# Car Free Day 2014 Washington DC Metropolitan Region Event Recap



Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Commuter Connections Program

#### **Car Free Day**

Car Free Day is internationally celebrated as a day for people to leave their cars at home, and get around by train, bus, bicycle, subway, or walking. In the Washington DC region, people can also go "car lite" by carpooling or vanpooling.

Metropolitan Washington started celebrating Car Free Day in 2008. In 2014 nearly 4,755 people pledged to go car free or car-lite on Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, a 16 percent increase over the previous year.



#### **Proclamation Signing**

The Car Free Day 2014 proclamation signing took place on July 16, 2014 at the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) meeting at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

Pictured L to R are Tommy Wells, TPB First Vice Chair, and District of Columbia Councilmember; Patrick Wojahn, TPB Chair, and City of College Park Councilmember; and Nicholas Ramfos, Commuter Connections Director.





# NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD

# PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 AS CAR FREE DAY IN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Washington Region; and

**WHEREAS**, the TPB through its Commuter Connections program, promotes and organizes the annual Car Free Day event along with its network members throughout the Washington area; and

**WHEREAS,** Car Free Day invites Washington region citizens to telework and try alternative forms of transportation such as transit, bicycling and walking, and "car lite" methods such as carpools and vanpools; and

**WHEREAS**, Car Free Day benefits the National Capital Region through improved air quality, reduced traffic congestion and parking demands, and the conservation of energy; and

**WHEREAS**, Car Free Day corresponds with international mobility week, occurring September 16-22, celebrating sustainable mobility.

**NOW, therefore, be it resolved** that the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board:

- 1. Proclaims September 22, 2014 as Car Free Day throughout the Washington Metropolitan Region; and
- Encourages citizens to pledge to be Car Free or Car-lite by visiting www.carfreemetrodc.org; and
- 3. Asks TPB Member jurisdictions to adopt similar proclamations in support of Car Free Day.

Chair, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board



# Mayoral Proclamation

#### Car Free Day - Monday, September 22, 2014

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the metropolitan planning organization for the Washington Region; and

WHEREAS, the TPB through its Commuter Connections program promotes and organizes the annual Car Free Day event along with its network members throughout the Washington area; and

WHEREAS, Car Free Day invites Washington region residents to try alternative forms of transportation such as bicycling and walking, and "car lite" methods such as carpools, vanpools, teleworking, and making fewer trips by car; and

WHEREAS, Car Free Day benefits the National Capital region through improved air quality, reduced traffic congestion and parking demands, and the conservation of energy.

THEREFORE, I BRUCE R. WILLIAMS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM Monday, September 22, 2014 as Car Free Day in Takoma Park and encourage all residents to visit <a href="www.CarFreeMetroDC.org">www.CarFreeMetroDC.org</a> and pledge to be Car Free or Car Lite for the day.

DATED this 15<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2014.

Bruce R. Williams Mayor

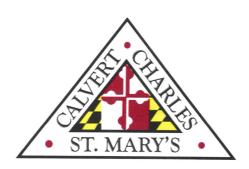
Attest:

Jessie Carpenter

#### **Jurisdiction Activities**

Commuter Connections' network members rose to the challenge and hosted numerous events and promotions for those looking for car-free alternatives.

Friday Night Farmers Market - Friday, September 19, 2014 – Tri County Council for Southern Maryland was at the North Beach Board Walk giving away freebies for Car Free Day at the Town of North Beach's Farmers Market.





Montgomery County Commuter Services celebrated Car Free Day at Metro stations in Bethesda, Friendship Heights, Shady Grove, and White Flint. Plus Transit Centers in Germantown, and Silver Spring. They also conducted a mobile van tour visiting Ride On bus stations in Takoma Park, Forest Glenn, Wheaton, Glenmont, Lakeforest Mall and Montgomery College in Germantown.







goDCgo appeared outside of the Metrorail at Union Station on Monday, September 22, to greet morning commuters with complimentary hot coffee and cool stickers that showed how they traveled on Car Free Day.



On Monday, September 22, 2014 Capital Bikeshare celebrated Car Free Day by offering for one day only, 24-hour memberships at any station for just \$1.



