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# O1. DRIVING CHANGE IN HAMPTON ROADS.

Letter from the Executive Director

The past fiscal year, ending June 30, 2020, was the most turbulent year in the history of the TRAFFIX program. This can be summed up by the words "COVID-19 Pandemic." Despite this, we were still able to remain an effective program throughout the Hampton Roads area in several initiatives, many of which were executed remotely through the TRAFFIX telework tool from March to June.

Beginning July 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019, (the first half of the fiscal year), TRAFFIX staff, under the leadership of Emily Cass, Manager, began on a trajectory to exceed all previous goals from the previous three years. However, that trend came to a gradual and nearly complete standstill as the pandemic prevented us from meeting with customers and stakeholders and stopped all in-person events. No longer were we able to meet one-on-one with businesses, schools, the military, or with State and local governments. Annual events such as Earth Day and Bike Month were cancelled. Nevertheless, we were still able to add 1,006 new commuters, bringing the total number of commuters to 13,796. This is nearly a 500 commuter increase from FY2019! Phenomenal! Additionally, VMTs only decreased by 258,089; however, without the pandemic, our numbers were progressing to have an increase by 800,000. Similarly, reduced emissions were only 50 tons less than last fiscal year, and without the pandemic, we were trending to surpass by 700 tons to a forecasted total of 1.800 tons of emissions reduced.

TRAFFIX continues to be one of the premier TDM organizations in the nation. We are fully engaged with the Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) and Mrs. Cass is the Acting President of the Chesapeake Chapter of ACT. We continue to speak on a national platform regarding the successes of our program and have received an award for Best Print Marketing Campaign for our "It's Time for TRAFFIX" campaign from the ACT Chesapeake Chapter. The regional trust and investment in the TRAFFIX program have allowed the program to grow while enhancing the region's air quality.

The programs outlined within this document show the commitment of our staff to carry out our mission, goals, and objectives by making sure more businesses, schools, military, and government institutions continue to have a robust and focused TDM program inherent within their organization.

While we can speak to all the great accomplishments in FY2020, all of which are available for review between the covers of this Annual Report, there have been huge challenges as noted above. Without COVID-19 manifesting itself globally, the TRAFFIX program was set to exceed all expectations



for the year. This, of course, did not and could not happen as field work was extremely limited. Mandatory "work from home" requirements were established by Hampton Roads Transit. However, staff continued efforts to work with our customers and make new inroads by remotely visiting with new and existing customers.

As you know, Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA) and Suffolk Transit are part of the support we provide to the Hampton Roads region. We are a TDM agency that happily includes them as part of our overall strategic planning. It is extremely important that the region's transportation planners include TRAFFIX staff in their traffic mitigation strategy. Some have included us in transportation related discussions, but many still have not, and we want to change that.

We remain proud of our relationships with Naval Station Norfolk, Newport News Shipyard, Amerigroup, Tidewater Community College, Sentara, the Downtown Norfolk Consortium, and many other employers of different shapes and sizes. Our relationship with these and other customers remains strong and vibrant.

Our key goal is transparency. We feel it is important to clearly show the good, and the many healthy challenges we face throughout the year. We try to do that in a clear and succinct manner. No program is ever perfect, and we will continue to strive for excellence in what we do each day.

As always, I would like to thank the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Virginia Department of Transportation, and Hampton Roads Transportation and Planning Organization for their continued support of the TRAFFIX program, as well as the TRAFFIX Subcommittee for their continued sage guidance and supervision of the program. Without their advice and multi-year review of the program, our continued growth would not be possible. With great pride, I offer to you, our valued stakeholders, the FY2020 Annual Report.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the region.

RON HODGES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TRAFFIX PROGRAM

# O2. LEADERSHIP FOR LESS TRAFFIC.

Our Mission
TRAFFIX Subcommittee
TRAFFIX Services

# HELPING HAMPTON ROADS COMMUTE DIFFERENTLY.

## THE MISSION OF TRAFFIX AND HOW WE'RE FULFILLING IT.

As a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program, TRAFFIX's mission is to assist in the continued efforts to decrease traffic congestion in Hampton Roads by reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicles (SOV's) commuting to work. This is accomplished by encouraging the use of high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes through ridesharing and by encouraging the use of transportation alternatives to driving such as public transportation, carpooling, teleworking, vanpooling, biking, and walking.

