

EPA gives honor to Commuter Club Employers and Cumberland CID

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has given a metro community improvement district a top honor for its work to cut down on traffic.

The EPA has named the Cumberland office market one of nation's "Best Workplaces for Commuters" for commuter services provided through Commuter Club and its parent, the Cumberland Community Improvement District. Commuter Club, a service of the CID, provides commuter benefits to about 70,000 employees in the Cumberland-Galleria area of Cobb County.

With the designation, metro Atlanta now surpasses every city in the nation for having the highest number of participating employers offering some form of approved commuter benefit.

"We know that Atlantans who commute at peak travel times spend 75 hours a year -- almost two full work weeks -- stuck in traffic," said CID Chairman Tad Leithead. "The business leadership of the Cumberland-Galleria market has worked aggressively through Commuter Club to give employees and visitors more options for getting to and from their jobs. Years of hard work and innovative programs are paying off for this area."

The Cumberland-Galleria office market is the first community in Georgia and only the second in the entire United States to qualify for this unique district designation. Usually reserved for individual companies, "Best Workplaces for Commuters" is a national designation reserved for businesses, organizations and districts that meet a national standard of excellence in commuter benefits.

"The efforts of Commuter Club and the Cumberland CID provide a powerful example of an effective public-private partnership that allows the private sector to leverage its resources and creativity for the good of the entire community," said U.S. Rep. Johnny Isakson, who represents the Cobb County area. "I'm proud to see a Cobb County community being honored nationally for its efforts to reduce congestion, improve air quality and create more great workplaces for commuters."

To qualify as one of EPA's "Best Workplaces for Commuters," employers must provide, or have access to at least one primary benefit, such as discount transit passes and three secondary benefits, such as carpool matching, compressed work schedules and preferred or reduced-cost parking for carpools and vanpools.

Commuter Club identifies potential carpool and vanpool partners and offers the latest information and services to help commuters save money on transit or set up teleworking and flextime program at work sites.