TransIT Services of Frederick County made it easy to give transit a try on Car Free Day by providing free rides on Connector and shuttle buses all day long on Monday, September 22, 2014.





### PARK(ing) Day

Park(ing) Day took place on Friday September 19th and for the second year, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) participated to highlight the District's sustainability efforts and kick off Car Free Days activities. DDOT issued six-hour permits to transform metered parking spaces into temporary public park-like places. The event served to generate debate around how public space can be used to improve the quality of human habitat in urban areas.





#### **Prizes and Sponsors**

Donated prizes were offered as incentives to people pledging to go car free or car-lite. Local businesses and organizations donating goods or services gained exposure and were associated with a cause that contributed to the betterment of the region's traffic congestion and air quality. Sponsors included:











































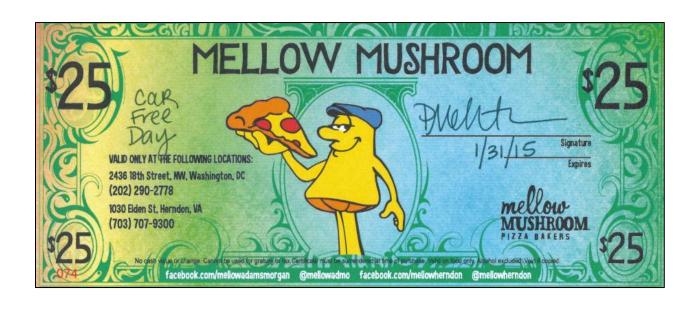




#### **Raffle Prize Donations**

- Kindle Fire, courtesy of Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland
- Sole Custom Bicycle, courtesy of Clear Channel Communications
- Health & fitness club annual membership, courtesy of Sport & Health
- SmarTrip Card w/fare, courtesy of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
- Commuter train passes, courtesy Virginia Railway Express
- Capital Bikeshare annual memberships, courtesy of goDCgo
- \$25 Restaurant gift card, courtesy of Mellow Mushroom of Adams Morgan
- Annual Car Sharing memberships, courtesy of Zipcar
- Bicycle Rentals, courtesy of Bike and Roll Washington D.C.
- KIND Healthy Snacks one-month supply, courtesy of KIND
- \$250 Bike shop gift certificate, courtesy of BicycleSPACE
- Free pair of prescription glasses or sunglasses, up to \$350, courtesy of SEE SEEeyewear
- \$50 giftcard, courtesy of sweetgreen.com
- Apple iPad mini, courtesy of Walking Role Models
- Tickets to Fright Fest, courtesy of Six Flags America







# THIS IS YOUR TICKET



## **Six Flags America**

**Complimentary Ticket** 

2014 Six Flags America One-day Admission-Full, Valid 04/05/2014-11/01/2014

TICKET # 1499140491239851 REQUEST # 622276 CONFIRMATION # CT-42EFN8XMG Valid From 04/05/2014 To 11/03/2014







# **GIFT CERTIFICATE**



This entitles the winner of the 2014 Car Free Day Raffle to a Bicycle Overhaul Service Package or \$250 towards any items in the shop. Prize cannot be redeemed for cash. Valid through 12/31/2014.

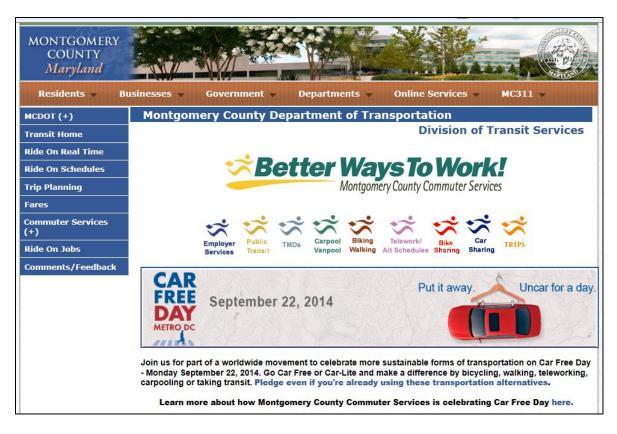






#### **Commuter Connections Network Members Online**











Resources -





TOP STORY

## **Car Free Day**

Bike, walk, use transit, work from home, or go car-lite and carpool. Take the pledge today.

