

COMMUTER CONNECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE DRAFT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS September 16, 2025

The <u>meeting recording</u> is available to rostered committee members. Contact the Subcommittee's Staff Lead, Dan Sheehan (<u>dsheehan@mwcog.org</u>), for the password to view the meeting recording.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was brought to order by the Subcommittee Chair, Christian Bacon, PGC DPWT. Chair Bacon asked new attendees participating in the Webex and in-person attendees to introduce themselves.

2. JULY 15, 2025 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the prior subcommittee meeting were displayed for members to review. Chair Bacon requested a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Commuter Connections Subcommittee meeting. Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect, made a motion to approve the highlights; Thersea McMullin, Fairfax County, seconded the motion. The highlights were approved.

3. VICE CHAIR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dan Sheehan, COG/TPB staff, announced thanked the Subcommittee Chair, Christian Bacon, Prince George's County, for her service throughout FY2025. Wendy Klancher, Subcommittee Vice Chair, transitioned to the Chair role. The Vice Chair Nominating Committee announced Katy Lang, DDOT, as the FY2026 Vice Chair for the subcommittee. Mr. Sheehan asked the Chair to request a motion to accept Katy Lang as the new Subcommittee Vice Chair.

Chair Klancher requested the motion. George Clark, TCCSMD, motioned for the Subcommittee to accept Katy Lang as the new Subcommittee Vice Chair. Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect, seconded. The motion carried.

4. 2025 STATE OF THE COMMUTE: PRELIMINARY HIGHLIGHTS

Lori Zeller, Foursquare ITP, briefed the subcommittee on the State of the Commute survey and methodology. Drew Ackermann, Foursquare ITP, then shared preliminary highlights from the survey that was conducted in late spring/early summer 2025; there were 7,524 completed surveys received. Results included a variety of different metrics, including primary commute mode choice, attitudes towards commuting, telework trends for the past several iterations of the survey, and general awareness of Commuter Connections programs. The presentation is currently embargoed but will be sent to subcommittee members in a follow-up email after the meeting. A full draft of the technical report will be shared with the subcommittee on October 20, with comments accepted through October 31. The subcommittee will be asked to endorse the report for release at the November meeting.

5. TDM EVALUATION PROJECT UPDATE

Lori Zeller, Foursquare ITP, provided an update on TDM evaluation efforts. The 2025 State of the Commute technical report and web-based dashboard are currently under development. The Guaranteed Ride Home Applicant Survey is currently collecting responses from past and current participants. Several other evaluation activities are upcoming later in the fiscal year, including the Retention Rate Survey, the Bike to Work Day Participant Survey, and the Employer Outreach Database Analysis.

6. NOTABLE FY2026 COMMUTER CONNECTIONS ACTIVITIES

Dan Sheehan, COG/TPB staff, highlighted planned work products anticipated for FY2026. Notable deviations from prior fiscal years include an overhaul of the Commuter Connections TDM System, expanded capacity to operate the goDMV Commuter Competition, re-establishment of Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 17, and the conclusion of two programs: Regional Car Free Day promotions and CarpoolNow. Additionally, the 2026 subcommittee meeting calendar is being altered to host meetings at 10:00AM every other month instead of 12:00PM.

7. FY2027 COMMUTER CONNECTIONS WORK PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Dan Sheehan, COG/TPB staff, highlighted the development timeline for the FY2027 Commuter Connections Work Program (CCWP). The CCWP contains a listing of all work products and services to be performed by Commuter Connections, as authorized by the state funding agencies and the Transportation Planning Board. The Subcommittee will be provided a draft document for review and comment at the November meeting.

This year, feedback on program delivery strategies was solicited by staff to help inform the various work products to be included in the FY2027 CCWP. Mr. Sheehan summarized feedback received by the CCWP Strategic Direction Work Group meeting on August 19th. The group discussed various approaches to implementing TDM Evaluation and Program Monitoring, and Commuter Program Operations.

8. FY2025 Q4 QUARTER CCWP BUDGET REPORT, FY2025 Q4 PROGRESS REPORT, AND FY2025 CCWP ANNUAL REPORT

Dan Sheehan, COG/TPB staff, briefed the subcommittee on several reporting documents produced by COG/TPB staff. The FY2025 CCWP Budget Report showed total expenses at 69% as of June 30th; underruns will be deobligated and repurposed by the state funders. The FY2025 Q4 Progress Report highlighted notable accomplishments including the goDMV event, Bike to Work Day event, and Employer Awards event. Activity summaries were presented in both the Q4 Progress report and cumulatively in the FY2025 CCWP Annual Report.

9. STAFF UPDATES

A. goDMV Work Group Invitation. Subcommittee members were invited to join the goDMV Commuter Competition Work Group, scheduled to start planning for the spring competition this upcoming Thursday, September 18th. Interested members can contact James Davenport (jdavenport@mwcog.org) to join the work group.

B. CommuterCash Marketing. A marketing campaign for CommuterCash is currently ongoing, with digital ads and paid social media ads reusing creative developed earlier this year.

<u>C. Visualize 2050 Comment Period</u>. The TPB will hold a public comment period this fall on three documents: the draft Visualize 2050 National Capital Region Transportation Plan, the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Air Quality Conformity (AQC) Analysis Report. The comment period will run from Thursday, October 23 – Friday, November 21, 2025. This is the third and final comment period before the anticipated approval of these three documents at the December 17 TPB meeting.

<u>D. New Staff Introduction</u>. Tas Hossain was introduced as the new TDM Program Analyst on the Commuter Connections team. Ms. Hossain's focus areas include serving as Staff Lead for the TDM Evaluation Work Group, fulfilling data requests from network members, creating and compiling system reports for program monitoring, and other tasks.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect, offered to present results from a recent slugging study at a future subcommittee meeting.

Tracy McPhail, NBTMD, invited others to attend an upcoming ACT Chesapeake Chapter event.

11. ADJOURN

The next meeting of the Commuter Connections Subcommittee meeting will be held on November 18, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.