

COVID-19 and Its Implications on Commuting and Telework

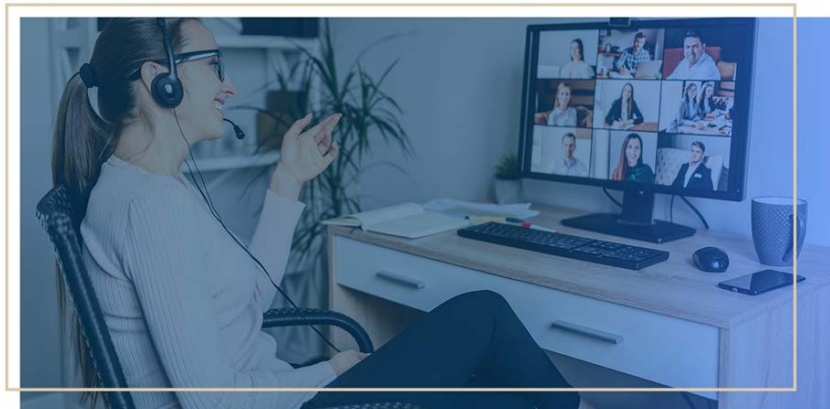
RRTPO Community Transportation Advisory Committee
May 20, 2021

Chris Arabia, Manager of Statewide Commuter Programs
Department of Rail and Public Transportation



COVID-19 Impacts

- March 2020: State of Emergency declared; “Stay at Home” order
- Businesses send employees home to work full-time
- Traffic drops to 60% to 65% of normal levels
- Only essential workers are commuting
- Transit ridership drops
- Vanpools are “parked”
- We all learned to Zoom



COVID-19 Response

- DRTP created guidance on how to commute safely
- Disseminated information on CDC guidance, Governor's Executive Orders, and FTA mask mandate on public transportation



Commuter/Employer Assistance Changes

Commuting Options

- No need to do mass marketing of carpooling, vanpooling and transit
- No in-person events or promotions
- Cancelled May 2020 Bike to Work Week promotion
- 2020 Try Transit Week changed to Transit Appreciation Month



Commuter/Employer Assistance Changes

Employer Assistance

- No need to promote telework – it happened!
- Cancelled March 2020 Telework Week promotion
- Telework!VA continues to help businesses
- No on-site meetings or promotional events



Where Do We Go From Here?

- Traffic is back to 80% - 90% of pre-COVID levels and rising
- CDC mask and distancing guidance is being eased
- Some schools are still virtual, but could all be in-person in Fall
- Employees are returning to the office, but want to continue some sort of telework arrangement
- Will transit riders come back?
- How much teleworking will there be?





Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation