

20 | EMPLOYER
26 | AWARDS

CHAMPION FOR CHANGE

TRANSIT

VANPOOL

CARPOOL

BIKE

WALK

TELEWORK

JUNE 30, 2026





Neil H. Harris
Council Member, City of Gaithersburg

Federal workforce return to office mandates and jobs lost due to federal restructuring have dramatically altered the daily commuting landscape. To navigate this dynamic, the Commuter Connections Employer Services Outreach team, managed by COG, has been steadfast in providing free guidance and support to employers transitioning employees back to the physical workplace. The outreach team engages with their workers about the abundance of sustainable travel methods available within the region.

The employers we are honoring today have implemented innovative and successful commuter and telework programs. We hope that through their example, other organizations will embrace similar initiatives, creating more opportunities to help maximize the efficiencies of telework and shared commutes.

On behalf of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, I wish to congratulate the winners of the 2026 Commuter Connections Employer Awards and extend thanks for their continued commitment to reducing traffic congestion and improving the region's air quality.

Sincerely,



Neil H. Harris
Chair, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

For more than 30 years the Commuter Connections employer outreach network at COG has provided valuable complimentary services to organizations in the National Capital Region. The outreach teams throughout the DMV collaborate with employers to help establish and expand comprehensive commuter benefits to help employees get to and from the workplace. Employer contributions toward investments such as commuter subsidies and amenities help employers attract and retain the most talented and dedicated workforce.

The award-winning employers being recognized have demonstrated a strong commitment to encouraging the use of sustainable transportation methods such as public transit, carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, walking and teleworking. These initiatives not only prioritize an optimal work/life balance for employees but also play a crucial role in increasing mobility on our roadways and positively impacting the region's air quality.

Please join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2026 Commuter Connections Employer Awards. Their dedication and ongoing efforts to address and improve the commuting challenges faced by their employees warrant such recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Klancher', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wendy Klancher
Chair, Commuter Connections Subcommittee



Wendy Klancher
Bureau Chief, Arlington County Commuter Services

The 2026 Employer Awards Program

The Commuter Connections annual Employer Awards program acknowledges employers who offer outstanding commuter benefits, amenities, and tools to facilitate teleworking and/or the use of sustainable commuting methods. Such initiatives help to reduce employee drive-alone travel to improve mobility and reduce harmful vehicle emissions. Qualified applicants were evaluated by a Selection Committee made up of transportation professionals, industry experts, and employers from throughout the metropolitan Washington region. Winners were chosen for their ability to offer measurable commuter benefits that reduce automobile fuel consumption and emissions through fewer vehicle trips and miles traveled. In addition, winners were selected for implementing policies that have improved the lives of their employees and residents of the National Capital Region.

Employer Awards

Employers that offer a host of commuter benefits and incentives to encourage and reward employees for using sustainable means of transportation to and from work. Incentives and commuter benefits can come in many forms, including, but not limited to, transit benefits and subsidies; preferred or discounted parking for carpools and vanpools; amenities for bicyclists and walkers such as showers and storage; and laptops, training, and software for teleworking. With the availability of choices, employees are empowered to make well-informed decisions about better ways of commuting, instead of driving alone.

Employer Outreach Team Award

The Employer Outreach Team that has most successfully met its goal of partnering with employers to develop and expand commute benefit offerings and/or teleworking.

Employer Services Organization Award

An organization that has instituted a program or enhanced an existing program that makes it easier for employers to introduce or expand commute benefits and/or telework in the workplace.





Employer Award
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
Vienna, VA

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) is an independent regional transportation body that plans, prioritizes, and funds multimodal projects that improve mobility and provide diverse travel options to enhance regional connectivity and reduce traffic congestion within Northern Virginia. NVTA is responsible for developing the long-range transportation plan for Northern Virginia and has 21 employees.

