



September 3, 2013

## Annual Car Free Day Event to Span Weekend of Sept. 20-22

"Park it. For a whole day or more."

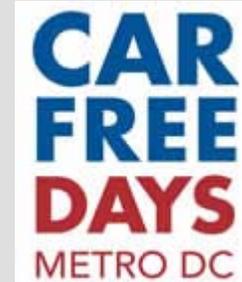
That's the message that organizers of this year's Car Free Day are sending to Washington area residents leading up to the annual event that encourages less driving and fewer trips by private automobile.

This year the event will span three days -- Friday, September 20, through Sunday, September 22 -- unlike past years, in which the event took place on just one day. The change comes because September 22, the date on which Car Free Day is normally held, falls on a Sunday this year, and organizers want to give area residents the opportunity to participate on a weekday as well as the weekend.



Because of the change, this year's event is being called Car Free Days, and organizers are encouraging participants to park their cars and choose other modes of travel -- or to go "car-lite" by making fewer trips by car -- on one, two, or all three of the days of the event. For many participants, that will mean finding alternative ways to get to and from work and other weekday destinations as well as weekend destinations like museums, parks, and sporting events.

### Related Links



[www.CarFreeMetroDC.org](http://www.CarFreeMetroDC.org)

### Recent Weekly Reports

#### August 27, 2013

"TPB Approves Grants to Improve Travel Options for Low-Income Individuals and Persons with Disabilities"

#### August 20, 2013

"TPB Selects 15 Local Projects to Receive Federal 'Transportation Alternatives' Dollars"

#### August 13, 2013

"Maryland and Virginia Using New Transportation Revenues to Accelerate Projects"

### Archived Reports

### More From TPB

In a July proclamation designating September 20-22 as Car Free Days, the Transportation Planning Board cited numerous benefits of reduced driving and automobile use, including improved air quality, reduced traffic congestion and parking demands, and the conservation of energy resources. Events like Car Free Days raise awareness of the availability of cleaner and more efficient transportation modes, and that traveling by car is by no means the only option for getting around.

Car Free Day has been celebrated in other parts of the world longer than it has been in the Washington region. The event got its start in Europe in the mid-1990s, and went global in 2000 as a way to celebrate sustainable mobility options during International Mobility Week.

In 2008, the event made its debut in the Washington region, led by Commuter Connections, a program of the TPB that promotes alternative transportation modes like ridesharing, transit, bicycling, walking, and teleworking. Commuter Connections also helps organize the annual Bike to Work Day event each spring.

More than 1,500 cities around the world will celebrate Car Free Day this year. To promote other travel modes, many cities will reserve main roads or other areas normally used by cars for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit vehicles.

That idea hasn't yet caught on in the Washington region, though a few small-scale road closures and a number of other local events will accompany the main regional campaign. Numerous sponsors, including local transit agencies and private companies offering alternative transportation services, as well several local media partners, will also help spread the word about this year's event.

In 2011, more than 11,800 people in the Washington region pledged to participate in Car Free Day. That number was down to 7,000 pledges in 2012, when Car Free Day fell on a Saturday. This year, organizers are hoping to receive at least 10,000 pledges, including ones from local elected officials and other leaders throughout the region. And participation in Car Free Days isn't limited just to people who normally drive. Those who already use alternative modes of transportation on a regular basis can also make the pledge.

Those who wish to participate in this year's Car Free Days celebration or to learn more about the event can visit [www.CarFreeMetroDC.org](http://www.CarFreeMetroDC.org), or follow "Car Free Day Metro DC" on Facebook or Twitter. Those who pledge to go car free will be entered to win one of many prizes, including an Apple iPad, a Capital Bikeshare membership, SmartTrip cards loaded with \$20 in Metro fare, and more.



#### Periodical Publications



TPB News The Region

"TPB Weekly Report" is an online publication designed to provide brief, timely summaries of recent TPB research, analysis, outreach, and planning in the metropolitan Washington region.

Questions and comments about "TPB Weekly Report" should be directed to [Ben Hampton](#).

---

**The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington region. The TPB is responsible for directing the continuing transportation planning process carried out cooperatively by the states and the local communities in the region. The TPB is staffed by the Department of Transportation Planning of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.**

---

777 North Capitol St NE, Ste 300 | Washington DC 20002 | 202-962-3200 | [www.mwcog.org/transportation](http://www.mwcog.org/transportation)

You are subscribed as: [cogstaffdtp@mwkog.org](mailto:cogstaffdtp@mwkog.org). To unsubscribe, manage your subscriptions, or select HTML/plain text preferences for this email address, please click [here](#). To request this message in alternative formats, email [accommodations@mwkog.org](mailto:accommodations@mwkog.org) or phone 202-962-3300 or 202-962-3213 (TDD). Please allow up to seven working days for preparation of the material..

To forward this to a friend, please click [here](#)..

