



County of Fairfax, Virginia

Fairfax County Commuter Services Update

Impacts of COVID-19

Presented to the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission
September 15, 2020

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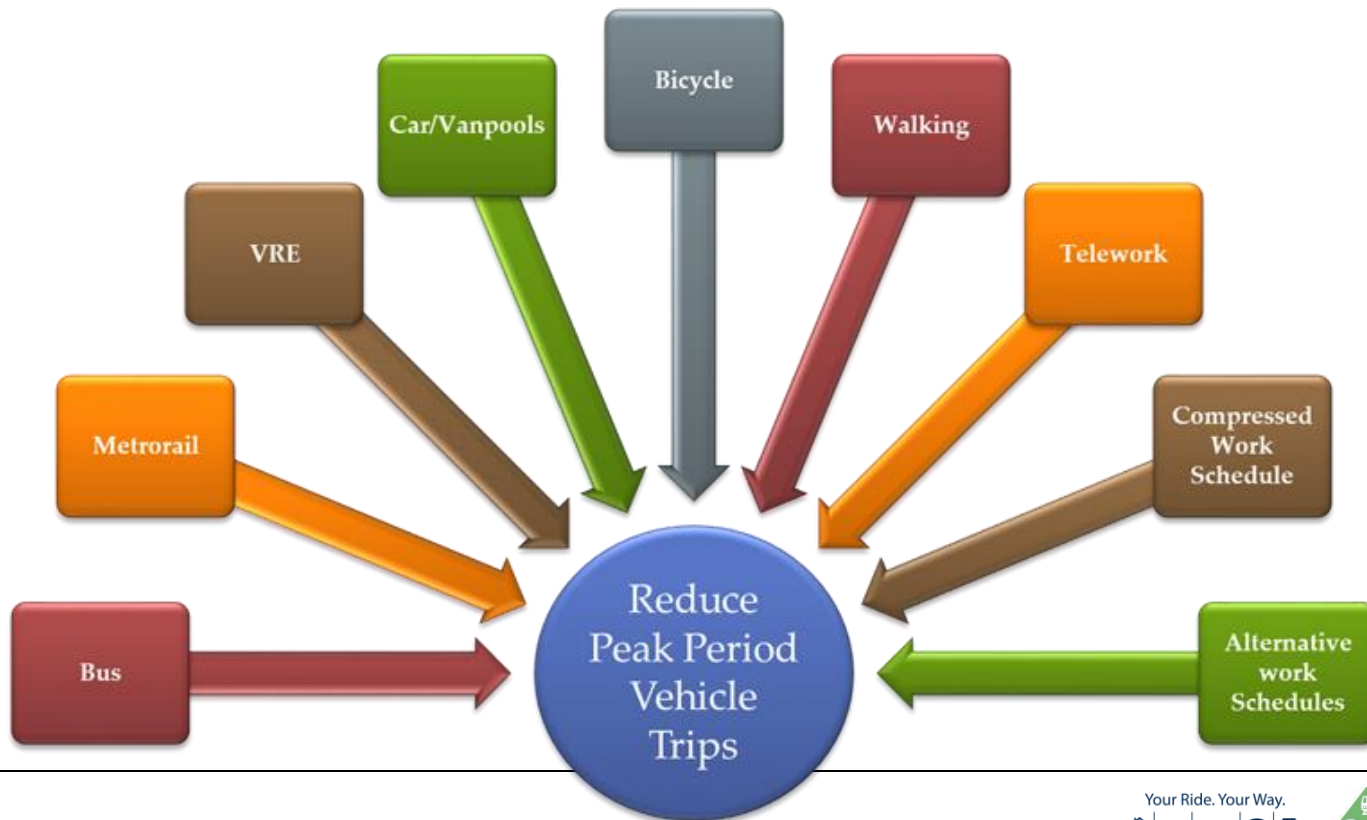
Fairfax County Department of Transportation
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/commuter-services

September 15, 2020



Transportation Demand Management (TDM)