Read Full Story>



## Put It Away & Uncar For A Day

Monday September 22, 2014

Take the pledge at carfreemetrodc.org



#### **Getting Here**

you all the transportation options and help you

- O Bus Schedules with Maps
- Metro Trip Planner
- o Carpools/Vanpools
- O Guaranteed Ride Home Program
- O Business Locator
- O Park & Ride Lots
- O Bicycle Programs/Maps
- o Car Sharing



#### **Getting Around**

It's easy to get around in Reston. Learn more

- O Bicycle Programs/Maps
- O Car Sharing
- o Walking





Your #1 resource for transportation information & options to make getting into and around the District easier than ever.

WAYS TO GET AROUND

TOOLS FOR GETTING AROUND

OMMUTER RENEETS

GROUP TRAVEL



## PUT IT AWAY.

UNCAR FOR A DAY.

#### YOU COULD WIN A KINDLE FIRE OR OTHER GREAT PRIZES!

BIKE, WALK, USE TRANSIT, WORK FROM HOME, OR GO CAR-LITE AND CARPOOL.

TAKE THE PLEDGE TODAY AT CARFREEMETRODC.ORG, EVEN IF YOU'RE ALREADY

USING CAR FREE OR CAR-LITE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS.





#### WAYS TO GET AROUND

Find information and links on regional buses, DC Circulator and Metrobus and Metrorail, as well as, information on biking and walking in the city and much more!



#### TOOLS FOR GETTING AROUND

Plan your trip through Metro's Trip Planner. Use the Carbon Calculator to see how much carbon you emit, or use our Interactive Map to find your way around DC by way of biking, bus, metro and more!



#### COMMUTER BENEFITS

goDCgo's complimentary Employer Services program helps organizations in the District to implement and promote commuter benefits programs.



#### GROUP TRAVEL

Getting people to your event has never been easier! goDCgo encourages all event planners to support and promote the use of transit and other sustainable modes of transportation.









#### **Media Objectives**

The marketing campaign raised public awareness of Car Free Day and challenged drivers to leave their cars home for the day and go car free, reduce the distance of trips taken, or go car-lite by carpooling.

The marketing campaign consisted of radio, text messaging, posters, bus cards and bus sides, email blasts, online banner ads, social media and earned media. The efforts brought attention to Car Free Day and encouraged the public to make a pledge to go car free or car-lite.

#### Radio

Car Free Day radio spots ran for three weeks in September on the following stations:

- WTOP (News)
- El Zol (Hispanic)
- DC101 (Rock Alternative)

Put it Away: 60 Seconds

You put away the dishes, the laundry, the groceries,

And even put away savings.

Why not put away your car for Car Free Day, and make the air a little cleaner? So put away some traffic congestion on Monday, September 22nd for World Car Free Day. Bike, walk, use transit, work from home, or go car-lite and carpool.

Take the pledge at carfreemetrodc.org, and you might win a Kindle or other prizes.

Car Free Day, Monday September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Take the pledge at carfreemetrodc.org.

Sponsored by Commuter Connections.







## Value Added Giveaways at El Zol Event



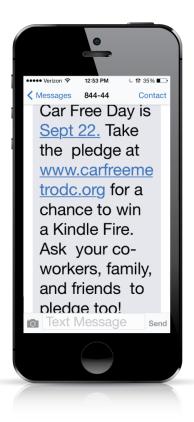


**Clear Channel Online Banner** 



#### **Text Messaging**

Opt-in text messaging was used to encourage those who participated in previous year's to pledge and to share the message with others.



#### **Email Blasts**

Email blasts were sent to employers and those who took the Car Free Day pledge over the past three years.

#### **Poster**

The visual displayed a car placed on a coat hanger with the messaging "Put it Away". The call to action directed people to carfreemetrodc.org to take the pledge and for additional information. 16,000 were printed at a cost of \$1,196.00.



#### **Transit Signage**

Over 300 ad spaces on transit were donated by Arlington County, Fairfax County Connector, Montgomery County Commuter Services and WMATA. Quick Response (QR) codes were used to allow smartphone users to directly connect to the Car Free Day pledge page.

