



**BETTER ENVIRONMENTALLY  
SOUND TRANSPORTATION**  
*moving for change*

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### Did you know?

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## B.E.S.T. MARCH NEWSLETTER

### BICYCLE VALET EVENTS START IN MARCH!

The Bicycle Valet team is busy booking events for the upcoming season, helping to boost sustainable transportation options for Metro Vancouverites, along with our presenting sponsor [TravelSmart](#).

The Bicycle Valet provides a practical solution for bicycle parking at events; TravelSmart helps you make the most effective sustainable transportation choices.

Join [TravelSmart](#) through BEST using the promo code **BEST12** and be entered to win a special prize of a \$1000 gift card to MEC that will be drawn December 31, 2012, in addition to all the other [great member benefits](#) of joining.

Bicycle Valet season is starting earlier and earlier. We have three events booked for March already, two Whitecaps Games and the Arcteryx Tent Sale! Check out the details on the [Bicycle Valet Calendar](#).

In addition to the prizes you can win by joining TravelSmart, Bicycle Valet patrons will still be able to enter our regular draws by filling out the contest entry form when you drop off your bike.

If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities, having the Bicycle Valet at your event, or volunteering, please contact us at 604-669-2860 or [bicyclevalet@best.bc.ca](mailto:bicyclevalet@best.bc.ca).



*The Bicycle Valet at the Vancouver Aquarium in 2011.*

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**Vancity**



## STAR Advisory Council to Meet

STAR (Seniors Transportation Access and Resources) has completed initial community outreach and testing of ideas in BC communities. To ensure STAR meets the needs of seniors in BC for sustainable, affordable and accessible transportation we are convening the STAR Advisory Council. It will meet 3-4 times a year to help gather the opinions, views and experiences of seniors and the agencies that serve seniors.

The inaugural meeting of the council will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the BEST offices. Initial membership is made up of Annwen Loverin, Silver Harbour Seniors Centre; Janice McTaggart, Langley Seniors Resources Society; Sue Lawther, Whistler Community Services; Tim Williamson, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House; Bev Pitman, United Way Lower Mainland; David Dunne, Insight Solutions; and BEST member Elizabeth Godley.

The group will be discussing and determining their role and function in support of STAR, so if you have ideas, issues and/or concerns, please forward them to Marg Mahan for inclusion on the agenda. Emails or phone calls are welcome at [margaret@best.bc.ca](mailto:margaret@best.bc.ca) or 604-669-2860.

The Advisory Council will no doubt have things to say in the near future, so stay tuned.

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## Transport 2040

Although the [Transport 2040](#) plan was adopted three years ago now, there has never been the means by which to finance significant transit improvements due to the peculiar constraints that the province put in place when it created Translink. And because the Mayors Council has no planning authority in the new system, it has been extremely difficult to have Translink, Mayors of the region, and the province all on the same page to begin planning how to create longterm financial stability and accountability for Translink in the years to come.

An MOU signed by the Mayors and ex-Premier Campbell in late 2010 started the ball rolling to undertake a technical review of various options and implications, and that technical committee has now produced a draft report. There may be revisions, or it may not go forward, but the Mayors Council is reviewing the draft now. If you care about transit, regional bike facilities, and how to encourage more sustainable transportation, please feel free to write to your Mayors and Councillors to lend your voice to the issue.

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## BEST Member News

The BEST Annual General Meeting is rapidly approaching and will be held on April 11. The AGM a great opportunity to provide input into BEST's future directions and to meet with other members, staff and board members.

This is a members-only event, but if you do not take out or renew your membership by April 11 you will have the opportunity at the AGM. Members will be entered in a draw to win a fabulous door prize provided by our friends at Bikes For All.

**When and Where:** Wednesday, April 11, 2012 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the upstairs hall of the Ukrainian Orthodox Centre, 154 East 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver.

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New BEST members and members who renewed their memberships in January and February were entered in a draw to win a copy of [On Bicycles: 50 Ways the New Bike Culture Can Change Your Life](#), edited by local sustainability advocate Amy Walker or [Carjacked: The Culture of the Automobile & Its Effect On Our Lives](#) by Catherine Lutz and Anne Lutz Fernandez. The draw took place on February 29 -- congratulations and happy reading to our two lucky winners!

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www.bikesforall.ca

## Maya Bike Trailer Giveaway

The family that cycles together—wins a trailer together.



[MayaCycles](#) generously donated a single-wheel bicycle trailer to be given away. The trailer was awarded to a happy, enthusiastic cycling family in Vancouver represented by Kyle, Maddie, and Ben, doing their bit to reduce green house gas emissions and form sustainable transportation habits.

Watch their enthusiastic story [here](#).

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## Chris' Corner

"Most Americans Want a Walkable Neighbourhood, Not a Big House"

*Reviewed by Chris Wilcott*

In a recent article on the website [Good](#) Nona Willis Aronowitz outlines how the tastes and preferences of Americans are changing with regard to their housing preferences. It seems that "more than three quarters of [Americans] consider having sidewalks and places to take a walk one of [their] top priorities when deciding where to live." According to Aronowitz a majority of Americans would sacrifice the 'McMansion' to live in a neighborhood where stores and businesses were within an easy walk.

This article describes how the ideal number of square footage that people desire for their houses is dropping and that, independent of this, there is a growing consensus that "suburban and rural lifestyles are actually less healthy than cities." It would seem that New York City's long life expectancy can be partly attributed to its walkable design.

If this is indeed the new reality, then it is just a matter of time until the development community catches up and starts building new residential subdivisions with walkability in mind.

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