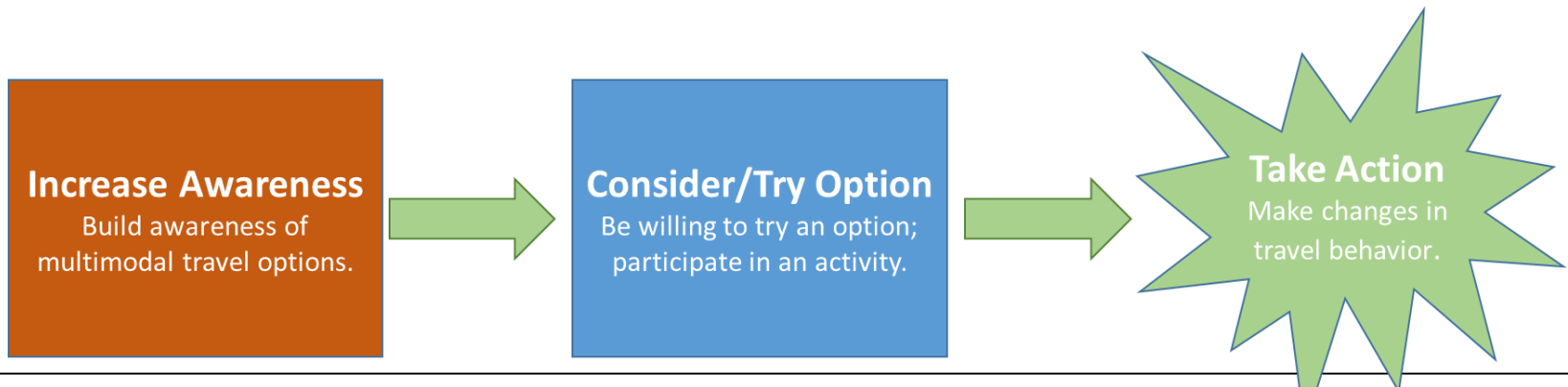
Strategies that increase overall system efficiency by encouraging a shift from single-occupant vehicle (SOV) travel to non-SOV modes, shifting SOV trips out of the peak travel periods or eliminating the trips completely.





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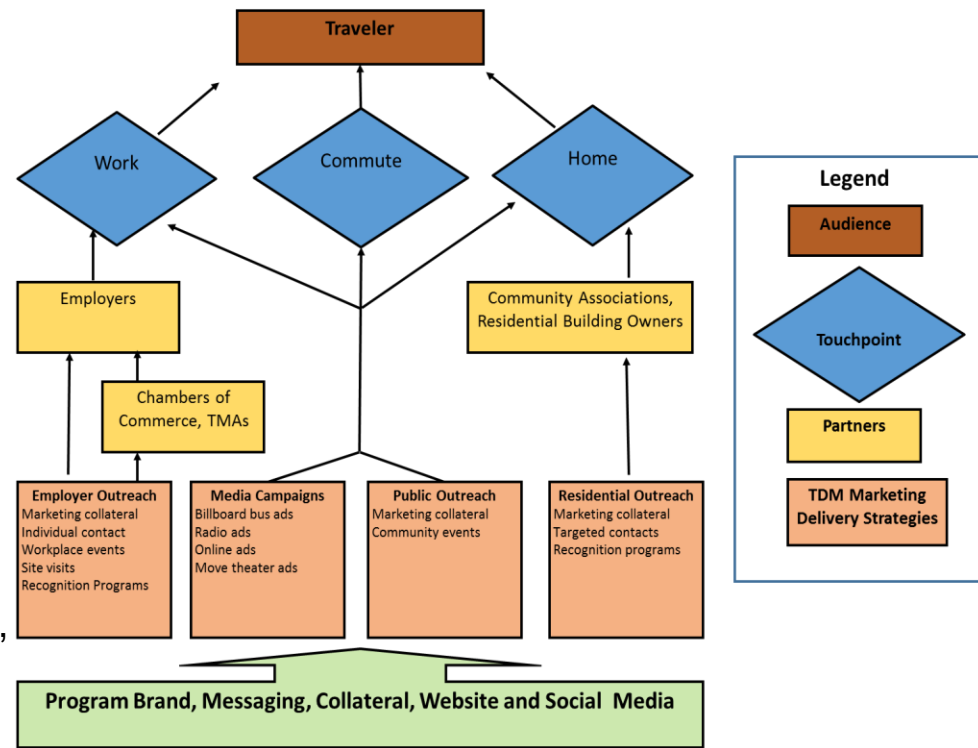
- TDM outreach program that advocates alternatives to drive-alone commuting in Fairfax County, with the goal of assisting in reducing traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.
- Builds upon existing relationships and establishes new partnerships with employers and residential communities within Fairfax County to increase awareness of and support for alternatives to drive-alone commuting.
- Through marketing, expands the reach of current programs to address the transportation and mobility needs of residents and employers in Fairfax County.
- Applies to all businesses, not just those going through the zoning process.