- 45 Arlington Bus Cards
- 28 Fairfax Connector Bus Kings
- 23 Montgomery County Bus Kings
- 9 Montgomery County Bus Tails
- 200 WMATA Bus Cards











# Put it away.

## Take the pledge at carfreemetrodc.org

You may win a Kindle Fire or other prizes!

Bike, walk, use transit, work from home, or go car-lite or carpool. Take the pledge today, even if you're already using car free or car-lite transportation options.









# Put it away. Uncar for a day.

#### Take the pledge at carfreemetrodc.org

You could win a Kindle Fire or other great prizes! Tell a co-worker, family or friend. Take the pledge today!









# Put it away. Uncar for a day.

## Take the pledge at carfreemetrodc.org

You could win a Kindle Fire or other great prizes! Tell a co-worker, family or friend. Take the pledge today!







METRO DC 9.22.14



# Put it away.

Uncar for a day.



## Take the pledge at carfreemetrodc.org

You could win a Kindle Fire or other great prizes! Tell a co-worker, family or friend to use Metrobus or Metrorail.



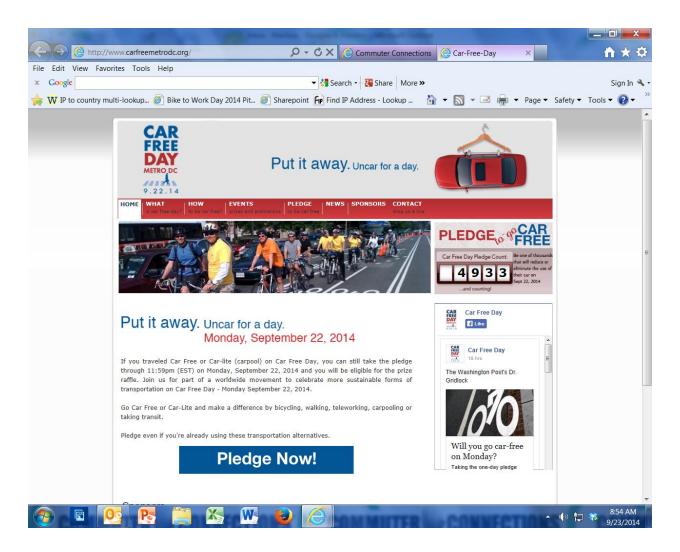






#### Website

The Car Free Day website was updated to include elements from the new creative, unifying the campaign's digital presence with the printed marketing materials. More noticeable ways to reach the pledge page were added, beyond the red pledge tab, making it more obvious and easier to find.



#### **Social Media**

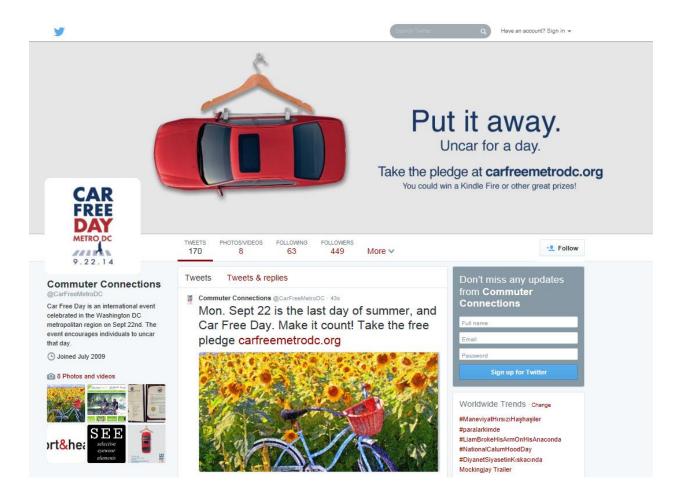
# facebook

A Car Free Day Facebook page was used to keep friends of the event up to date on activities prior to and following the event. Car Free Day was "liked" by nearly 4,000 Facebook fans.





Twitter was used to engage with the public and to promote Car Free Day activities and sponsors in the region. Car Free Day had over 450 followers on Twitter.



