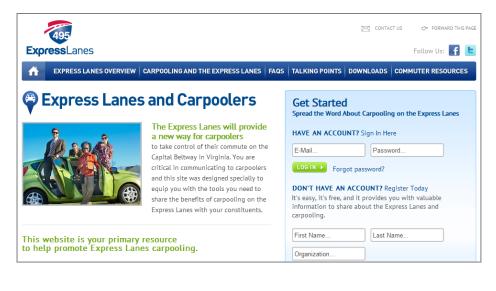






### Spotlighting the Carpool Option







- » Dedicated train-thetrainer website for ridesharing coordinators
- » Links to help drivers set up a carpool or vanpool
- » Partnerships with TDM groups
- » User profiles on website

### Flex Launch Event



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- » VDOT held a media event to launch the new transponder in summer 2012
- » Speakers highlighted the option to ride toll-free as HOV-3+

» Positive news coverage about new travel options

hlighted the toll-free as Comr Charl

"Carpooling is an important priority in the commonwealth of Virginia." - VDOT Chief Deputy Commissioner Charles Kilpatrick







#### **Increased Fall Presence**







- » Highest-intensity portion of program began October 1, including:
  - Increase in radio weight
  - Major online and print initiative Oct. 7 and 9, 21 and 24
  - Launch of 62 wrapped delivery trucks
  - Ads in online and in community newspapers
  - Gas station ads
  - On-road educational messages
  - Mall and cinema

#### **Incentive Programs**



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Get ready for a faster, more predictable trip. The 495 Express Lanes open later this year giving you a new choice for faster travel on the Capital Beltway. But you need an E-Z Passto use the Express Lanes.

Visit 495ExpressLanes.com/offer today to sign up for a new E-ZPass account and claim your two free weeks. Get a jump start on faster travel and register for a Virginia E-ZPass or E-ZPass\* Rek™today.

#### Picking up your E-ZPass at a retail location or event?

495ExpressLanes.com/offer

Visit 495ExpressLanes.com/offer today to find out how to claim your two free weeks.

Void outside DC and select counties in MD and VA, and where prohibited. Ends 9/30/12. Energy weeks and full details at 495 Expressioners com/offer

- » Generated buzz and increased new E-ZPass customers
- » Coordination with VDOT to ensure successful participant registration

#### Creative

# Experience an actual rush during rush hour.



#### Fast Facts about the Express Lanes

 The 495 Express Lanes will provide a faster, more predictable trip for highoccupancy and toll-paying whites.

 There will be two new HOT lanes in each direction from the Springfield Interchange to just north of the Dulles Toll Road.

 Travel will be free for vehicles carrying three or more passengers, as well as for buses and motorcycles.

 All customers need an E-ZPass<sup>®</sup> to use the Express Lanes.



# Unlock gridlock

5

**Express**Lanes

#### Register and take a free ride.

Get ready for a faster commute with four new lanes on the Virginia side of the Capital Beltway. The 495 Express Lanes will keep you moving between the Springfield Interchange and the Dulles Toll Road.

Starting September 1\*, register for a Virginia E-ZPass\* or new E-ZPass\* Flex\* and get two to 1

## Win a MINL

#### Focus on Benefits

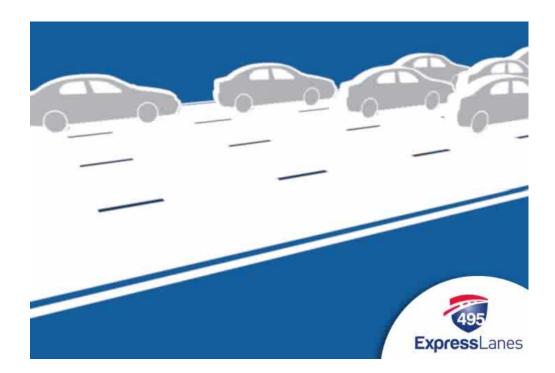


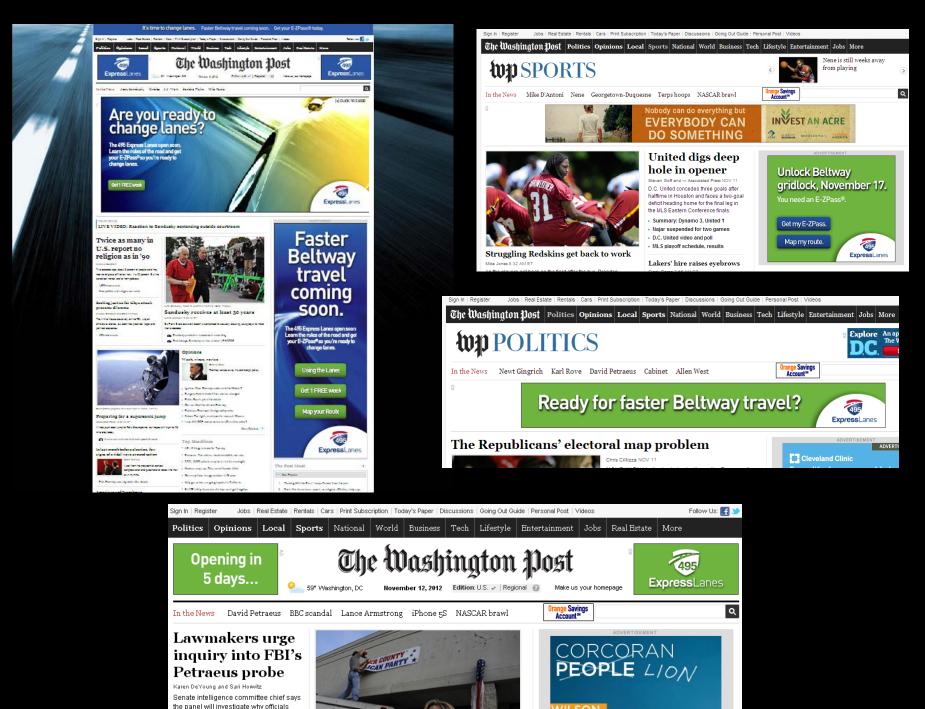
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» Creative focuses on faster, more predictable travel and creates emotional connection for future customers



Radio commercials include informational spots and spots that target customers emotionally





#### **Tysons Corner Mall**











#### Go Live Event



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Diverse array of stakeholders gathered to cut the ribbon on the benefits and new options the 495 Express Lanes introduced.



"Express Lanes are offering... for the first time ever, HOV lanes on the Beltway." -Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

### Reaching the Region



- » Program will have more than 530 million advertising impressions
- Participated in over 125 briefings, festivals & events reaching more than 120,000 people
- » More than 275 news pieces since January with more than 32 million impressions







- » Educational and outreach will continue in 2013
- » Period of transition for the region
- » Need continued assistance of TDM agencies to help drivers into new modes of travel
- » Excited for bus routes in January and HOV trips continue to increase

