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**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL:
 September 29, 2004**



**Coalition Announces 2nd Annual List Of
 Greater Washington Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**

Nearly 190 employers recognized for offering outstanding commuter benefits



Washington, D.C. (September 29, 2004) – The **Greater Washington Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** Coalition today announced the second annual list of Greater Washington Region's **Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**. The list spotlights employers offering superior commuter benefits to employees, thereby reducing traffic and air pollution while improving quality of life for harried commuters.

The coalition is comprised of Washington D.C. area transportation, business and environmental organizations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The current list includes 187 employers, representing more than 176,000 employees, including Fannie Mae, Discovery Communications, and numerous federal government agencies. More information about the list is available at www.bwc.gov.



"The Washington region has the third worst traffic congestion in the nation," said Suzanne Rudzinski, Director of EPA's Transportation and Regional Programs Division. "The average Washington area traffic delay per capita for 2002 was 67 hours compared to 46 hours nationally, which in addition to the added pollution and frustration, also produces over \$2.2 billion in congestion costs. We're delighted to see 187 employers qualify for the 2004 **Greater Washington Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** list – more than double last year's list of 76 employers."



To qualify as one of **Greater Washington Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM**, organizations must provide:

- At least one primary commuter benefit, which can include a monthly transit pass, a monthly vanpool subsidy, cash in lieu of free parking, or a significant telecommuting program.
- At least three supporting commuter benefits, which can include benefits such as carpool/vanpool incentives, lockers/showers for bikers or walkers, incentives for living near work, or onsite amenities such as day care or dry cleaning.
- A central point of contact for information, who actively informs employees of available commuter benefits.
- Access to a regional or employer-provided Emergency/Guaranteed Ride Home program.





About the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM

The **Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** is a free and voluntary program that recognizes employers nationwide for offering a comprehensive package of commuter benefits. Participating organizations must meet a *National Standard of Excellence* as defined by program criteria. The **Best Workplaces for CommutersSM** improve employee job satisfaction and save money from reduced payroll taxes. Employees enjoy reduced stress and fewer delays caused by driving alone to work and save money by using employer-provided commuter benefits. For more information, visit <www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov> or <www.bwc.gov>.

About the Greater Washington Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition

Greater Washington Region's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM Coalition is comprised of leading government and business organizations in the Washington D.C. area working to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and make commuting less stressful and costly. This coalition includes Commuter Connections, Greater Washington Board of Trade, Metropolitan Washington Work/Life Coalition, National Capital Planning Commission, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. General Services Administration, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Several local jurisdictions have also pledged their commitment to the campaign including Alexandria Rideshare, Arlington Transportation Partners, Fairfax County, and Montgomery County Commuter Services.

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