#### **Capital Area Car Free College Campus Challenge**

To help create a buzz about Car Free Day around college campuses around the region, a friendly competition was held. Five universities encouraged their students, faculty and administration to take the Car Free pledge. The total number of pledges with .edu email addresses was 239. Below are the totals by institution.

Georgetown University 54
George Washington University 53
University of Maryland 32
George Mason University 13
American University 6
University of the District of Columbia 0













#### **Earned Media**

A strategic calendar of media releases was designed to build momentum, beginning with a calendar listing one month ahead and continuing with several press releases, each focused on a different benefit of participation and highlights of new features for the 2014 event. The team pitched the following press releases to newspapers, magazines, radio and televisions stations, and social media:

#### **Press Releases**

Car Free Day Free Registration is Now Open! - 8/8/14
Capital Area Car Free College Campus Challenge - 9/9/14
Drivers in the Metro DC Area Are Asked to Pledge to Go Car Free - 9/19/14

#### **Performance Results**

In September, 4,656 took the pledge to go Car Free or Car-Lite. More than half of those who pledged used a combination of modes. District residents generated 29 percent of the pledges, Maryland 35 percent, and Virginia 36 percent. The total mileage saved by using alternative modes on Car Free Day was 109,428 miles.

Mode	# Pledges	% Pledges
Commuter Rail	161	3%
Walk	1,821	39%
Bicycle	1,763	38%
Local Bus	674	14%
Carpool/Vanpool	465	10%
Metrobus	1,040	22%
Metrorail	2,024	43%
Telework	307	7%
Other	155	3%

# of unique pledges 4,656

## **Appendix of Media Placements**

Article Coverage - 22		
Date	Outlet	Topic linked to URL
8/9/2014	Connected Communities	Car Free Day Free Registration is Now Open!
8/12/2014	Connected Communities	Drivers in the Metro DC Area Are Asked to Pledge to Go Car Free or Car-Lite on September 22nd
8/16/2014	City of Alexandria, Virginia	Pledge for Car Free Day
8/18/2014	Car-Free Diet	World Car Free Day 2014
8/19/2014	Baltimore Metropolitan Council	Car Free Day Pledge
8/25/2014	Frederick News Post	Car Free Day registration opens
8/27/2014	Southern Maryland News Net	Millions Worldwide to Go Car-Free or "Car-Lite" on Monday, Sept. 22
9/3/2014	WUSA 9	Parking becomes parks on Annual Park(ing) Day
9/4/2014	The Bay Net	Car Free Day - Free registration is now open!
9/4/2014	Connected Communities	Public Invited to Participate in Car Free Day
9/4/2014	WUSA 9	Car Free Day: Ditch the ride or go car light!
9/5/2014	Bethesda Now	County Urging Locals to Bike, Walk Or Take Public Transit On 'Car Free Day'
9/9/2014	Connected Communities	Capital Area Car Free College Campus Challenge
9/12/2014	Greater Greater Washington	88% of new DC households are car-free
9/18/2014	Montgomery County	Car Free Day
9/19/2014	Georgetown University	Car Free Day
9/19/2014	My MC Media	MoCo Celebrates Car Free Day on Sept. 22
9/19/2014	University of Maryland	Car Free Day
9/19/2014	Washington Post	Commuter Connections program has spent 40 years helping people go car-free
9/20/2014	Capital Bikeshare	Capital Bikeshare offering 24 hour memberships for \$1 on Car Free Day
9/22/2014	Frederick News Post	<u>Car Free day encourages alternative</u> <u>transportation</u>
9/22/2014	Loudon County Traffic	Car Free Day

Newsletters & Calendar Listings - 8		
Date	Outlet	Topic linked to URL
8/1/2014	NoMa BID Newsletter	PARK(ing) Day and Car Free Monday
8/14/2014	Adams Morgan BID Newsletter	Car Free Day - September 22, 2014
8/20/2014	Capitol Hill BID Newsletter	Commuter Connections Seeks Business
0/20/2014	Capitol Hill BID Newsletter	Participation for Car Free Day in September
8/20/2014	Georgetown BID Newsletter	Car Free Day is September 22
9/2/2014	DDOT	Car Free Day 2014
9/8/2014	Now-Events	World Car Free Day 2014
9/17/2014	goDCgo	Free Coffee for Commuters: Car Free Day with
3/1//2014	godego	goDCgo
9/22/2014	Frederick News Post	Annual Car Free Day 2014

