



TDM COORDINATOR PROFILE

ALAN S. DORAN: HARFORD COUNTY

Alan S. Doran works at Harford County's Commute Smart as a Rideshare Coordinator and is a Commuter Choice Maryland partner. Gladys Hurwitz, with Commuter Choice Maryland, had the pleasure of interviewing Alan about his experience working with businesses and commuters, insight on how commuters are traveling to work from Harford County, what he enjoys most about his job, and what he loves about working with Commuter Choice Maryland. To learn more about Alan, keep reading!

Gladys Hurwitz: Alan, thank you for joining us today and being a part of our new interview series to be featured in our quarterly newsletters. We want our readers to get to know you better and learn how they can take advantage of all the great services that Commute Smart offers. Are you from Maryland originally?

Alan Doran: Thank you for having me! I was born and raised in Harford County, so I know the ins and outs of Harford County. I have seen two lane roads being transformed into a four lane highway and have seen this county of mine change so much, transportation wise, over the years.

GH: What do you love most about your job?

AD: My background is in hospitality, so I have always been a people person. I feel a great deal of satisfaction when I am able to provide information to people that will help make their lives better. I also get to work on some fun projects, such as my work with local school kids at The Highland School and Edgewood Senior High School. That work is very rewarding and makes me feel really good.

GH: We know that you work with a lot of commuters daily. What have commuters shared with you regarding their commuting needs?

AD: People want to know what they need when planning a trip, which can include understanding the bus schedule, the cost of travel, and how they can get home in case of an emergency. Of course, I always offer information on Guaranteed Ride Home as an option for when that unexpected emergency arises.

GH: I get a sense that you work with both short- and long-range commuters in Harford County.

AD: We do. When I first started it was surprising to see such a large population of Harford County residents commuting to points as far north as New York and south to Washington, D.C. Many of those commuters use the MARC train, Commuter Bus, and even Vanpool.

GH: Do you get many cyclists who commute to work or is it mostly just for recreation?

AD: Yes, we do. I always joke about how we are number two for Bike to Work Day registrations, behind Baltimore City. I know that Howard County is right at our heels. There is a large groups of cyclists commuting to Aberdeen Proving Ground. In the past, for Bike to Work Day, cyclists have shared that they travel as far as 20 to 30 miles by bike to get to work.

GH: Can you share what commuter benefits businesses in Harford County offer their employees?

AD: Aberdeen Proving Ground has a robust vanpool program. We have some businesses in the business parks that are exploring ways to encourage their employees to vanpool and use transit. Harford Transit expanded their hours of service last year to help cover some of those additional business shifts and many of the businesses at the business parks are also exploring commuter benefits, which can be quite a challenge. I have been working closely with the Office of Economic Development to help them with those challenges.

GH: What are the top two things that you would like businesses to know about your program at Harford County? Also, how can they get in touch with you?

AD: A key word that I always use is “free and that I am excited to help you and your staff with your commuter needs. The other thing is that I can also be available to administer a lunch and learn with your staff regarding all of our great business and commuter options. Check out my toll-free number on the Commuter Choice Maryland website and “like” us on Facebook.

GH: What do you love most about working with Commuter Choice Maryland?

AD: The people at Commuter Choice are great and very easy to work with. I love feeling like I am part of the team because this is truly a team effort. The information your program provides, from the webinars to the toolkits, is all very helpful and very much appreciated.