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- **Multi-pronged outreach strategy** to reaching commuters through several different **“touchpoints”** focused on target audiences, **with tailored messaging, services and incentives**. Examples include:
 - Employer and Residential Outreach
 - Ride matching
 - Transit and Employer Incentives
 - Telework Promotion
 - Biking and Walking Promotion
 - Park and Ride Facilities Promotion
 - Major Travel Corridor Traffic Management Efforts
- Strategies can be implemented as stand alone or in conjunction with others.
- Support other county efforts including expansion of transit service and bikeshare, building of new sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and park and ride facilities.





COVID-19 Impacts – TDM Mitigation Efforts

- Prior to spring of 2020, nearly half a million employees in Fairfax County had been given the opportunity to participate in some form of TDM measure with direct-to-employer outreach efforts extended to more than 1,600 Fairfax County employer sites.
- **FCCS staff has continued to work with these employers to provide commuter assistance and resources during the coronavirus pandemic.**
- With slowing the spread of the coronavirus being the main goal since mid-March 2020, **telework has been the primary strategy and area of focus for support provided to mid-size and large employers.** FCCS has continued to collaborate with [Telework!VA](#), a state program that provides technical advice, on-site assistance, and financial incentives for employers.



COVID-19 Impacts – TDM Mitigation Efforts

Fairfax County Employer Examples

- **Navy Federal Credit Union (6,700 employees)**
 - All employees will telework until 2021; need for full-time teleworking will be reevaluated.
- **TeraThink (214 employees)**
 - All employees will telework until at least 2021.
- **Avineon (20 employees)**
 - Downsizing office space this fall; continuing telework in the meantime; most likely moving to a hybrid model after move.
- **ASM Research (600 employees)**
 - Unsure of future plans; employees will not return until a viable vaccine is available. Only a few people allowed in the office currently and no one else can return without prior approval.
- **FranConnect (65 employees)**
 - Only essential staff in the office on an as needed basis; no plans to change most staff teleworking due to virtual schools this fall in Fairfax County.



COVID-19 Impacts – TDM Mitigation Efforts

- Special focus has also been extended to **support employers providing vital services with essential staff unable to telework.**
 - Fairfax County maintained approximately 70 percent of its lifeline Fairfax Connector bus service throughout the pandemic, and FCCS has continued to support transit as well as essential ridesharing arrangements when developing customized TDM mitigation strategies for employers during the coronavirus pandemic.
 - Active transportation modes serving as the first-mile/last-mile solution for essential workers have also been included in mitigation strategies for employers with access to Capital Bikeshare.
 - Free rides on transit and active transportation systems have been offered; enhanced safety protocols have been implemented for protection of the public and employees; and education on safe commuting for both employers and commuters are ongoing.



COVID-19 Impacts – Partnerships & Data Collection

- FCCS has continued to collaborate with regional groups including the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG), state agencies including Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT), and local jurisdictions to streamline strategies and begin data collection on impacts of COVID-19.
- Data collection to inform future strategic planning efforts for regional and state TDM programs include:
 - ***MWCOCG Telework Survey (complete)***
 - ***VDRPT Employer Survey (underway)***
 - ***VDOT Commuter Survey (underway)***
- There are various other data collection efforts underway that may also inform future planning.