All employees telework two days a week and receive training, laptops, and other necessities to make teleworking as effective as possible. NVTA subsidizes 60% of monthly transit expenses through SmartBenefits, and the office is conveniently located near a transit station with Metrorail and bus service. Additionally, new employees receive a free \$50 SmarTrip card to try transit. Five employees (24%) ride transit and an additional seven employees (33%) carpool to work on a regular basis.

Active commuting is supported with a free annual membership to Capital Bikeshare, valued at \$120, and the office provides staff with lockers, shower facilities, and covered bicycle racks. Additionally, the office is near the W&OD and I-66 parallel trails, making cycling an accessible, safe, and enjoyable option for staff. Four employees (19%) bike to work.

In 2025, NVTA helped reduce 126,000 single occupant vehicle employee miles and saved 5,727 gallons of gas.

Suburban Hospital is a community-based, not-for-profit hospital serving Montgomery County and the surrounding area since 1943, offering both complex and routine care for a range of specialties. The Hospital is the designated trauma center for Montgomery County and has approximately 2,200 full- and part-time employees.

Suburban Hospital offers employees a monthly subsidy for transit expenses, provides a free employee shuttle to and from the Bethesda Metro station, and displays real-time local bus arrival information and transit schedules at the workplace. The Hospital has a “Travel Smart Guide” that maps local transit options and offers information about fares and trip planning.

Suburban Hospital also offers a monthly subsidy for employees carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, or walking to work. The Hospital has bike racks, a secure bicycle cage, and weatherproof outdoor storage. Additionally, the facility has showers and lockers.

Suburban Hospital hosts quarterly “Commuter Information Days,” a tabling event. In addition, the hospital promotes Bike to Work Day and the goDMV Commuter Competition. Lastly, the hospital participates in a commuter survey through Montgomery County.

In 2025, Suburban Hospital helped reduce 519,000 single occupant vehicle employee miles and saved 23,600 gallons of gas.





Employer Award
Suburban Hospital
Bethesda, MD



Employer Award
The RAND Corporation
Arlington, VA



The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization founded in 1948 committed to delivering evidence-based solutions to complex public policy challenges. RAND addresses critical issues in healthcare, national security, education, international relations, and emerging technologies. RAND has 1,750 employees globally with 428 assigned to its Arlington, VA office.

Hybrid teleworkers enjoy complete autonomy to work from home as frequently as they choose. Approximately 360 Arlington employees (90%) telework and do so 2 to 3 days per week, on average. For days when employees commute, RAND provides a monthly transit/vanpool subsidy of \$130, and the office is conveniently located directly above a Metrorail station.

Employees are also given \$65 when they have vanpooled, biked, or walked 10 days out of a given month for three months (can be nonconsecutive), with a max of \$260 annually. Around 250 employees (62.5%) take transit or vanpool. Showers are on site, a bike cage is located in the parking garage, and about 10 employees (2.5%) utilize the \$65 benefit. In addition, RAND fosters a strong bicycling culture through its well-established Cycling Group, a community for those committed to sustainable and healthy transportation options.

In 2025, RAND helped reduce 1,185,000 single occupant vehicle employee miles and saved 53,900 gallons of gas.



The Employer Services Outreach Team Award is given to the Commuter Connections employer outreach team that has most successfully met its goal of partnering with employers to develop and expand commuter benefits. Ten outreach teams serve the Washington, DC metropolitan region to cultivate and support employer-based transportation programs.

Winner selection for this award was based on information provided by the jurisdictions as part of required quarterly reporting to COG/TPB and through ongoing database verifications made by Commuter Connections staff.

During the 2025 calendar year, the employer outreach team winner held 62 employer and community onsite events; led annual Employer and Hispanic Council meetings to engage local businesses; expanded its Best Workplaces for Commuters program from two to nine designees; and piloted a travel training program with a local nonprofit focused on workforce development for recent adult immigrants.

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board's Commuter Connections program at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is pleased to honor OmniRide with the 2026 Employer Services Outreach Team Award.

OmniRide is the brand name for mobility services offered by the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission. OmniRide's headquarters are in Prince William County.





Employer Services Outreach Team Award
OmniRide
Woodbridge, VA



Employer Services Organization Award
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Washington, DC

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) is an independent public body which operates the Washington region's two primary commercial airports. MWAA is governed by a 17-member board of directors appointed by Virginia, DC, Maryland, and the White House, and employs more than 1,700 staff, including dedicated police and fire departments.

There are 724 tenant companies serving Washington Dulles International Airport employing 33,460, and 392 tenant companies serving Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport with approximately 21,000 employees. Together, MWAA has partnered with airport employers to promote a culture of sustainable commuting to nearly 55,000 airport employees.

While Reagan National has had a Metrorail Station along the Blue Line for nearly half a century, the opening of the Washington Dulles International Airport Metrorail Station along the Silver Line in 2022 has become a game changer for MWAA's ability to become a transit advocate for both airports.

MWAA, Dulles International, and Reagan National were each designated as Best Workplaces for Commuters employers, a national recognized program started by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and currently operated by the Center for Urban Transportation Research.

MWAA has conducted a host of outreach initiatives with airport employers to introduce or feature commuter benefits including those in collaboration with chambers of commerce and with the Airport Airline Management Council. Forums used to engage with airport employees on the topic of commuting include presence at airport benefits fairs and bilingual transit travel training sessions offering free SmarTrip cards with \$50 in fare.

2026 Honorable Mention

Commuter Connections would like to acknowledge the following employers with honorable mention:

Alexandria Transit Company, City of Alexandria, VA
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Bethesda, MD
Association Innovation and Management, Reston, VA
Bana Solutions, McLean, VA
Ellumen, Silver Spring, MD
Friendship Heights Village Community Center, Chevy Chase, MD
INOVA Health System, Northern Virginia
KNZ Solutions, Vienna, VA
Marine Corps Base Quantico, Quantico, VA
MicroAutomation, Chantilly, VA
National Landing Center Two, Arlington, VA
Northern Virginia Community College, Sterling, VA
Planet Fitness, Silver Spring, MD
Premier Group, Hyattsville, MD
Sunrise Senior Living, Silver Spring, MD
The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, VA
Transportation Federal Credit Union, City of Alexandria, VA
Virginia Tech, City of Alexandria, VA

2026 Selection Committee

Commuter Connections would like to acknowledge the following members for volunteering as part of the 2026 Employer Awards Selection Committee:

Josh Etim, City of Alexandria
Roland C. Frodigh, Washington Headquarters Services (DOD)
Gersilda Kraja, American Physical Therapy Association
Katy Lang, District Department of Transportation
Brian Leckie, Virginia Department of Transportation
Jennifer Raley, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Meg Young, Maryland Department of Transportation



National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

Established in 1965, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for metropolitan Washington. Working with local, state, regional, and federal partners, the TPB coordinates future plans, provides data and analysis to decision makers, and coordinates regional programs to advance safety, land-use coordination, and more. The TPB is housed at and staffed by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

Commuter Connections

Commuter Connections is a regional network of transportation organizations that began in 1974 as a program of the TPB, offering free commuter services to employers and employees. Services and programs include ridematching for carpools and vanpools; coordination of the Bike to Work Day and goDMV Commuter Competition events; administration of the Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) program (Washington and Baltimore regions); and management of the CommuterCash app. Through its employer outreach representatives, Commuter Connections assists employers with commuter benefit programs. Commuter Connections is funded by the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and U.S. Department of Transportation.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Founded in 1957, COG is an independent nonprofit association with a membership of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress. COG is the hub for regional partnership where each month more than 1,500 officials and experts convene to make connections, share information, and develop solutions to the region's major challenges. Together, COG and its members advance a region-forward vision for a more prosperous, accessible, livable, equitable, and sustainable future.

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