TRAFFIX staff are employees of Hampton Roads Transit (HRT); however, program funding is provided through the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). The HRTPO has authorized annual funding for TRAFFIX through Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and/or Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding since FY1995. The TRAFFIX Subcommittee (TS)

consists of transportation professionals from the cities and counties in the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Navy, and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). The TS meets three times per year with TRAFFIX staff to review the progress and status of TRAFFIX. The TS reports to the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC), which reports to the HRTPO Board.



# ATTHE WHEEL.

### THE TRAFFIX SUBCOMMITTEE.

#### **Committee Chair**

Carl Jackson,
 City of Portsmouth

#### **Voting Members**

- Chris Arabia,
   Department of Rail and
   Public Transportation
- Keisha Branch, Hampton Roads Transit
- Benjamin Camras, City of Chesapeake
- Eric Stringfield,
   Virginia Department of Transportation
- Jamie Oliver, Isle of Wight County
- Joshua Moore,
   Williamsburg Area Transit
   Authority
- LJ Hansen, City of Suffolk
- Mike Hayes, City of Hampton
- Angela Hopkins,
   City of Newport News

Mark Shea,
 City of Virginia Beach

#### **Alternative Members**

Luther Jenkins, City of Chesapeake

#### Non-Voting Members

- Herb Pittman, U.S. Navy
- Ivan Rucker, Federal Highway Administration

#### **HRTPO Staff**

- Rob Case
- Uros Jovanovic



#### TRAFFIX Staff

- Ron Hodges, Director
- Emily Cass, Manager
- Latwana Mcclure, Program Specialist
- Alexis Smith, Commuter Outreach Specialist
- Amber-Leigh Wimbrough, Commuter Outreach Specialist
- Monique Lynch, Program Coordinator

Commuters saved **51.405.196** 

in commuting related expenses in 2020. That's 24,228 pairs of sneakers.



# MOVING OUR MISSION FORWARD.

#### THE SERVICES OF TRAFFIX.

#### Bike/Walk Commuter Services

TRAFFIX supports bike commuters by providing them with bike lockers, bike repair stations, and information on bike paths. Each year, we promote Bike to Work Month and Bike to Work Week to increase the awareness of the services we have available. We also support commuters who walk to work with commuter planning and commuter rewards.

#### **Commuter Rewards**

Our commuter incentive program rewards commuters who use alternative commuting methods.

#### **Employer-Based Marketing**

We work with local employers and commands to help with transportation demand management (TDM) services and strategies through an established Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC).

#### GoPass365

Under contractual agreements with employers and educational institutions, the GoPass365 annual pass gives commuters unlimited access to every mode of transit, except Paratransit and vanpool, offered by Hampton Roads Transit (HRT).

#### **Guaranteed Ride Program**

With this program, commuters who get to work by means other than driving alone (i.e. carpool, vanpool) can get a ride back to their point of origin when an emergency or unplanned circumstance arises when they're at work.

#### Park and Ride/Park and Sail

We help commuters with formal and informal park and ride information, as well as research for potential new locations. Parking tags are provided upon commuter request.

#### Rideshare Matching

We match carpool and vanpool commuters in Southeastern Virginia who share similar work hours and locations.

#### Surveys

Our team designs and conducts employee surveys for commuter behaviors, route changes and employee transportation needs. With these results, a commuter program can be established to meet environmental and financial goals.



#### **Naval Station Norfolk Office**

This centrally located TDM office gives military commuters an opportunity to learn more about commuting options, purchase transit passes at the ticket vending machine, and conduct meetings with area commands.

#### **Transit Information**

We provide commuters with route information for Hampton Roads Transit, Suffolk Transit, Star Transit, and Williamsburg Area Transit Authority services.

#### **Vanpool Services**

TRAFFIX connects commuters with vanpool information regarding local vendors, and gives them financial assistance for starting, maintaining, and/or saving a vanpool.