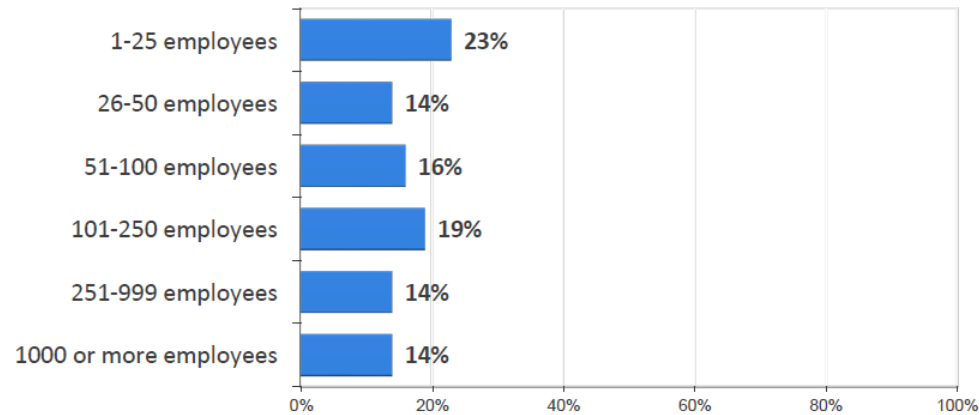


COVID-19 Impacts – Partnerships & Data Collection

- **MWCOG Telework Survey**

- Survey conducted to examine telework changes made by employers due to the coronavirus pandemic in the National Capital Region
- 180 employers interviewed (from the MWCOG regional database and federal coordination database)
- Employer type: 49 percent private, 33 percent not-for-profit, 13 percent federal, 5 percent state/local government.

Size – number of employees in Washington metro region

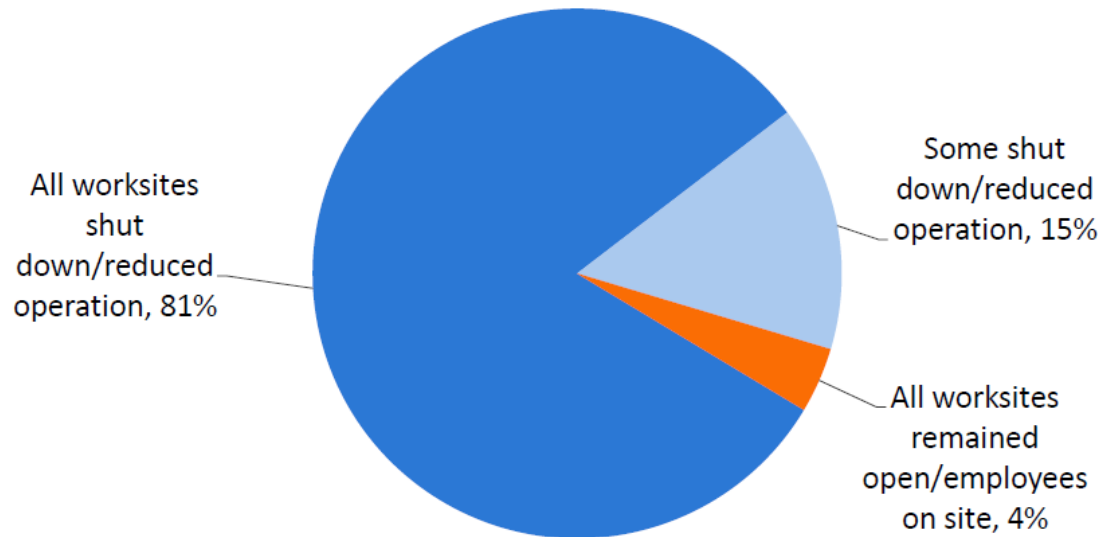




COVID-19 Impacts – MWCOCG Telework Survey

96% of Worksites Shut Down or Reduced On-site Operation
Either Completely (81%) or Partially (15%) Since Coronavirus
Pandemic Began

At the time of the survey, 95% of sites with reduced operation were still
closed/limited on-site operation

