

BEST eNews May 2011



**BETTER ENVIRONMENTALLY
SOUND TRANSPORTATION**
moving for change

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Did you know?

BEST is a registered Charity and donations are tax deductible.



Thanks for reading our newsletter.

Please feel free to contact us about anything in this newsletter.

BEST needs your support - [become a member.](#)

It is the support and feedback of both new and old members that we are able to be innovative, and create sustainable transportation

June is Bike Month

Welcome back Bike Month - we missed you, did you ever really leave? Every year, thousands of cyclists participate in events all through Metro Vancouver, celebrating cycling as a fun, healthy, inspiring, and a great way to get around.

This year we are encouraging people to ditch the car for those short trips of 3 KM or less. "You Can Ride Here" to do your errands, socializing and sporting activities. The more cyclists there are on our streets, the safer it is for everyone. Plus you get fit, healthy, and help the environment.

You'll be able to share your own stories of cycling in your neighbourhood.

For more information about June is Bike Month - see our website at bikemonth.ca

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[Join BEST](#) and shop at MEC's special member's discount night!

It's time to join BEST and reap the returns from supporting our transportation initiatives. As a member you will be invited to the Mountain Equipment Co-op for the BEST members special, private shopping experience.

At MEC's "BEST Members Night", Tuesday June 7 at 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, members will receive 10% off everything (except boats) in their store located at 130 West Broadway. Your BEST membership fee can be easily offset by a few modest purchases of MEC's high-quality, new season clothes, gear, bikes, and more.

RSVP to zoe.sigel@best.bc.ca if you plan to attend or come down to MEC and join BEST at this great event!

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solutions.

As always, if you have any questions or comments for us, please share your ideas by calling 604-669-2860 [emailing us](#).

Help BEST build a healthy, livable region!



Join the 2011

ICBC Commuter Challenge and Win!

BEST is partnering with [ICBC](#) to motivate employees to try new ways of commuting to and from work. During National Environment Week, from June 5 to 11.

Companies can register **for free** to encourage employees to record their trips to and from work, using an online trip tracker. Employees are encouraged to take transit, cycle or walk, ride-share, and car-share for trips at work, or work from home.

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[Click here](#) for more details or registration and prizes!

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AGM Report from the Executive Director

Our 20th anniversary celebration and AGM was a huge hit. We at BEST were thrilled with the turnout and the excitement of everyone who attended the event. It was a delight to see so many old friends, and to welcome over 20 new members, along with new members to the Board..

We have experienced many changes over the last 20 years, shared with you on the BEST timeline at the AGM. [There were many fabulous ideas](#) for the future of BEST and sustainable transportation.



[Read more](#) and be introduced to our new board members at the BEST website.

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[The Bicycle Valet](#)

The Bicycle Valet 2011 is shaping up to be busier than ever. We've been at EPIC Vancouver, the Vancouver Sun Run, Vancouver's Birthday Live and many more. And it's still early in the season!.

We'll be at MEC's North Shore and Whistler Creekside Bike Fest, Burnaby's Environmental Fair, the 2011 ICBC Commuter Challenge Wrap-up and many more events throughout Bike Month, and Canada Day celebrations throughout the Lower Mainland.

Upcoming events are posted on the [calendar](#).

The Bicycle Valet is always looking for volunteers. [Email Stephanie Williams](#) if you are interested.

Contact us for sponsorship interests and click here for a list of events and locations, where you'll find the Bicycle Valet this season

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The 2011 CAA Changing Lanes Conference - May 25th.

As part of a commitment to further the bike-car discussion, CAA will host a national conference on the topic of "[Changing Lanes: Improving the Bike-Car Relationship on Canada's Roads](#)", in Vancouver. CAA is an advocate on issues of concerns that includes how bikes and vehicles can better co-exist on Canada's roads.

BEST's Executive Director, Margaret Mahan will be featured as a panel speaker at the conference where she will share opportunities for business to utilize sustainable transportation options. [More information ...](#)

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City of Vancouver-- Transportation Plan Update 2040

The City of Vancouver will be developing a new long-range transportation plan with targets up to 2040.

The plan identified 70 major initiatives, with six later additions and set targets for walking, transit, biking and vehicle trips. Fifty initiatives have already been finished. Throughout the city, you'll notice such improvements as traffic calming in various neighbourhoods, new bike lanes and wider sidewalks.

See the City of Vancouver Transportation Plan Progress Report at: vancouver.ca/engsvcs/transport

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Of Interest

The staff at BEST is constantly discovering new and interesting articles that you might like too. In fact, we will strive to share these interesting stories with you through our

newsletter and on our website.

Complete Streets: It's About More Than Bike Lanes

Over the last four years, New York City has seen a transportation renaissance on its streets, striking a better balance by providing more space for walking, biking, and transit.

As with any departure from the status quo, it can take a while for everyone to grow accustomed to the changes. Streetfilms decided to look at three of NYC's most recent re-designs to show how pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers benefit from safer, calmer streets.

[Watch for yourself](#)

UN-HABITAT Adopts First-Ever Resolution on Public Spaces

The Governing Council of UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlement Programme) has adopted the first-ever public space resolution which urges the development of a policy approach for the international application of "Placemaking".

This resolution represents the first consolidated approach to inclusive urban public space policy within UN-HABITAT. And although successfully functioning public spaces are one of the most visible forms of public good, local authorities' and urban planners' appreciation of its social dimension, beyond its physical dimension is lacking. This resolution is yet another sign of a growing global recognition that public spaces are a significant aspect of quality of urban life.

The resolution includes seven invitations and requests for adoption by their Executive Director which you will find on the [UN Habitat initiative website.](#)

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