

For Immediate Release
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MPC Earns Best Workplaces for Commuters Designation

KNOXVILLE, TN. – The Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) is now one of the EPA's Best Workplaces for CommutersSM. The Best Workplaces for CommutersSM program recognizes employers whose commuter benefits reach the *National Standard of Excellence*. Participating companies earn the designation "Best Workplaces for CommutersSM"—a mark of excellence for environmentally and employee-friendly organizations. To earn the designation, employers must provide at least a \$30 per month transit or vanpool benefit in addition to participating in a commuter program such as the Knoxville Regional Smart Trips program. MPC fully subsidizes the cost of the \$40 per month KAT pass for every employee who is interested in taking transit to work. In addition, MPC provides a discounted parking pass for those employees who choose to carpool to work.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission is one of two area employers with the Best Workplaces for CommutersSM designation. The University of Tennessee has also recently received the Best Workplaces for Commuters designation as well.

Smart Trips works with employers throughout the East Tennessee non-attainment region to help develop commuter programs for employees. These programs encourage employees to use alternative transportation to get to work, such as carpool, vanpool, taking the KAT bus, bicycling or walking. By using alternative transportation, commuters can help to reduce the number of drive-alone miles, which saves them money and helps to lessen air pollution.

Area employers that currently provide Smart Trips programs to their employees include: Alcoa, City of Alcoa, City of Knoxville, Community Shares, Covenant Health, Crown Plaza, Denso, the Duncan Federal Building, Edison Schools, First Tennessee Bank, Goody's Corporate Offices, Home Federal Bank, ImagePoint, Kimberly-Clark, Knox County, KUB, Lakeshore Mental Health Institute, Metropolitan Planning Commission, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, SAIC, TVA, and Y-12. For general information or if you are interested in becoming a Smart Trips employer, visit <http://smartrips.knoxtrans.org> or call 215-2916. For more information on Best Workplaces for Commuters, visit www.bwc.gov.

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Contact:
Jill Wolverton, Employer Outreach Coordinator
Smart Trips, Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization
Phone: 215-2916
Email: jill.wolverton@knoxtrans.org