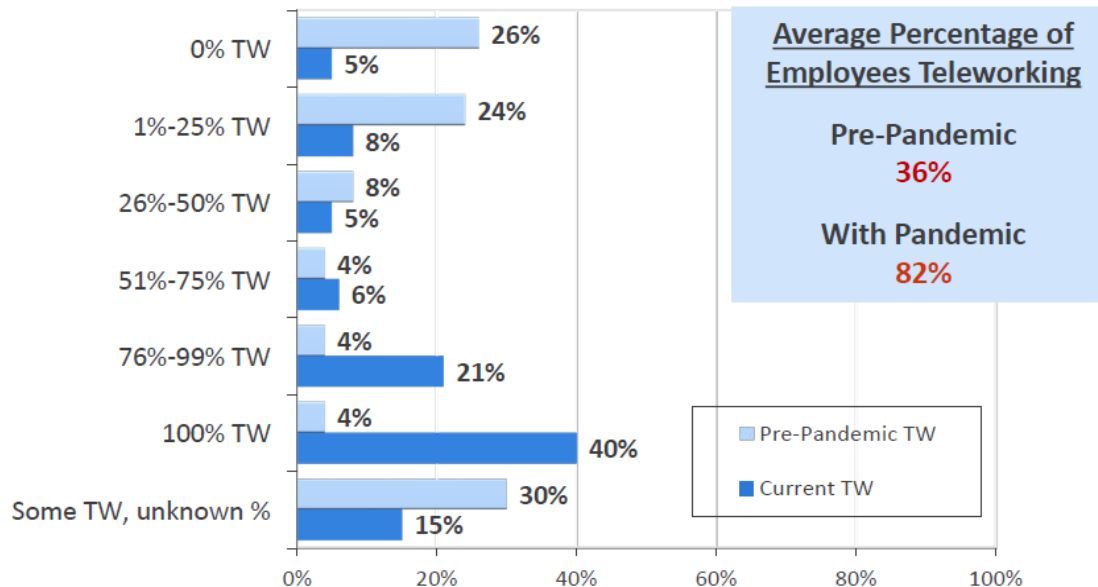




COVID-19 Impacts – MWCOCG Telework Survey

At the Time of the Survey, 95% of Worksites Had Telework;
Telework Was Common Pre-Pandemic Also - 76% Had At
Least Some Telework Before

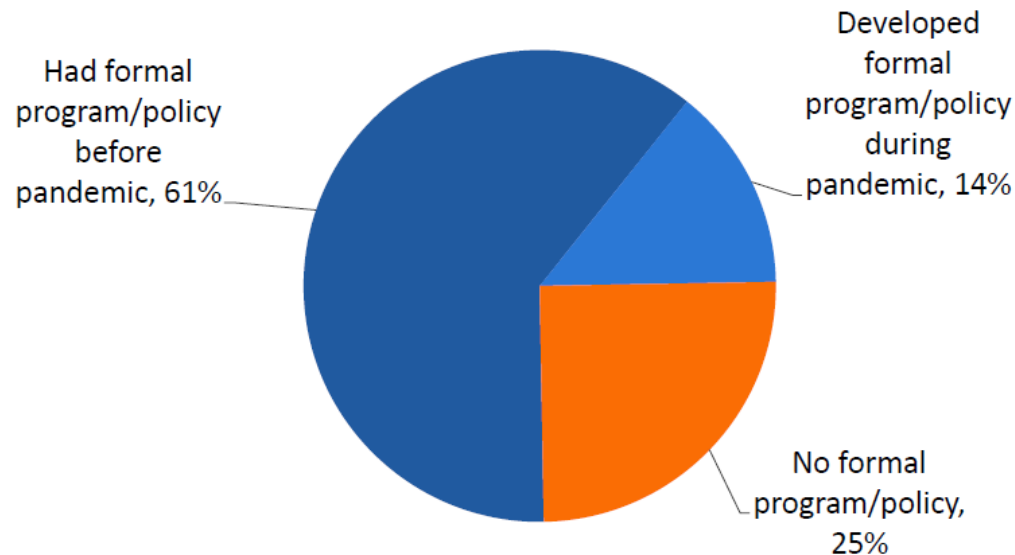
But during the pandemic, the average share of employees who teleworked grew
from 36% to 82% at sites with telework