Commuters saved

113,170

gallons of gas. That could send a hybrid vehicle to the moon and back 13 times.



## THE MORE WE DO, THE LESS WE POLLUTE.

Reducing SOVs in Southeastern Virginia
Commuter programs and results



# OUR MEASURE OF SUCCESS: FEWER SINGLE RIDERS.

#### REDUCING SOVS IN HAMPTON ROADS.

#### In FY2020, TRAFFIX made a difference by helping more than 13,796 registered commuters by offering the following:

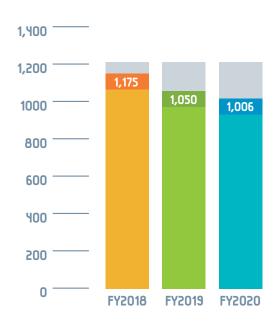
- Employer Resources
- Guaranteed Ride Program
- Commuter Rideshare Matching Program and Rewards
- Dedicated Vanpool Manager
- Vanpool Stipends
- Park & Ride Solutions
- Outreach offices at Naval Station Norfolk and Downtown Newport News Transit Center

#### Successes

- 1,006 new commuter members
- Total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) = 2,435,536
- Total reduced CO2 emissions = 1,109 tons
- Reduced 134,446 car trips
- Saved an average of 231 parking spots per day
- Commuters saved \$1,405,196 in commuting-related expenses

- Commuters burned 2,503,179 calories commuting by walking or biking
- 821 participating organizations
- Commuters saved 113,170 gallons of gas

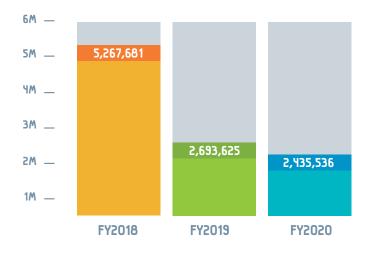
#### **New Commuters: 1,006**



#### Total Commuters: 13,796

#### 

#### Total VMT Reduced for all trips





# REACHING OUT TO REDUCE THE IMPACT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT.

#### **COMMUTER PROGRAMS AND RESULTS.**

#### Outreach

Our outreach staff meets with employers and commands at all levels to educate and promote commuter options by:

- Designing, executing, and analyzing employee commuter behavior to create TDM plans that will help reduce SOVs.
- Conducting on-site presentations at employee or student orientations and command indoctrinations.
- Participating in employer-sponsored events such as health fairs, transportation fairs, environmental fairs, and benefits fairs.
- Attending numerous business networking functions sponsored by the following organizations: Downtown Norfolk Council, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, and Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce.

#### Results

- Outreach to over 225 military commands and employers.
- Contacted 55 new employers.
- Participated in 85 commuter events.
- Initiated 388 program meetings.
- Over 55% of employers partnered with TRAFFIX to proactively promote commuter options in the workplace.
- Received more than 750 commuter information requests for alternative modes and programs.

In Southeastern Virginia, our outreach efforts include working with local businesses to educate them on the benefits and importance of saving money, gas, and the environment while reducing VMTs. Newly created partnerships with the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, Hampton Roads Workforce



Development Council, Greater Peninsula Workforce Board, and Peninsula Chamber of Commerce will begin to flourish and show even more employer engagement.

Our military outreach efforts have grown significantly. The outreach office located at Naval Station Norfolk remains highly active and successful. The presence of a ticket vending machine (TVM) located outside the TRAFFIX base office has become one of the most active revenue generating TVMs for HRT due to high use. TRAFFIX staff members have been invited to present at monthly command indoctrinations (INDOCs) at Naval Station Norfolk and Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Annually, the Transportation Incentive Program (TIP) reviewing officials from the region's Navy installations meet with TRAFFIX to discuss commuter needs and solutions. Due to the large military presence in the region, nearly one-third of residents are transient, and re-education is a priority for all the local military installations.

#### **Annual Events**

- Try Transit Week
- Telework Week

Cancelled due to COVID:

- Earth Day
- Bike to Work Month/Week
- Rideshare Month

In 2020, commuters in Hampton Roads burned

2,503,179
calories by walking or biking. That's 2,407 quarter pound cheeseburgers.

