



COMMUTER CHOICE MARYLAND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Transit

What transit information is available for the Baltimore region?

As Maryland's most populous city, Baltimore offers a variety of transit resources, including:

- [MTA Trip Planner](#)
- [Transit Pass Store](#)
- [Sign up for Service Alerts](#)
- [Transit Maps](#)
- [Transit for Visitors](#)
- [Transit Projects & Studies](#)
- [Baltimore Water Taxi](#)
- [Transportation Information Resource Point \(TRIP\)](#)

What transit information is available for the Washington region?

The Washington, DC metro area has one of the safest, easiest, and most efficient transportation systems in the country. Resources include:

- [WMATA Trip Planner](#)
- [WMATA Rider Guide](#)
- [SmarTrip Fare Card](#)
- [Service Alerts](#)
- [Transit Maps & Schedules](#)
- [SmartBenefits](#)
- [WMATA Initiatives](#)

As an employer, how can I provide transit benefits to my employees?

Commuter Choice Maryland works with employers to help them develop and implement commuter benefits programs. A popular option among employers is to provide pre-tax or subsidized transit cost options. Employers can also save up to \$100 per employee on transit benefits when they sign up for the [Maryland Commuter Tax Credit](#).

What are the advantages of taking public transportation?

Public transportation is an easy and convenient alternative to gridlocked commutes and high gas prices. Compared to driving, public transit is less expensive and better for the environment. It also significantly reduces traffic congestion, saves energy and benefits the communities it serves.

Bike/Walk

Where can I find more information regarding biking and walking?

Several jurisdictions offer Bikeshare services that allow commuters to rent a bike. [MDOT's Bike/Walk Index](#) also provides maps that make it easy for bicycle riders and pedestrians to find safe routes and trails.

Why should I bike or walk to work?

Biking or walking to work is not just a healthy choice, it's also free! The added exercise gives you time to collect your thoughts and feel energized for your workday. It's a great way to save money on gas, parking, and car maintenance while doing your part to reduce carbon emissions.

Telework/Flexible Work Hours

What is telework?

Telecommuting is a workplace arrangement that allows employees to work from a remote location outside the office. This option is generally available through programs offered by employers and it targets commuters whose jobs can be accomplished without having to travel to their worksite.

Who teleworks?

Estimates state that over four million Americans regularly work from home, and many more telecommute part-time. As technologies that enable telecommuting continue to gain popularity, more employers are offering telecommuting as an alternative commuting option. Our [Telework Guide for Employers](#) can help companies develop and implement telecommuting policies and programs for their employees.

What are flexible work hours?

Flexible work hours allow employees to complete a 40-hour workweek outside of a typical 9-to-5 schedule. This may involve a compressed workweek or a flexible start/stop time. The most common compressed workweek arrangement involves a four-day week with ten-hour days. A daily flexible schedule enables employees to arrive and leave work earlier/later depending on their schedules or take extra time at lunch that can be made up. Employers may require core work hours (usually between 10:00 am-3:00 pm) to ensure that staff are available at the same time throughout most of the day. Flexible work hours that stray from a workplace's normal schedule are typically agreed upon between the employee and their manager.



Telework/Flexible Work Hours (continued)

What are co-working spaces?

Co-working spaces are shared workspaces that provide users with dedicated office area, high-speed internet, and other amenities found in a typical workplace environment. They tend to be more costly than working from home (co-working spaces offer long-term and short-term memberships, as well as the ability to pay per month), but some employees choose to use co-working spaces because they find them more conducive to productivity, allow a shorter commute, or are more conveniently located. Co-working spaces are now available in most cities in Maryland, and are also beginning to pop up in more suburban areas. Our list of [co-working spaces](#) can help you find a co-working space near you.

What are the benefits of teleworking?

Teleworking delivers countless benefits for employers and employees, as well as their communities. Employers who allow their employees to telecommute, experience improved employee retention and recruitment, as well as reduced absenteeism. Employers also note increased productivity in workers who telecommute and lower overhead costs. Employees who telework enjoy a better work/life balance, reduced stress, improved job satisfaction, and cost savings. In turn, communities experience decreased traffic congestion that leads to lower pollution levels and energy consumption, as well as increased economic opportunity.

Guaranteed Ride Home

What is Guaranteed Ride Home?

Commuters who rideshare (carpool/vanpool), take transit, bike, or walk to work at least twice a week are eligible for a free, guaranteed ride home (or to their car) in the event of an unexpected illness, personal or family emergency, or unscheduled overtime. Registration is required and more information can be found on the [Commuter Connections website](#).

Cash in Lieu of Parking

What is Cash in Lieu of Parking?

Commuters who take transit, carpool, vanpool, bike, or walk to work and do not need a dedicated paid parking space at work can ask their employer for a Cash in Lieu of Parking program. With this program, an employer may claim a tax credit if they provide a cash allowance to an employee (up to or equal to \$100) that the employer would otherwise have had to pay towards a parking space. Commuters get more money in their pocket by opting out of a parking space and employers save by not having to provide paid parking.

Ridesharing (Carpool/Vanpool)

What is ridesharing?

Ridesharing (carpooling and vanpooling) involves sharing your commute with at least one other person in a private vehicle instead of driving alone. It is an ideal option for commuters in suburban and rural areas where buses are infrequent, but it's also a great option in urban areas where parking is limited and/or expensive. Vanpools usually consist of 4-15 people and can be privately arranged or organized through your employer. A designated pick-up location is typically set, and riders share the costs (tolls, gas, parking, etc.) of travel. Carpool and vanpool users also get to drive in specified carpool lanes on some Maryland highways.

How can I get a vanpool started at my place of work?

Commuter Choice Maryland has developed resources to help start a vanpool at your workplace. Check out our [Vanpool Toolkit](#) for more information.

What is CarpoolNow and how do I get more information?

[CarpoolNow](#) is a live ride matching mobile app that services the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. The app can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play. This is a free service that connects you with other commuters who have an origin and destination similar to yours.

What other ridesharing options are available in the region?

Dynamic ridesharing, which is more casual than traditional ridesharing options like carpooling, can be a good option for commuters in need of a one-time trip. You may already be familiar with dynamic ridesharing options like "slugging" and commercial mobile apps that can help you find rides on an as-needed basis. Commuter Choice Maryland does not manage or endorse these forms of ridesharing and accepts no liability for slugging or dynamic ridesharing activity.

What is a Park and Ride facility?

MDOT State Highway Administration (SHA), Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), and Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Park and Ride facilities are free parking lots that can accommodate carpools and vanpools. Permits are not required and lots are open 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Overnight parking is also permitted. There are dozens of Park and Ride lots throughout Maryland that provide more than 11,500 free parking spaces for commuters. MDOT SHA's [Park-n-Ride Location Search](#) makes it easy to find a facility near you.

What is my best commuting option?

There are many options besides driving your own vehicle including public transit, commuter bus, commuter train, rideshare (carpools/vanpools), walking, and bicycling. Our [Commuter Cost Calculator](#) can help you discover your options. We also recommend contacting your local [Rideshare Coordinator](#) to help you determine the best solution for your needs. [MDTrip.org](#) is another great resource that connects commuters with transportation alternatives across the state.