Television Coverage - 2		
Date	Outlet	Topic linked to URL
9/22/2014	NBC 4 Washington	Commuters Encouraged to Have a Car Free Day
9/22/2014	WUSA 9	Some DC residents go car-free everyday

Radio Coverage - 2		
Date	Outlet	Topic linked to URL
9/22/2014	WAMU	For Some D.C. Residents, Every Day Is Car Free  Day
9/22/2014	WMAL	Interview with Commuter Connections (Sound bite above)

Blog Coverage - 6		
Date	Outlet	Topic Linked to URL
8/8/2014	Wash Cycle	<u>Car Free Day – Free Registration is Now Open!</u>
8/21/2014	ATP Blog	Practice Your Emergency Commute on Car-Free  Day
9/19/2014	Washington Post - Dr. Gridlock	Will you go car free on Monday?
9/20/2014	PlanItMetro Blog	Metrorail Riders Go Car Free Every Day!
9/20/2014	Urbanful	Car Free Day is coming up — and we're giving away a lot of free stuff to celebrate
9/22/2014	ATP Blog	Car Free Day is TODAY!

Social Media Highlights - 30		
Outlet	Topic linked to URL	
	Have you planned your car-free commute forMonday,	
a DC a Faraka d	September 22? Check out www.godcgo.com to find your	
godego racebook	route for Car Free Day. Comment below and let us know	
	how you'll get around, sans car.	
Tri-County Council for	Put the car away on Car Free Day, September 22 and go	
Southern Maryland	car free or car-lite. Visit www.carfreemetrodc.org and	
Facebook	pledge today!	
	Car Free Day is Sept 22. Take the pledge and see how it	
Beyond DC Twitter	goes. http://carfreemetrodc.org	
	pic.twitter.com/W17Ybvf1lU	
Capital Bikeshare Facebook	We're getting ready for Car Free Day on September	
	22nd in a big way! On Monday, visit any station and get	
	a 24 hour membership for just \$1! Get all the details	
	here: gdcg.co/1r4UU2H	
ART Alert Twitter	Going #carfree this weekend? Tell us your story on our	
	FB page & be entered to win a bike bag.	
	http://ow.ly/oZVQH #CarFreeMetroDC	
Class Ala Davida and Talling	@CarFreeMetroDC Here's the link to the Air Quality	
Clean Air Partners Twitter	Index. http://bit.ly/gADJli #CarFreeMetroDC	
	Celebrating @CarFreeMetroDC this Monday? Get	
Bike and Roll Twitter	discount for full day #BikeandRoll rentals here:	
	http://bit.ly/ZuQDfK	
Capital Bikeshare Twitter	ICYMI - We're offering \$1 24 hour memberships at every	
	station on @CarFreeMetroDC Day 2014.	
	http://gdcg.co/1r4UU2H	
	goDCgo Facebook  Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland Facebook  Beyond DC Twitter  Capital Bikeshare Facebook  ART Alert Twitter  Clean Air Partners Twitter  Bike and Roll Twitter	