#### **COMMUTER PROGRAMS AND RESULTS (CONT.)**

#### **Commuter Rewards**

The Agile Mile (formally NuRide) Program is a commuter incentive program that rewards commuters who use alternative commuting methods. When a commuter walks, bikes, telecommutes, carpools, vanpools, rides public transportation, or works a compressed workweek, they can log the trip into the Agile Mile system to receive reward points. The points can be redeemed for restaurants, shops, or services. In addition, monthly raffles for prizes such as gift cards help engage commuters and encourage participation.

Outreach staff can present employers with an employee activity report showing how they use transportation options.

The Mode Split in the TRAFFIX Program has been consistent with transit and carpool making up 75 percent of commuter options, followed by vanpool at 10 percent with the remaining 15 percent comprised of telework, walk, bike, and compressed work week.

8,985: Rideshare Match Attempts

5,723: Rideshare Matches Made

#### Vanpool Services

Our program continues to support efforts to take SOVs off the road through vanpooling. TRAFFIX vanpools are a way for 7 to 15 people to lease a van through a third-party vendor, complete with insurance, maintenance, fuel, and commuter benefits. All members of the vanpool split the operating costs, and TRAFFIX helps to keep vanpool commutes affordable by providing a monthly stipend of \$300 or \$325, depending on the leased van size. It is a great alternative option to driving alone for groups of commuters who have similar work schedules, and who live or work near each other in the Hampton Roads area.



This year, 46 vanpools participated in our monthly stipend program. In addition, we assisted financially with up to \$180 per seat with Vanpool VA! Van Start/Van Save. This program also provided special assistance for suspended vanpools during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Van Start/Van Save program assisted four Van Starts, which helped fund seats during the critical startup phase for new vanpools and saved 11 vanpools when the loss of rider's factor came into play. TRAFFIX has an agreement with Commute with Enterprise and works closely to create new vanpools and maintain them. Another accomplishment this year has been connecting with The City of Virginia Beach, where TRAFFIX started two vanpools that supported employees after the tragic Virginia Beach mass shooting in 2019.

**Guaranteed Ride Program** 

The Guaranteed Ride Program (GRP) connects commuters who regularly carpool, vanpool, bike, walk, or take transit to work with a reliable ride back to their point of origin via taxi when an emergency arises such as a personal illness, emergency at home, unscheduled overtime, etc. GRP is designed to remove the worry of possibly becoming stranded when using alternative transportation at least three times a week. With this program, TRAFFIX ensures that commuters will not be stranded. GRP allows registered commuters to use up to six rides per calendar year, no more than two a month. TRAFFIX subsidizes the cost of the taxi ride, and the commuter only pays \$5 for each quaranteed ride.

**72:** Registered Vanpools

**S12.** Vanpool Riders

**Q.** New Vanpools

Suspended Vanpools

U: during COVID '

\$27,300: Financial Support for Suspended Vanpools (3 months)

1,658: Total Rideshare Participants

157: New Registrations

125: New Rides



#### Rideshare Parking

TRAFFIX is devoted in its efforts to remove SOVs from the road by seeking new rideshare parking locations around the region. With the help and guidance of VDOT, the TRAFFIX team seeks ongoing opportunities to provide convenient parking for commuters who choose to carpool, vanpool, and ride transit. TRAFFIX currently has 6 Rideshare Parking locations that require a TRAFFIX parking tag. These locations include Tidewater Community College (TCC) in Portsmouth, TCC Virginia Beach, Chesapeake Square, Lynnhaven Mall in Virginia Beach, Thomas Nelson Community College, and our newest location at Capital Landing Road in Williamsburg.

#### Park & Ride

TRAFFIX continues to promote all Park and Ride locations in the Hampton Roads area and the surrounding cities to encourage commuters to use alternative transportation options in the region.

#### Park & Sail

TRAFFIX administers the Park & Sail location on Court Street in Portsmouth. The lot is conveniently located for those commuters riding the Elizabeth River Ferry to Norfolk. Commuters may also use the lot if they carpool/vanpool from Portsmouth to other cities in the region. Currently, 78 of the 95 spaces in the lot are registered to commuters – and the numbers continue to grow.

