

## **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Multimodal Access Plan 2016**

As required by the Implementing Instructions for Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the next Decade, VA is pleased to submit this Multimodal Access Plan.

### **Agency Workplace Charging Plan**

Summary. Until recently, VA did not have the authority to allow employee and visitor electric vehicle (EV) charging from federal infrastructure. Since the signing of H.R. 22, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) in December 2015, VA has re-evaluated and determined the authority now exists. VA is pursuing a workplace charging pilot and the development of related guidance. VA eagerly awaits the finalization of guidance pending from OMB to help inform its own internal guidance.

Details-Pilot Project. VA is initiating a pilot charging project at a single facility. The goal is to determine whether a Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) concessionaire can serve VA employees and visitors who wish to charge their electric vehicles. VCS plans to contract with a service-disabled Veteran-owned small business as concessionaire to provide the equipment. The concessionaire will also monitor usage of the EV charging stations for a three month period after installation. The results of the pilot will help inform the VA charging policy.

### **Agency Bicycling and Active Commuter Program**

VA implements commuter programs at the facility level based on local regulations, conditions, and needs.

Summary. Agency policy includes offering bicycle commuting subsidy. Where needed, appropriate, and possible, VA offers access to support facilities.

Details. VA offers employee reimbursement for bicycling pursuant to 26 U.S.C. Section 132 (f)(1)(D). VA continues to offer a qualified bicycle commuting subsidy toward reasonable bicycle expenses to participants regularly using a non-motorized bicycle for a substantial (50% or greater) portion of travel between their residence and the worksite. Guidelines for this program are outlined within VA Directive and Handbook 0634. Bicyclists may have access to showers and lockers: Access is determined locally based on need and availability. VA's central office in Washington, DC has facilities available to bicyclists. VA is interested in learning of any strategies to be offered to agencies by the Interagency Task Force on Bicycling and Active Transportation.

## **Agency Telecommuting and Teleconferencing Expansion Plan**

Summary. VA recognizes the importance of telework and teleconferencing as a viable tool to an employee's productivity whether home or in the office.

Details. Activities to facilitate telecommuting consist of quarterly reviews of the current and projected status of VA employee telework toward the current year organizational goals. Activities to increase telework include quarterly presentations to telework coordinators in the field. These are intended to assist in overcoming challenges they face in promoting telework at their facilities. In addition, telework is promoted at VA-wide events such as national preparedness day and public service recognition. Frequently asked questions and answers are posted on the telework website to make employees aware of telework opportunities.

The incorporation of teleconferencing at VA will require management approval and funding to install mobile video applications on existing laptops and desk tops.

## **Agency Carpooling and Transit Plan**

Summary. VA continues to implement, monitor, and measure the Scope 3 GHG emission reduction strategies as documented in the most recent SSPP. Carpooling and other transit reduction techniques are implemented and managed at the facility level based on regulatory requirements and need.

Details. VA offers transit benefits for all qualified VA employees, as outlined in VA Directive and Handbook 0633. The Transit Benefits Program provides a non-taxable subsidy designed to encourage employees to use mass transportation in their daily commute. This applies to and/or from work by methods other than single occupancy vehicles in order to reduce air pollution, noise, and traffic congestion in metropolitan areas.

VA is working towards a streamlined electronic application which will improve the processing time associated with receiving transit benefits. Upon implementation, there will be a significant marketing campaign to promote the new system and the Program as a whole.