		We're getting ready for Car Free Day on September
9/19/2014		22nd in a big way! On Monday, visit any station and get
	Car-Free Diet Facebook	a 24 hour membership for just \$1! Get all the details
		here: gdcg.co/1r4UU2H
9/19/2014	George Mason Parking Twitter	@CarFreeMetroDC: We're taking free pledges thru
		Mon Sept 22. To see the awesome prize raffle
		assortment visit http://www.carfreemetrodc.org
		- A Company of the Co
		Put it away. Uncar for a day. 9/22 @CarFreeMetroDC
9/19/2014	Golden Triangle BID Twitter	http://ow.ly/A2STg
	NeoNiche Strategies Twitter	Did you know you could win great prizes when you
9/19/2014		pledge to go #carfree on Monday 9/22?
		http://goo.gl/O75dKv @CarFreeMetroDC #carfreeday
		It's about time you had a serious talk about your
9/19/2014	Bike Arlington Twitter	relationship, with your car http://bit.ly/1gDqeOi
		#CarFreeMetroDC #CarFreeDay
		Celebrate #CarFreeDay tomorrow by #biking or taking
9/21/2014	Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling Twitter	#transit! http://fabb-
9/21/2014		bikes.blogspot.com/2014/09/celebrate-car-free-day-on-
		september-22.html #takethepledge
	Sustainability at GW Twitter	Don't forget Car-Free Day tomorrow! Walk, Bike,
9/21/2014		Metro! Be #Sustainable! @CarFreeMetroDC
		http://ow.ly/AnaPD http://ow.ly/i/60xWf
	WTOP Freebies Twitter	Where to get FREE bus rides and FREE coffee on Car
9/21/2014		Free Day Monday:
3/21/2014		http://wtop.com/?nid=893&sid=3152520 @WTOP
		@WTOPLiving @CarFreeMetroDC
		Come celebrate #carfreeday with us at Union Station.
9/22/2014	DC Circulator Facebook	Tell us how you're commuting without a car and
3/22/2014		get #freecoffee and other goodies. Ask about a free ride
		pass!
9/22/2014	Dr. Gridlock Twitter	Not too late to participate in Car-Free Day. (You can
J, 22, 2014	טו. Gridiock i witter	even go "car-lite.") http://wapo.st/1qmm0P4
	Georgetown University Office of Sustainability Facebook	Happy #carfreeday! Don't forget to take the
9/22/2014		@carfreemetrodc pledge with your @georgetown.edu
		email address through 5pm today at
		www.carfreemetrodc.org for a chance to win a Kindle
		Fire and show your sustainable #hoya spirit! With
		GUWellness: Mind, Body,

		It's #CarFreeDay! Visit us @UnionStation DC west
9/22/2014	goDCgo Twitter	carriage port for free coffee and stickers!
3,22,2011	goz ego i witter	pic.twitter.com/T0aLVq41dy
		What can \$1 get you these days? Well today it can get
9/22/2014	RideScout Twitter	you a 24-hour @bikeshare membership:
3/22/2014	Muescout i witter	http://bit.ly/1ukqKbO_@CarFreeMetroDC
		Our friends @TheTysonsCorner and we want to know
0/22/2014	Turana Dauta anahin Turittan	
9/22/2014	Tysons Partnership Twitter	how #CarFreeMetroDC is going. Tweet us your pics, or
		discuss here: http://ow.ly/BLSAG
		It's Car Free Day! Anyone ditching their ride or going
9/22/2014	WUSA 9 Twitter	"car light" today?
		http://www.wusa9.com/story/news/2014/09/22/car-
		free-day-dc-metro-area/16036823/
		Are you participating in #CarFreeMetroDC today?
9/22/2014	Uber Twitter	Commute home by carpooling with your coworkers and
		using the fare split feature in the app!
		@MartinDiCaro Yup! we are encouraging drivers to un-
9/22/2014	AAA Mid-Atlantic Twitter	car and celebrate more sustainable forms of travel for
		Car Free Day. #CarFreeMetroDC
		Celebrate the autumnal equinox by going
9/22/2014	AU Public Safety Twitter	#carfreemetrodc. It's a beautiful day to try a new transit
	·	mode!
0/00/00/	National Capital Planning	Approximately 90% of NCPC staff walk, bike, or take
9/22/2014	Commission Twitter	public transportation to work. #CarFreeMetroDC
		Happy #carfreeday at @georgetownuniversity! Come
		take the #metrodc #carfree pledge and enter to win
9/22/2014	Sustainabe GW Instagram	prizes And pick up healthy breakfast courtesy of
		@guwellness! At the main gates til 10 am.
		#carfreemetrodc
		Some DC residents go car-free everyday
9/23/2014	Wash Cycle Twitter	http://on.wusa9.com/1sjp4Tt_via @wusa9
		On #CarFreeDay, residents yearn for the
9/24/2014	Greater Greater	@PurpleLineMD @purplelinenow:
3/24/2014	Washington Twitter	http://ggwash.org/24300
		1111p.//ggwa311.01g/24300