COVID-19 Impacts – MWCOG Telework Survey

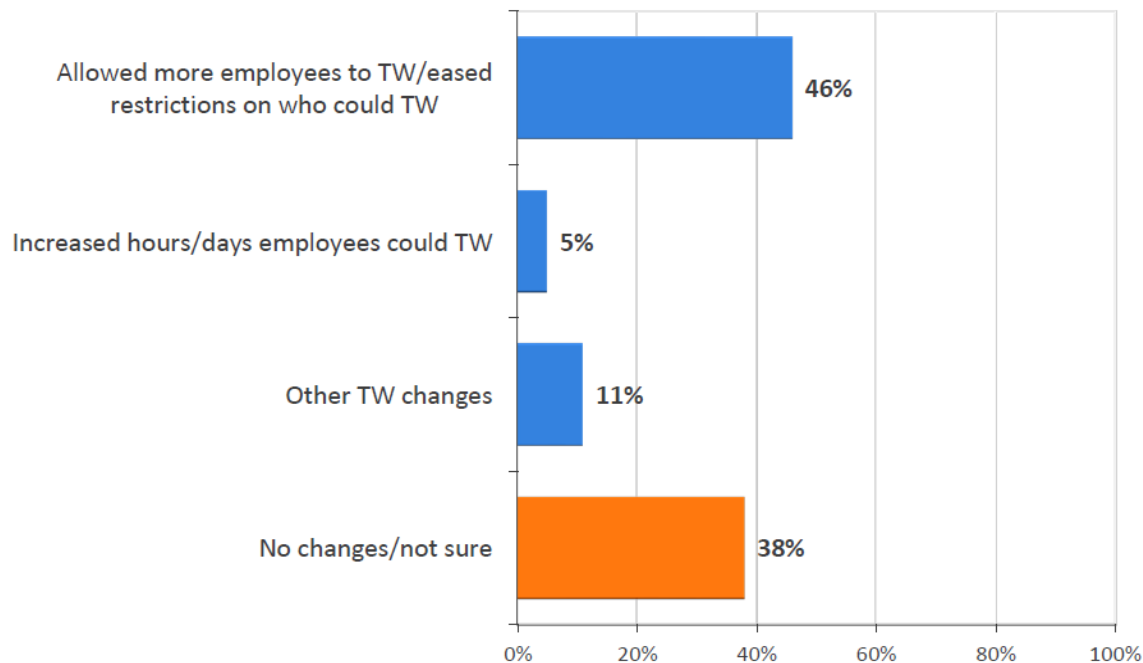
During the Pandemic, 14% of Worksites Developed a Formal Telework Program/Policy; 61% of Worksites Already Had a Formal Program/Policy before the Pandemic





COVID-19 Impacts – MWCOG Telework Survey

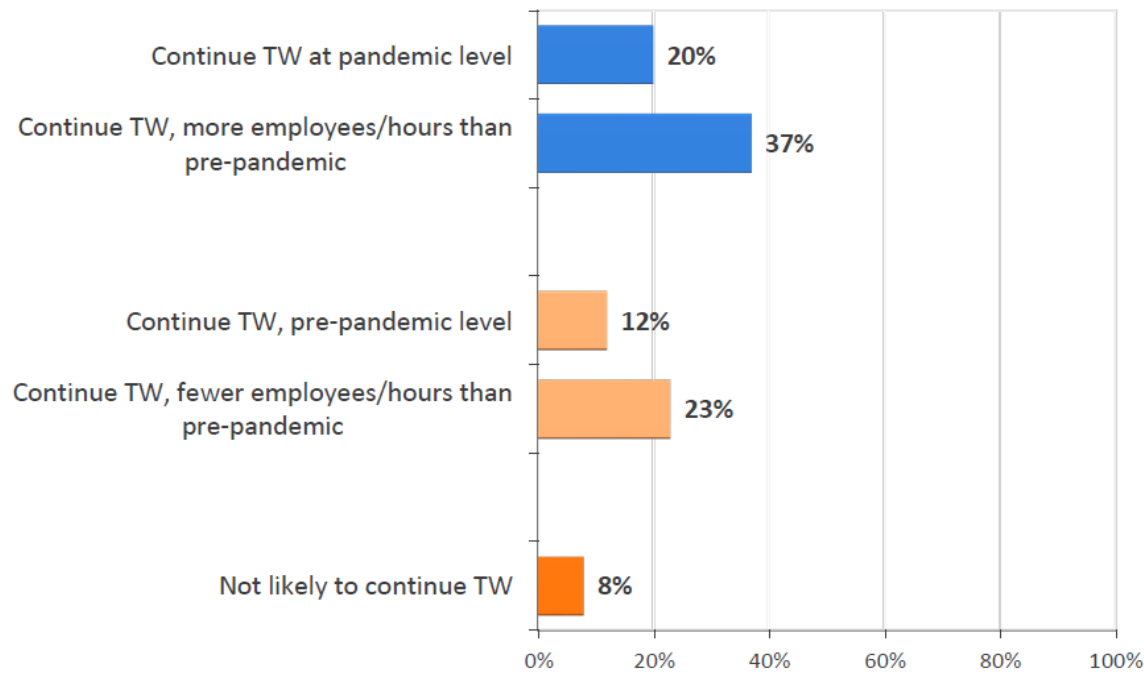
62% of Worksites With a Telework Program/Policy Made Changes to Accommodate the Pandemic – Most Made a Change to Expand Telework Eligibility





