2007 State of the Commute Survey
Arlington County Analysis

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OVERALL STUDY PURPOSE:

This study analyzed data collected in two commuter surveys undertaken by the Commuter Connections program of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) (for the metropolitan Washington, DC region, including five Northern Virginia jurisdictions) and the Commonwealth of Virginia by DRPT (other Virginia regions outside Northern Virginia). Commuter Connections also conducted this survey for the metropolitan Washington region in 2001 and in 2004.
Organize and share Arlington-related information collected through the MWCOG 2007 State of the Commute Study. Specifically:

- Profile 2007 commute patterns for Arlington
- Assess awareness of local Transportation Demand Management (TDM) services
- Assess support for non-drive alone mode use and overall support for TDM activities
- Highlight Arlington’s mode and TDM performance in relation to other Virginia regions and other areas of the Washington metropolitan region

Offer broad-based strategic recommendations on what will encourage Arlington residents and employees to reduce commuting by single-occupant vehicle (SOV).

STUDY INFORMATION SOURCES:

The analysis used data from two surveys:

- MWCOG SOC – Residents of 5 Northern Virginia jurisdictions (City of Alexandria and Arlington, Fairfax*, Loudoun, and Prince William** counties), 5 Maryland jurisdictions (Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s counties) and the District of Columbia.
- VASOC – Residents of Virginia jurisdictions outside Northern Virginia; also included a callback of Northern Virginia respondents for a few questions not in the MWCOG SOC

The data for these two surveys were combined to provide a dataset for 7,045 employed Virginia residents, with 600 in Arlington County.

Data also were obtained from MWCOG SOC for commuters who worked in Arlington and lived outside Virginia, in Washington DC or any of five neighboring Maryland counties (Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s).

The 2007 Virginia State of the Commute Study is the first comprehensive examination of commuting behaviors and attitudes across all regions of Virginia.

Secondary rideshare and travel-related data collected for each Virginia region from multiple sources (e.g., U.S. Census, Virginia Employment Commission, VDOT & DRPT studies, etc.)

ANALYSIS REGIONS:

The combination of data from MWCOG SOC and VASOC enabled the definition of various “analysis regions,” defined by respondents’ home / work locations:

- **Metro DC** = Employed residents of Northern Virginia, DC, and 5 suburban Maryland counties
- **Arlington Residents** = Employed residents of Arlington County, regardless of work location
- **Suburban Maryland** = Employed residents of Montgomery and Prince George’s counties, regardless of work location
- **Arlington Work Region** = Employed residents of Virginia, DC, and five Maryland counties who work in Arlington
- **Virginia Markets** = Employed residents of various areas of Virginia, regardless of work location
### METHODOLOGY:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Data Collection</th>
<th>Random Digit Dialing Telephone Survey</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed Surveys</td>
<td>MW COG SOC – 6.610 Respondents total region-wide including 600 residents of Arlington County and a total of 3,005 in five Virginia jurisdictions.</td>
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<td>DRPT VASOC – 4,040 respondents in Virginia areas, outside Northern Virginia</td>
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<td>Note, MWCOG data for the 3,005 respondents in Northern Virginia were combined with the VASOC data for a total of 7,045 employed resident respondents in Virginia. Additionally, DRPT conducted callback interviews with 480 Northern Virginia respondents to ask addition questions that were in the DRPT VASOC survey but not in the MWCOG SOC survey.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survey Population</td>
<td>All employed residents 16 years or older living in one of the 11 jurisdictions that comprise the MWCOG region, regardless of work location or in one of the 16 designated Virginia areas</td>
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<td>Quotas were established for the MWCOG SOC to collect completed interviews with 600 residents in each of the 11 COG jurisdictions, including Arlington County. Residents were asked in which jurisdiction they worked.</td>
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<td>Quotas were also established in the VASOC survey for other Virginia regions, ranging from 175 to over 600 completed surveys.</td>
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<td>Survey Instrument</td>
<td>Telephone Questionnaire and CATI Interviewing</td>
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<td>Criteria for Participation</td>
<td>Resident of above stated regions. Age 18 or older. Employed full-time or part-time.</td>
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### SELECTED KEY FINDINGS

- **PRIMARY MODE OF COMMUTE.** Arlington County Residents have the lowest resident drive alone commute rate of all Virginia regions studied; 54% of Arlington residents primarily drove alone to work. A slightly higher share (57%) of commuters who work in Arlington primarily drove alone. Commuters who work in Arlington were more likely to carpool and less likely to ride the train than were Arlington residents.

