# New office development agreement requiring 50% SOV via zero-cost-to-employer, carrot/stick policy called Fair Value Commuting (FVC)

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# 1. Description of the VMT reduction program

In exchange for entitlement of a mid-sized to large new office project (50,000+ square feet), developer agrees to require tenants (employers of a certain size such as 50+ employees at the site) to reduce SOV commute trips. Over 36 months, the SOV requirement slims from 75% to 50% in steps of 2.5% every three months. Employers may meet this performance target by any means. Non-compliance triggers a revenue-neutral (zero-cost to employer) workplace SOV feebate, a fee on SOV commute trips where the revenue is rebated to non-SOV, less 15% that funds commute program software. The fee begins at \$0.25/day and, if non-compliance continues, increases by \$0.25 every three months to a maximum of \$3/day. The policy/software combination is called Fair Value Commuting (FVC). Commute program software vendors receive \$4.95/month/employee.



The commute program software (e.g. Luum and RideAmigos) is about 50% mature and is expected to be scalable within 24 months. Appropriate Silicon Valley stakeholders should make a formal finding when the software is mature. Key technologies:

- Commute program software: a) automates employer commute programs, b) expands upon SB1339 payroll commute benefits, c) provides an enterprise-wide commute dashboard of daily commute mode, VMT, GHG.
- Automated, 98% accurate commute mode detection and reporting, depicted in a commute calendar for each employee:

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## 2. Projected VMT reduction

Reduces SOV commuting from 75% to 50%. FWHA calculates the benefit for each VMT reduced as \$0.21. The cost per ton GHG reduced in -\$558.

#### 3. Evidentiary basis for the projected reduction

Please refer to "Reduce Bay Area Commuting by 25%" white paper, Appendix H, <u>www.cities21.org/wp/pdf</u> for SOV feebate efficacy evidence encompassing:

- 41 TDM Case Studies from Best Workplaces for Commuters
- Transportation Elasticities from VTPI,
- Moving Cooler report,
- Implementations by Stanford, 20th Century Corp, and CH2M Hill.

In 2012, MTC's Ann Flemer wrote, "There is no question that the provision of free parking is a huge incentive for people to drive to work. A 2000 survey of Bay Area commuters found that while 77% of commuters drove alone when free parking was available, only 39% drove alone when they had to pay to park. Additionally, among commuters with free parking, only 4.8% commuted by transit. By contrast, among commuters without free parking, 42% commute by transit." SACOG CEO James Corless states, "Eliminating free workplace parking is the Holy Grail of trip reduction." (91% of Americans receive free workplace parking.)

Stanford University's commute program has something similar to the \$3/day SOV feebate. SOV commuting reduced from 75 to 50%.

In Seattle, Gates Foundation (using Luum software) implemented a \$12/day SOV fee and \$3/day non-SOV incentive, reducing SOV from 90% to 32%.

#### 4. Exchange required to reduce VMT

At 50% SOV commute mode split:

- The daily fee per each SOV commute is \$3 (paid by employee)
- The daily non-SOV incentive is \$2.55 (paid to employee)
- The commute program software vendor receives \$0.45 per SOV commuter/day.

Fees/incentives are reflected in each employee's paycheck. The program is zero net cost to the employer.

Luum and RideAmigos software is progressing towards maturation, driven by customer needs. In addition, a \$1.1M FTA Mobility on Demand Sandbox grant helps accelerate such maturation.

# 5. Entities involved in this VMT reduction

- A development agreement between office developers and cities. Developers provide reduced VMT in exchange for valuable development entitlements.
- In order to obtain a lease of valuable office space, tenants are required by landowners to comply with the VMT reduction policy.

## 6. Regional scalability

FVC can be scaled to encompass existing office building via legislative mandate:

- A simple majority enabling state bill permits cities and counties to enact 50% SOV ordinances.
- Via a 2/3 vote of residents (required by Prop 26), cities may enact ordinances mandating 50% SOV by employers with a certain number of employees in the enacting locality. It is recommended that multiple cities collaboratively pass ordinances during the same election, creating a multi-city area.
- For 2.9M Bay Area commuters, reduces 1M car trips/day, 1.3M tons/GHG/year, 3.4B VMT/year at a "negative cost" of -\$558/ton reduced. Creates \$670M/year new revenue for non-SOV modes. Frees 3,700 acres of surface parking.