



MassCommute Newsletter

Volume VI, Issue I

Spring 2010

MassCommuter Challenge Coming in May



MassCommute is a coalition of Massachusetts Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) that leverage public and private funds to increase participation in ridesharing and other commuting alternatives to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality across the state.

MassCommute is dedicated to advancing the mission of TMAs and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) in Massachusetts, and seeks to increase public awareness of key transportation issues while promoting a wide range of TDM measures throughout the Commonwealth.

IN THIS ISSUE

MassCommuter Challenge p.1

MassCommute 2009 TDM Statistics p.1

TMA Directory p.2

Legislative Alert p.2

MassCommute
28 Brook Road
Marblehead, MA 01945
www.MassCommute.com

Bay State Bike Week returns May 17th to 21st, and MassCommute TMAs are busy planning for the new and improved **MassCommuter Challenge**, the annual friendly competition to increase bike commuting. The Challenge is open to all bike commuters, regardless of TMA affiliation, and for 2010 we have added new categories to help the challenge reach a larger audience: businesses (employers), institutions, cities, and schools. Participants can register for organizations in multiple categories, earning miles for both the company they work for and the town they live in. All mileage counts, whether it's to work, school, or errands.

MassCommute will also launch a new Challenge website, www.masscommuterchallenge.org, so participants can see how their miles biked are contributing to their teams, and the city/town feature will allow everyone to see how much their hometown is biking compared to their neighbors. The new site goes live in early April.

The MassCommuter Challenge is just one of many events that will take place during Bay State Bike Week. To stay informed, visit www.baystatebikeweek.org and stay in touch with your local TMA for Bike Week programs in your area.

2009 MassCommute Statistics

MassCommute recently released our 2009 Fast Stats annual report, highlighting the combined TDM accomplishments and statistics of Massachusetts TMAs during the previous year. A snapshot of some key statistics is outlined below:

At-a-Glance MassCommute 2009 Fast Stats	
Number of Members* belonging to Mass. TMAs	288
Promotional Events Held by TMAs	433
# of Employees to Whom Info Was Provided at Events	24,491
# of Employees to Whom Commute Assistance Was Provided	18,907
Forums/Seminars Conducted	35
Total Registrants in TMAs' Guaranteed Ride Home Programs**	7,634
Total New Registrants in GRH	937
Private Shuttle Investment Among Members of Mass. TMAs	\$12,858,930
Annual Private Shuttle Boardings	3,893,199
Vehicle Miles Reduced through TMA Programs	37,242,224

*Members are defined as employers, developers, real estate/property management companies and other organizations that belong to a Massachusetts TMA.

**Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) is a program offered by TMAs to commuters who do not drive alone to work. The program provides a certain number of rides home, or to their car, from work if an unexpected event occurs such as an illness, unscheduled overtime or personal emergency. GRH encourages commuters to leave their cars at home and not worry about getting "stuck" at work.

Massachusetts TMAs serve businesses, employers, real estate developers/property managers and universities in a variety of cities and towns throughout the state. Contact the TMA in your area to learn more about specific services and programs.

TMA	Areas Served
128 Business Council www.128bc.org	Burlington, Lexington, Needham, Newton Waltham, Wellesley, Weston, Woburn
ABC TMA www.abctma.com	Downtown Boston (Financial District, West End, Chinatown, Beacon Hill, North End, Theatre District), Back Bay, Charlestown
Charles River TMA www.charlesrivertma.org	Cambridge
CommuteWorks/MASCO Inc. www.masco.org/commuteworks	Longwood Medical and Academic Area of Boston
Junction TMO www.junctiontmo.com	I-93 Junction Area of Andover, Tewksbury, Wilmington
Merrimack Valley TMA www.merrimackvalleytma.com	Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover
MetroWest/495 TMA www.metrowest495tma.org	Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Natick, Sherborn, Southborough, Sudbury, Wayland, Westborough
Neponset Valley TMA www.neponsetvalleytma.org	Canton, Dedham, Norwood, Westwood
North Shore TMA www.northshoretma.org	Beverly, Danvers, Lynn, Peabody, Salem
Seaport TMA www.seaporttma.org	South Boston and the South Boston Waterfront
TransComm www.bumc.bu.edu/transcomm	Boston University Medical Center (South End)

Help Needed to Retain Transit, Vanpool Benefit at \$230/Month Level

Employers can offer their employees the option to set aside pre-tax dollars for parking benefits and transit/vanpool benefits. The 2009 economic stimulus package temporarily increased the transit and vanpool benefit to \$230/month, the same amount as parking.

Unless Congress acts, the transit and vanpool benefit will revert back to \$120/month at the end of 2010.

Inaction to make parity permanent between the parking and transit/vanpool benefits would be the equivalent of placing a tax on employees who utilize public transit. To learn more visit:

http://data.memberclicks.com/site/asct/ACT_transit_benefit_parity_feb2010_leg_elert.pdf

The Association for Commuter Transportation (of which most TMAs are members) has requested letters of support to make the \$230 transit/vanpool benefit level permanent. The following link provides a letter template you can use if you agree to add your support for the \$230 benefit:

http://data.memberclicks.com/site/asct/Boilerplate_Support_letter_for_extension_of_TB_Parity.pdf

Please place this letter on your organization's letterhead and send an electronic copy to MassCommute at masscommute@masscommute.com.