

FEDERAL ETC UPDATES

Employee Transportation Coordinator

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LEADS THE WAY IN TELEWORKING

The Commuter Connections 2013 State of the Commute preliminary survey results show an interesting fact. In the Washington region, the federal government is responsible for almost all of the growth in teleworking over the last three years, and has, over the last six years, consistently posted more significant gains than the private, non-profit, and state and local government sectors.

The State of the Commute survey, conducted every three years by Commuter Connections, surveyed 6,335 randomly selected employed residents of the Washington region, both federal and non-federal. The first survey in 2001 found that overall, 11 percent of respondents who telework, do so at least one day a week. Fast forward by a dozen years; advances in technology and broader acceptance of telework practices had caused this figure to skyrocket to 27 percent in 2013.

Formal programs are most common among respondents who work for a federal government agency. Nearly seven in ten (67%) respondents who work for a federal agency said their employer has a formal program, compared to only about 23 percent of respondents who work for non-profits, 18% who work in the private sector, and 21% who are employed by state/local government agencies.

It is interesting to note that over the past three years, telework growth in the non-federal sectors remained relatively flat, while the growth of telework in the federal government rose dramatically from 27 percent to 38 percent, far outpacing non-federal employees.

The federal Telework Enhancement Act of 2010 is credited as a

major factor contributing to the increase. The Act requires all federal agencies to develop formal telework policies, to identify all positions that are suitable for teleworking, and to designate staff specifically to help implement and monitor telework programs. The law also provides guidance on developing written employer-employee telework agreements and providing best practices training to workers and managers.

The legislation sought to reduce the need for additional office space for a growing federal workforce and to ensure that daily

operations, especially critical ones, could continue when severe weather, such as Superstorm Sandy, or other natural disasters, such as the 2011 earthquake, force the government to close, or prevent workers from getting to their offices.

Congress and the government's senior managers, including President Obama, have also come to see teleworking as a valuable tool in attracting and retaining

talented workers who are seeking ways to reduce costs and the burden of daily commuting.

There is still room for growth in teleworking as 18% of total State of the Commute respondents said that they "could and would" telework, if given the opportunity.

The good news is that the overall growth in teleworking will continue to reduce demand on roadways and the transit system, as well as providing numerous other benefits for both employers and employees.

For help getting started or to improve your existing telework program, visit www.commuterconnections.org or call 800-745-7433.



DOJ ONE OF TOP BIKE TO WORK DAY EMPLOYERS



Held on May 17th, this year's Bike to Work Day (BTWD) event saw more than 14,500 registered bicyclists leaving their cars at home and riding to work; an increase of 15% over 2012!

One of the employers helping to lead the way was the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) with 116 riders, 29 percent of them being first time Bike to Work Day participants.

Additionally, DOJ employees and contractors attended 28 of the 72 pit stops throughout the Washington region. The top three most attended pit stops for DOJ employees were:

- Freedom Plaza in the District, with 32 DOJ cyclists
- Old Town Alexandria, with 10
- Silver Spring at Discovery Communications, with 7

By having such terrific passion and enthusiasm for bicycling, DOJ and a few other federal agencies have become models for other agencies," said Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections. "And, for that matter, leaders among all employers in the Washington metropolitan region."

DOJ joins three other federal employers in the top five for this year, including the National Institutes of Health, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of State. Also in the top five was Orbital Sciences, a

L to R: Nicholas Ramfos, Director of Commuter Connections; Greg Billing, Advocacy Coordinator, Washington Area Bicyclist Association; and Scott Snell, Acting Director Facilities and Administrative Services, Justice Management Division

private-sector company. In honor of their efforts, DOJ bicyclists won the Commuter Connections 2013 Bike to Work Day Employer Challenge and were treated to lunch on June 21st.

The continued success and growth of BTWD can be attributed to the influx of new riders each year. Ramfos continued, "Bicycling to work has a lot of potential to grow as the average bike commute in the Washington metropolitan region is 3.4 miles each way, and 17% of all Washington area commuters live less than 5 miles from work."

Bicycling to work is not something one has to do every day. In fact, the average number of days per week for bicycle commuting in the Washington, D.C. region is 3.

So, plan on encouraging your employees to participate next year and see if you can be one of the top regional employers for BTWD 2014!

Watch for more information on BTWD 2014 at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org.