#### GoPass365

The GoPass365 program continues to be a popular service for Hampton Roads Transit and an impressive TDM mechanism for the TRAFFIX program. The GoPass365 product includes both client support and product management, with monthly usage and ridership reports to share activity for assigned passes. Deactivation and replacement of passes are available upon client request.

The GoSemester pass is a discounted range-based pass that gives commuters

unlimited usage to some of Hampton Roads Transit's services by simultaneously showing the pass along with a picture ID. The GoSemester pass complies with college or university semester schedules. The contract term is from July to June and the expiration date of the pass will be in conjunction with the semester's term dates.

Program participants for the FY2020 consisted of 23 companies and colleges, including our newest subscriber – Sentara Careplex.

Revenue and ridership were steadily growing with help from this new participant.

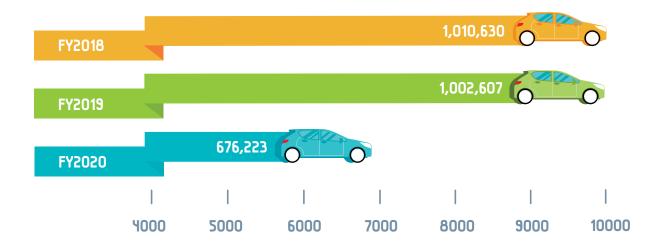
Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 we cannot calculate or provide definitive usage for the end of FY2020 since, Hampton Roads Transit suspended fares from March 10 to July 1, 2020.

#### GoPass Sales and Revenue





#### Ridership



<sup>\*</sup> COVID fare suspension March - June

04.

## MORE AWARENESS FOR LESS TRAFFIC.

Creative Campaign

## COMMUTE DIFFERENTLY. CREATIVE CAMPAIGN.

#### **About the Campaign**

At TRAFFIX, we serve one of the most congested regions of the Commonwealth. Our goal is to help commuters "commute differently" to take action to reduce congestion in Hampton Roads. In addition, we also encourage our members to log their alternate trips on our online/mobile platform (Agile Mile). Logging trips provides commuters with additional benefits like financial incentives, discounts, and rewards.

Importantly, logging trips also increases public and private support for TRAFFIX by demonstrating the positive impact our programs have on our environment. When members log their trips, we can document the volume of greenhouse gas TRAFFIX has eliminated. In FY2020, our goal was to eliminate 3 million VMTs (vehicle miles traveled). That's like eliminating 168,000 trips from our roads.

To accomplish this important task, we created a multi-channel, eye-catching advertising campaign to reach our key audiences (commuters, employers, and existing rideshare users).

We began by finding the emotional drivers between each audience and determined that they shared three common values and interests:

- A greater sense of well-being and less stress by making a change to reduce traffic congestion
- Financial savings gained from less gas and parking expenses
- Making a positive impact on the environment

#### Goals and Objectives

The goals of this campaign were first, to establish greater awareness of TRAFFIX to attract the attention of commuters and employers throughout the Hampton Roads area and encourage them to "commute differently." And second, to encourage current rideshare commuters to download the TRAFFIX app and log their trips.

For commuters and employers, the campaign included vibrant modern, and upbeat colors. We designed a look and feel as well as a tone of voice that is friendly, straightforward, and optimistic.

Our call-to-action for employees was to ask their employer about commuter benefits. For employers it was to visit gotraffix.com for more information.

Our 2019 campaign was selected by the Chesapeake Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation as the year's Best Print Marketing Campaign. This is our industry's prestigious annual award for the most effective print, outdoor, and collateral campaign to promote TDM continued growth.

#### **Outcomes**

Our campaign has received great results, and continued growth is expected. Our results include:

- A 95% increase in website traffic, that included over 11,000 new users
- 2.9 million online ad impressions
- 9.065 clicks to the website
- And due to regular optimization, our average click-through rate has increased 20% since the campaign launched.