- **COMMUTE DISTANCE AND TIME.** Arlington residents travel an average one-way commute distance of 9 miles and an average commute time of 28 minutes. Arlington Residents have the lowest regional average commute length of all Virginia regions, but a commute travel time that is about the Virginia statewide average. However, when calculating minutes per mile (congestion), Arlington Residents have the slowest commute in the reason reflecting their high use of transit for commuting.
BUS AVAILABILITY AND USE. 92% of Arlington residents reported having bus or train service available in their home area, the second highest percentage of all Virginia regions and the share of Arlington commuters who live less than a mile from a bus stop is the highest among the Virginia regions surveyed. Arlington Resident Commuters have the second highest bus use, but still only 7% of them ride the bus at least once a week.

TRAIN/METRORAIL AVAILABILITY AND USE. 89% of Arlington Residents live within a mile of a train station – the highest percentage of residents in Virginia. Arlington Resident Commuters’ use of train for commuting is highest in Virginia and nearly as high as for residents of Washington, DC.

REGIONAL COMMUTER SERVICES. ACCS is in the middle in terms of awareness level among local commuter organizations. 38% had aided awareness, but Arlington has the highest level of resident commuters who contacted or used the commuter organization or Web site at 21%.

COMMUTE SATISFACTION. 73% of Arlington Resident Commuters said they were satisfied with their commute. This is one of the higher percentages in the state. Only 44% of commuters who work in Arlington said they were satisfied with their commute. Almost twice as many Arlington Resident Commuters said their commute has become more difficult in the past year as said their commute has gotten easier. The majority of those who said “more difficult” blamed it on congestion.

ALTERNATIVE MODE USE AND ATTITUDES. 11% to 34% of alternative mode uses who live in Arlington started using these modes within the past 12 months. Time and dependability are most important factors to Arlington Residents when choosing a commute mode.

INTERNET RIDEMATCHING. 17% of Arlington Residents and 13% of Commuters who work in Arlington said they would use Internet ridematching. More interest is shown if incentives to carpool are offered.

EMPLOYER SERVICES. 68% of commuters who work in Arlington said their employer offers one or more TDM services, the highest share of all Virginia regions. The most popular service is a transit or vanpool subsidy. A third of commuters working in Arlington County reported using employer-provided benefits – the most popular again being a transit or vanpool subsidy. Those who have employer-provided benefits are more likely to commute using alternative modes than are commuters who don’t have access to these services. Conversely, drive alone rates were higher for commuters who have free parking than for those who must pay to park.

TELEWORK. 22% of Arlington residents and 20% of commuters who work in Arlington telework at least occasionally and 12% of residents and 10% of those who work in Arlington indicated they teleworked at least one day during the survey week. A small share (4%) of commuters who work in Arlington telework most of their work days. 50% of Residents and 46% of Arlington Workers say they have a telework program available at work and 22% of Residents and 20% of Arlington Workers telework at least occasionally. An additional 38% of Arlington Resident Commuters “could and would” telework if offered the opportunity.

SUPPORT FOR RIDESHARE. Both Arlington Resident Ridesharers and those driving alone said it is important to invest in transit and TDM. Saving money and avoiding stress/traffic are listed as personal benefits of Ridesharing, but fewer Arlington Residents (vs. Statewide) listed saving money/gas as a benefit.

OTHER RELATED STUDIES, PLANS & DOCUMENTS:
2004 Metro DC State of the Commute Study - Arlington
2001 Metro DC State of the Commute Study – Executive Summary
2007 Metro DC State of the Commute Study – Full Report for Commuter Connections
**AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS:**

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<td>Summary Report</td>
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**KEY WORDS:**

Arlington County, Attitudes, Awareness, Bicycle, Bike, Bus, Car, Carpool, Commute, Commute advertising, Commute mode, Commuters, Commuting, High Occupancy Vehicle, HOV, Metro, Metrobus, Metrorail, Parking, Perceptions, Private Vehicle, Rideshare, Single Occupant Vehicle, SOV, TDM, TDM Planning and Administration, Telecommute, Train, Transit, Transportation Alternatives, Transportation System, Walk