

# *EPA's Best Workplaces for Commuters*

**BEST**  
WORKPLACES  
for COMMUTERS



***OTC Meeting  
November 2003***

# *Why Best Workplaces for Commuters*



*According to the Texas Transportation Institute's 2001 Urban Mobility Report:*

- Average American spends 36 hours per year stuck motionless in traffic (only 11 in 1982)
- “Rush hour” now lasts 6 or 7 hours per day
- \$80B per year in lost productivity
- 4.5B hours of delay per year
- 7B gallons of wasted fuel per year

**A major environmental challenge ...**

- Miles traveled increased 75% from 1980 to 1999
- 80% were “drive alone” trips
- Light duty vehicles cause 20% of greenhouse gas emissions



# ***What is Best Workplaces for Commuters ?***

- Voluntary business-government partnership to ease traffic congestion, save fuel, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Aims to reduce single occupancy vehicle commuting by getting employers to offer employees the “National Standard of Excellence” for commuter benefits
- Program began signing on partners May 2001

# ***Criteria for National Standard of Excellence for Commuter Benefits***

## ➤ **Coordinate communication**

- Designate point of contact
- Centralize information
- Communicate commuter benefits

## ➤ **Offer commuter benefits package**

- Emergency Ride Home
- One of four Primary Options
- Three or more Supporting Options

## ➤ **Meet performance benchmark**

## ➤ **Report success to EPA**



### Primary options (choose 1)

- \$30 transit/vanpool subsidy
- Parking cash out
- 6% or greater telecommuting

# ***Benefits to Employers***

- **Parking-related cost savings.** Alternatives to single-occupancy driving to work reduces employees' parking demand on their employers.
- **Tax savings.** Changes in the federal tax code allow employers to offer tax-free transit and vanpool benefits, saving employers money on payroll taxes.
- **Employee recruiting and turnover savings.** Important tool for retaining talent, which cuts costs associated with recruiting and training new employees.
- **Facility cost savings.** Telecommuting can reduce facility costs because fewer employees will be working at a particular site on a given day.

# ***Best Workplaces for Commuters***

## ***Results***

- Over 4600 employers nationally covering over 1.2 million employees
- 31 States have Best Workplaces for Commuters
- Seven Business Districts are located in Atlanta, San Francisco, and Colorado.
- Program is:
  - saving more than 58 million gallons of gasoline annually
  - reducing the number of miles driven by more than 3 million miles a day
  - reducing significant amounts of VOCs/N0x

# ***Best Workplaces for Commuters Metro Approach***

- **Build metro coalition with 3<sup>rd</sup> party champions→ Issue business challenge→ Build List→ Recognize Employers**

- **Regional BWC lists in 2003**

- DC Metro - June 25
- Houston - July 9
- Tucson - August 18
- San Francisco Bay Area- Week of October 20th
- Sacramento - Week of October 20th
- New England - Week of October 27th

- **New regional BWC lists in 2004**

- Metro NY-NJ-CT - May 2004
- Triangle Region, NC
- **Additional areas expressing interest:** other North Carolina metro regions, South FL , Phoenix, Dallas, Louisville, Las Vegas, San Antonio, Baltimore, Denver, Boise, Baltimore, Seattle



# SmartWay Transport Partnership



# ***SmartWay Transport Components***

**Goal: 9-18 MMTCe/year (36-72 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>) by 2012**

- plus NOx, PM, and air toxics benefits

Three major SmartWay Transport components:

**1. Fleet Partnerships:**

Improve the environmental performance of freight transport by encouraging best practices, creating incentives, and recruiting shippers and carriers to participate

**2. National Transportation Idle-Free Corridors:**

Deploy idle reduction strategies along major transportation corridors and freight hubs: truck stops, highway rest areas, ports, borders, freight terminals, rail yards

**3. Rail/Intermodal:**

Improve rail efficiency and increase use of intermodal transport

# ***Overview of the Fleet Partnership Component***

- Applies to shippers and carriers
- Focuses on the 'Middle of the Pack' to achieve maximum reductions
- Fleets can join with a commitment to improve, but must demonstrate superior environmental performance to earn EPA's SmartWay logo
- All fleets measure environmental performance with EPA's FLEET Performance Model (Freight Logistics Environmental and Economic Tracking)
- Emphasis on recruiting shippers who will leverage carriers into the program
- 32 partners currently in the program

# ***How Can Fleets Join the Program***

## **Shippers:**

1. Commit to ship over 50% of their goods with SmartWay Partner carriers
2. Assess and commit to improve their facility transportation emissions

## **Carriers:**

1. Measure current environmental performance
2. Commit to improve that performance within 3 years
  - Commitment must be tangible, quantifiable and based on technology/strategy about which EPA has confidence
3. Create and submit Action Plan describing how carrier will achieve commitment

# ***National Idle-Free Corridors Program***

Goal: Eliminate all unnecessary long duration idling & associated emissions:

	<u><b>Trucks</b></u>	<u><b>Locomotives</b></u>
Diesel fuel consumption:	1 bil. gal/yr	68 million gal/yr
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions:	11 mil. tons/yr	800,000 tons/yr
NOx emissions:	150,000 tons/yr	17,000 tons/yr

- Developing a nationwide network of idle-reduction options along major transportation corridors
  - truck stops, travel centers, distribution hubs, rail switch yards, borders, ports
- There are approximately 12 idling control projects currently operating around the country