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Thanks for helping us promote the Commuter Challenge!

If your company or organization participated in this year's Commuter Challenge, thank you for your help!

We appreciate your efforts to encourage your employees to replace drive-alone trips and instead ride the bus or train, bicycle, carpool, walk, telework or vanpool. We recorded nearly 16,000 pledges in this year's Commuter Challenge, which ended June 30.

Thanks for all that you did to assist Metro Transit and the region's Transportation Management Organizations, whether it was hosting a commuter fair, planning a special event for your employees, posting promotional materials or helping in other ways.

Prizewinners will be notified later this month.

We look forward to your involvement in next year's Commuter Challenge.

Reminder: Keep tracking those trips!

Even though this year's Commuter Challenge promotion is over, your employees can extend their Challenge and enter to win even more prizes with the Commuter Challenge [Trip Tracker](#). Every time they take the bus or train, bicycle, carpool, walk, telework or vanpool instead of driving alone, they should log on and track their trips. Every time your



employees track one or more trips during a week, they'll be entered in a weekly drawing for a \$50 gift card.

Teleworking works! eWorkplace results are in

Telework programs can reduce congestion on roadways, save money and time for your employees, increase employee productivity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For the past two years, Metro Transit and the region's Transportation Management Organizations have partnered with the state-sponsored eWorkplace program to promote teleworking, which allows employees to work from home and use technology to connect to the office.

In June, eWorkplace hosted a wrap-up event to celebrate results, including working with 48 employers and more than 4,200 participating employees (see [final report](#)).

Some highlights from the report:

- More than three-fourths of employers report that telework is leading to greater productivity
- Participants are saving about 7.5 million vehicle miles traveled per year
- Commuters are reducing more than 8 million pounds of CO₂ emissions a year, the equivalent of 1,000 acres of forest planted

Although state funding for the eWorkplace initiative ended in June, we'll continue to support eWorkplace efforts with information and tools for employers interested in starting or expanding telework programs (including this free [Telework Toolkit](#)).

Ready to get started? Contact your [employer outreach specialist](#) for more information.

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Say hello to a better, easier Guaranteed Ride Home

The Guaranteed Ride Home program continues to offer your employees a free way to get home in an emergency but now it's easier than ever to use!

We've switched to an online system. That means peace of mind with no paper coupons to keep track of or lose.

If your employees register under the improved program, they can opt to take a taxi or ride a bus or train, just as they did before. After their ride home, they simply go online and fill out a reimbursement request. We'll issue a check to cover a taxi ride or

we'll credit the fare back to a Go-To Card or pass for a ride on the bus or train.

What should your employees do?

Visit metrotransit.org to register as a new user.

This is a one-time registration. Commuters won't have to re-register every six months or alter their account unless their information changes. Participants can use the program up to four times per year or \$100 in ride value, whichever comes first.

What if your employees still have coupons?

Coupons will be accepted until their expiration date. Check the instructions printed on the back of coupons.

Learn more about the [Guaranteed Ride Home program](#).

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Manage your Go-To Cards on My Fare Card List

There's a new feature on Metro Transit's online store to help employers and organizations manage multiple Go-To Cards that they've purchased for their employees or clients.

Called My Fare Card List, the feature provides transit pass administrators a convenient way to manage up to 100 Go-To Cards and submit payment in one easy transaction with a credit card.

A [Go-To Card](#) is the most flexible way to pay fares and allows an organization to purchase a variety of fares (for example, stored value or 31-Day Passes).

How your employees or clients benefit: They'll get discounted rides and can pay for their Go-To Card with pre-tax dollars, if applicable.

How your organization benefits: You can offer a great transit benefit without the hassle of distributing SuperSavers each month to the same set of participants.

Get more details [here](#).

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Have you expanded commuter options?

Has your organization developed creative ways to promote alternatives to driving alone to work? Do you know an individual who is an advocate for smart commuting options?

It's not too early to start planning for the 2011 Commuter Choice Awards, a program that recognizes companies and individuals for their innovative ways to promote transit, bicycling, carpooling, vanpooling and telecommuting.

We'll announce the nomination process this fall. Meantime, it's helpful to track your company's progress and successes if you've started a new commuter program or improved an existing one this year. Nominations require that examples and support materials be provided to show a high level of commitment to expanding commuter options.

Talk to your [employer outreach specialist](#) to learn more about the program.

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