#### **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

(Print, Digital, Brochure)















#### **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

(Outdoor, Digital)





## CAN RUSH HOUR BE A JOY RIDE?

TRAFFIX CAN HELP | gotraffix.com



## WE SHIPYARD VANPOOLERS!

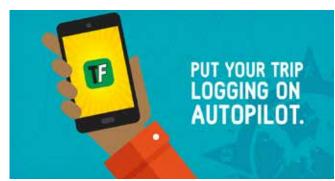
GET REWARDS | gotraffix.com



## LOG YOUR COMMUTE. EARN REWARDS. COMMUTE DIFFERENTLY | gotraffix.com













#### **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

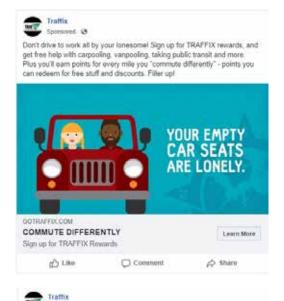
(Social Media)















#### Chesapeake Chapter, ACT Award

(Association of Commuter Transportation)

#### **Best Print Marketing Campaign** of 2019





options instead of stock options ... It's

time for TRAFFIX

Learn how commuter benefits can help your employees.

gotraffix.com



Ask your boss about commuter benefits, | gotraffix.com



TRAFFIX







TRAF*FIX* 

When you spend more time behind the wheel than behind the desk  $\dots$  It's time for TRAFFIX.

Ask your boss about commuter benefits. gotraffix.com



# OS. HIGH PERFORMANCE FOR HAMPTON ROADS.

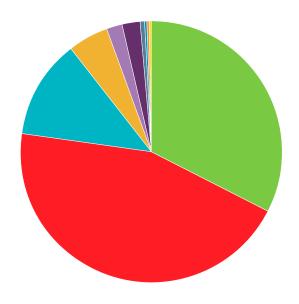
**Financials** 

**Photos** 

FY2020 Work Plan Goals and Measurements

# MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY DOLLAR.

#### FINANCIALS.



	BUDGETED	SPENT	BALANCE
Salary and Benefits	\$450,000.00	\$440,153.00	\$9,847.00
Subscriptions and Memberships	\$5,000.00	\$2,155.00	\$2,845.00
Phones and Utilities	\$3,000.00	\$6,126.80	(\$3,126,80)
Materials and Supplies	\$74,000.00	\$20,232.11	\$53,767.89
Travel and Meetings	\$25,000.00	\$15,730.22	\$34,764.00
Advertising	\$620,000.00	\$481,065.00	\$138,935.40
Hardware and Software	\$6,500.00	\$933.21	\$5,566.79
Guaranteed Ride Program	\$35,000.00	\$8,816.51	\$26,183.49
Professional Services	\$180,000.00	\$166,732.98	\$13,267.02
Miscellaneous	\$1,500.00	\$538.57	\$961.43
Total	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,001,213.02	\$424,281.20

#### Pie Chart Key

- Salary and Benefits
  Professional Services
  - Materials and Supplies
- Advertising

- Travel and Meetings
- Guaranteed Ride Program
- Subscriptions and Memberships
- Phones and Utilities

- Hardware and Software
- Miscellaneous





### THE ROAD AHEAD.

### FY2021 WORK PLAN GOALS AND MEASUREMENTS.

#### WorkPlan Goals

- Goal 1: Promote Use of Alternative Transportation
- Goal 2: Active Participation by Employers
- Goal 3: Active Participation by Commuters
- Goal 4: Increase Awareness of Commute options and the TRAFFIX Program
- Goal 5: Regional Coordination
- Goal 6: 5% reduction in single occupancy vehicles

#### WorkPlan Measurements

- 5% increase in employer participation
- 200 Engaged Employers (100 at Levels 3 or 4)
- 55 New Employers
- 400 Program Meetings
- 180 Commuter Events
- 20 Corporate Challenges
- 50 Employer Regional Campaign Events (Telework Week, Earth Day, Bike Month, Try Transit Week, and Rideshare Month)
- 5% Increase in vanpool participation
- 15 New Registered Vanpools
- 1,000 New Commuter Members in Agile Mile (formally NuRide)
- 5 million Reduced VMTs
- 10 Bike Repair Station Donations to Local Municipalities and Employers
- 3% Growth in GoPass 365 Trips