COVID-19 Impacts – MWCOG Telework Survey

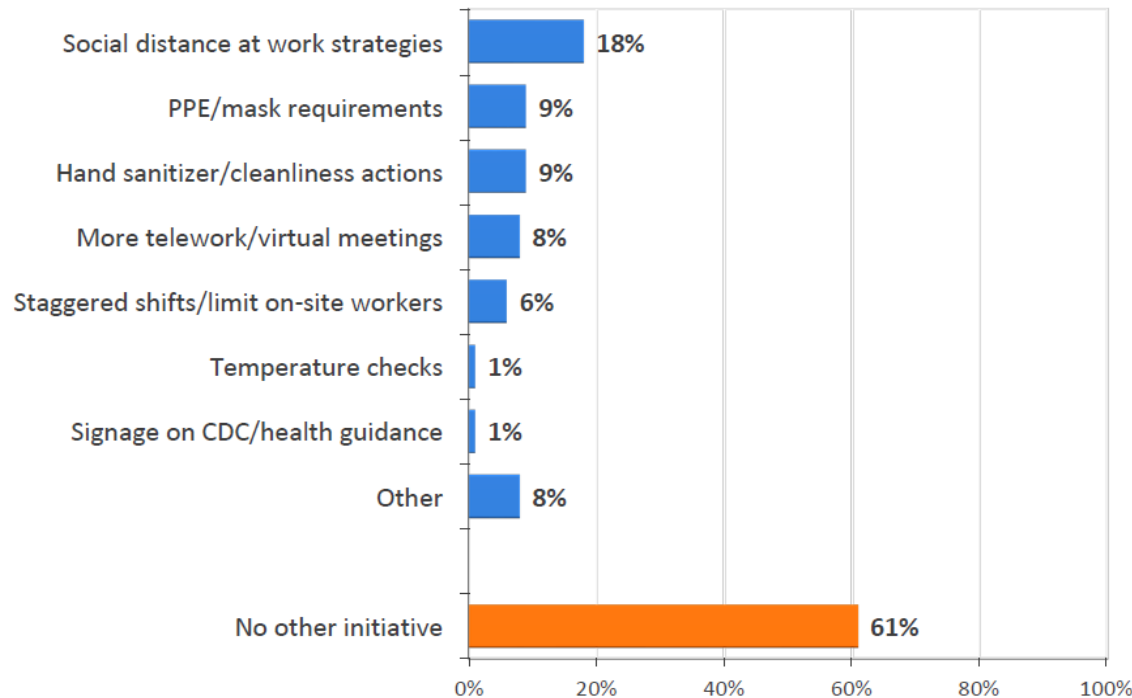
More than Half of Worksites Anticipate A Post-Pandemic Telework Level that is Higher Than the Pre-Pandemic Level





COVID-19 Impacts – MWCOG Telework Survey

Employers Also Have Considered Implementing Other Virus-Prevention Strategies at the Worksite





COVID-19 Impacts – Next Steps

- Multiple factors will directly impact TDM outreach efforts in both short and long term in Fairfax County, Virginia and the National Capital Region:
 - Evolving coronavirus pandemic and continuing public health and financial impacts on employers, commuters, and transportation systems and infrastructure
 - TDM funding for Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022 – both state and federal
 - Results state data collection efforts (data available by the end of 2020)
- VDRPT-required Six-year TDM Strategic Plan development postponed from Fiscal Year 2020 to Fiscal Year 2021, with a possibility for extension to Fiscal Year 2022.
- Partner agency collaboration will continue and all TDM mitigation efforts will be continuously monitored and evaluated.



Fairfax County Commuters Services (FCCS)

Thank you!
Questions?