

**The Walt Disney Company, Harvard University Win National Award for
Transportation Programs**
Programs standout with incentives that reduce drive-alone rates, spur transit use

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BOSTON (October 11, 2016) – Implementing progressive commuter benefits programs, paying employees to not drive alone to work and investing major funds in bicycling and vanpool programs helped **The Walt Disney Company, Harvard University, the City of Boulder, Arlington County, Va., and Seattle Children’s Hospital** to become the first organizations to receive the Association for Commuter Transportation’s new Transportation Demand Management Excellence Awards.

ACT announced the awards during the opening day of their inaugural Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Forum in Boston, which brought together over 140 transportation professionals. The TDM Excellence Awards recognize companies, universities, and governments that address commuter transportation as part of broader efforts to improve the quality of life of employees, students, and residents and promote greater livability and economic competitiveness.

"These programs are dynamic examples of how TDM can work in any environment. We thank each of these recipients for their leadership and innovation," said ACT President **Rob Henry** in congratulations to the winners.

The organization’s first TDM Excellence Award for a hospital went to **Seattle Children’s Hospital**, which pays its employees \$4 per day that they don’t drive alone to work. The hospital’s director of transportation, **Jamie Cheney**, said, “Reducing vehicle trips supports Seattle Children’s triple aim of providing value to our employees, reducing organizational expense associated with parking vehicles, and improving air quality, which supports the health of the children we serve.”

The City of Boulder earned its recognition in the wake of increased transit and biking that has led to 37 percent of employees commuting by bus, bike or walking and the creation of a “Living Lab” program that builds partnerships with the community to develop solutions to the biggest challenges facing pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. “The Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Program has achieved significant success in providing mobility options and expanding access to its residents, employees and visitors,” said **Chris Hagelin**, senior transportation planner for the **City of Boulder**. “Boulder will continue to find innovative approaches to TDM, as the city invests in mobile technology to collect travel data, TDM taxing districts to provide sustainable funding, and data-driven parking management.”

In the heart of the national capital region, Arlington County has been a national leader in developing and implementing programs that benefit all commuters.

“Arlington County is proud of the work our commuter services team does to reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel and encourage the use of transit, bike, walk, telework and carpool,” said **Dennis Leach**, **Arlington County** director of transportation. “On a typical weekday, research shows Arlington County Commuter Services” efforts have eliminated 43,000 trips from our roads and reduced 320 tons of greenhouse gases from our air. We are honored to be nationally recognized for our important work.”

ACT secretary Jim Barr, the head of transportation at the University of Vermont, presented Harvard University with the TDM Excellence Award for a university. Harvard recently invested \$600,000 to expand bike share access on and around campus. “This has meant Harvard has helped more people to ride their bike to campus, reduce regional traffic, improve air quality and ensure compliance with local TDM goals and regulations,” Barr said.

“We are honored to be recognizing this impressive group of organizations for their commitment to implementing progressive programs for their employees and residents,” said **David Straus**, **ACT executive director**. “The impacts of these programs improve the lives of commuters and benefit us all with more livable and sustainable communities.”

THE WINNING FACTS

County of Arlington

- 450+ bilingual information displays promoting alternatives to SOV
- 100 miles of multi-use trails, on street bike lanes and designated bike routes
- 86 bikeshare stations with nearly 250,000 trips originating in Arlington County
- 6 stores (including 2 mobile ones) that sell over \$7 million in transit tickets annually

City of Boulder

- 37% of downtown employees bus, bike or walk to work
- Residents’ single-occupant vehicle trip rate down to 36%
- 70,000+ university students, residents, employees have access to an Eco Pass, an annual all-access, unlimited use transit pass

Harvard University

- 44% percent decrease in drive alone rate since 2003
- \$5 million annual investment in sustainable transportation options, including
 - 50% subsidy towards the purchase of transit passes
 - 50-75% discount on parking for carpools
 - \$20/month bicycle benefit for full-time bike commuters
 - 40% discount on bikeshare program, which has 12 stations around Harvard campuses

Seattle Children’s Hospital

- Pays employees \$4 per day they don’t drive to work alone
- 35-percentage point drop in single-occupant vehicle commute rate since 1995
- 9% bike commute mode share (3x the national average)

The Walt Disney Company

- 19,000+ employees in 18 states enrolled on Disney's Commuter Assistance website
- 2,800+ participants enrolled in Disney's pre-tax program
- 100 vans in vanpool program with discounted monthly fares
- Daily cash awards, subsidies for public transit.

About ACT:

The Association for Commuter Transportation, (ACT), is an international trade association and leading advocate for commuter transportation and TDM. Commuting by bus, train, rideshare, bike, walking, or telework improves our world by contributing to energy independence, better air quality, sustainability, urban mobility, and reduced congestion. Through advocacy, education, and networking efforts, ACT strives to improve the lives of commuters, the livability of communities, and the economic competitiveness of businesses.