



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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AGENDA ITEM NO.

TO: David Hankerson
County Manager

FROM: David Montanye
Department of Transportation Director

Tony Hagler
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DATE: February 24, 2009

PURPOSE

To authorize discounted transit fares for County employees who use Cobb Community Transit (CCT) to commute to work.

BACKGROUND

On September 8, 1998, the Board of Commissioners endorsed the participation of Cobb County Government in the Clean Air Campaign, (formerly known as the Partnership for a Smog-Free Georgia and Voluntary Ozone Action Program (VOAP)). The Board also authorized the development of a plan for County agencies and employees to help reduce ground-level ozone in the Atlanta region.

As an active Partner in the Clean Air Campaign, Cobb County made a commitment to develop and implement methodologies for County agencies and employees to collectively and individually reduce emissions. The methodologies included a variety of appropriate strategies such as educational programs; communications plans; development of policies for alternate commuting options for employees; flexible work schedules; and rescheduling various operational and maintenance activities.

The Department was designated as the lead agency to study and develop a set of recommendations for the County's plan. In addition, a Steering Committee was formed with membership from the six County agencies and a representative from the County Manager's staff.

On March 23, 1999, the Plan was presented to the Board of Commissioners and approved for implementation. The Plan outlined a set of goals and actions for the County agencies and employees to help reduce ground-level ozone in the Atlanta region. Both short term and long term strategies were approved, with longer term items recommended for further study and development.

BACKGROUND (continued)

On March 28, 2000, the Board authorized the continuation of implementation and evaluation of projects contained in the Smog Reduction Plan for Cobb County in its role as an active partner with the State of Georgia Clean Air Campaign. Many of the initiatives have since become institutionalized in the County guidelines and employee handbook, such as alternate work hours and compressed work weeks.

Among the longer term strategies, was a proposal to subsidize the use of public transit by employees on Cobb Community Transit (CCT) for their commutes to and from work, or trips during the workday. After further study and analysis, the Department recommends providing a cost reduction of \$30.00 for Cobb County employees who purchase local transit passes for commuting to work on CCT. For example, an employee could purchase a \$55.00 local 31-day pass for \$25.00. As roadways in Cobb County and the region are experiencing serious congestion, encouraging employees to take transit will result in reduced emissions, fewer vehicle miles travelled, and congestion relief.

FUNDING

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Commissioners authorize discounted transit fares for County employees who use Cobb Community Transit (CCT) to commute to work.