

BEST eNews June 2012

Remember to support BEST by joining TravelSmart.ca. Sign up using the code BEST12 and be entered to win \$1000.00 at MEC.



**BETTER ENVIRONMENTALLY
SOUND TRANSPORTATION**
moving for change

[Message from the ED](#) | [Just Dance!](#) | [Commuter Challenge](#) | [The Bicycle Valet](#) | [Living Streets](#)

In This Issue

1. [Message from the ED](#)
2. [Just Dance!](#)
3. [Commuter Challenge - There's Still Time to Register!](#)
4. [The Bicycle Valet Updates](#)
5. [Living Streets Returns](#)

Find us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter

@BESTmobility

@TheBicycleValet



Did you know?

BEST is a registered Charity and donations are tax deductible.



Thanks for reading our newsletter.

Thanks to our
partners and sponsors

B.E.S.T. June Newsletter

A message from BEST's Executive Director

Dear Friends, Members and Supporters of BEST, and the Bicycle Valet, and STAR,

There are volumes of good news and exciting things going on here at 175 East Broadway, and we're all hard at work to make new and continuing projects grow and serve you well. Keep reading for more on the [Commuter Challenge](#), [The Bicycle Valet](#), and the [Living Streets project](#).

It falls to me to announce what many of you already know – that BEST is not formally doing programming for Bike Month this year. The funding that supported the communications push each year just dried up as TransLink pulled back in 2011 (but started supporting more on their own TravelSmart website), and other sponsors had new priorities. While we had a brief moment of mourning to see our beloved jewel pass beyond us, the good news is that it passed well beyond us – Bike Month is now an international brand, and we are thrilled to see people, companies and organizations around the world adopt the logo and intention to celebrate all things bike during the month of



United Way
of the Lower Mainland
Community Partner



June. We're proud to have been associated with Bike Month, and say a huge thank you to the folks at BEST who helped create it so many years ago.

On the Seniors Transportation front, we are pleased to have completed eight Needs Assessments, have another four in the hopper, are actively working on business plans with multiple organizations, and in general are equally proud to continue the BEST tradition of launching new and needed services. In the face of Translink's elimination of the TaxiSaver program, and similar constraints on support for special transportation services throughout BC, we are ever more convinced that STAR will be an important part of the service mix as the population ages, and more fragile elderly need a little extra help to remain independent.

[STAR](#) is about to relaunch the website with a special member agency area, and we have just put out new websites for both BEST and The Bicycle Valet. Check them out at www.best.bc.ca and www.thebicyclevalet.ca.

As always, your comments and input are valued – please call or write on anything that moves you.

Yours, Marg

Margaret Mahan
Executive Director
Better Environmentally Sound Transportation

[Top](#)

Come out and dance!

BEST invites all our supporters and their friends to come out on June 8 and June 22 and [Just Dance!](#)



Just Dance is a "positive party" community event offering a unique opportunity to dance to an eclectic upbeat selection of music from around the world. Held for the last 19 years, Just Dance is a nonprofit event that also supports many local charities – and we are delighted that the proceeds from the June 8 and June 22 dances will be shared with BEST.

Held in the relaxed and unpretentious environment of the Russian Community Hall (2114 West 4th @ Arbutus), this innovative community event attracts dance lovers of all ages. Add to this an alcohol-free environment and you get a warm community feeling and natural high. There's nothing else quite like it in Vancouver.

*Come out, celebrate life, and support BEST!
We are looking forward to attending, and
looking forward to seeing you all!*

Active meditation 7:30 pm
Dance begins 9:00 pm
2114 West 4th Avenue @ Arbutus
Tickets \$12, \$10 (students), free for children. All at the door.

www.justdance.ca



[Top](#)

Commuter Challenge -- there's still

time to register!



The BEST Commuter Challenge, proudly supported by ICBC, is a great way for workplaces to try sustainable transportation. From June 3-9, thousands of employees will walk, bike, take transit, use a ride-share or car-share, ride a horse, work from home, canoe or use some other creative form of transit to commute to work. An easy on-line tracking system lets employees see how much CO2 is avoided, how many litres of fuel are saved, how many calories are burned, and how many sustainable kilometres are traveled.

Winning workplaces, individuals, and workplace coordinators get fantastic prizes, like coffee subscriptions, credit to car-sharing companies, yoga passes, gift certificates, tickets to sporting events, and more. Check out www.commuterchallengebc.ca for more information about sponsors and prizes. We will be hosting a party on June 19 at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate sustainable transportation.

There are now over 230 workplaces registered throughout BC and over 1500 individuals registered to participate. **If you would like to register there is still time -- just go to www.commuterchallenge.ca.**

For more information please contact Michelle at michelle.drewitz@best.bc.ca or 604-669-2860 ext 211.

[Top](#)

The Bicycle Valet is gearing up!

June is always a busy month for The Bicycle Valet, and this year is not an exception! We are returning to iconic street parties such as [Greek Day](#), [Car Free Day on Main St.](#) and [Commercial Drive](#), celebrating bicycles at [MEC Bikefest Northshore](#) and [MEC Bikefest Vancouver](#), and are happy to announce a couple of new [events](#).

Be sure to check out the newest addition to New Westminster's waterfront at the [Official Opening of Westminster Pier Park](#) on June 16! Everyone is invited to attend the grand opening ceremonies along with an afternoon of main stage entertainment, recreational activities in the Kids' & Sports Zones, amazing food from River Market vendors and lots more.

Also new this year is [Make Music](#) on June 21 in Gastown. Over 200 bands - yes, you read that right - will be giving one-hour performances (not all at once, thank goodness!) It is entirely free. No tickets, no admission, just fun.

We are still looking for volunteers for these events and more! Fill out the [online form](#) and get started! Short, flexible shifts at awesome events, no long-term commitment necessary, exclusive invitations to three LEGENDARY volunteer parties (next one coming up in June - planning is underway), and other perks on offer!

Interested in supporting The Bicycle Valet but parking bicycles is not your scene? **LET EVENT ORGANIZERS KNOW YOU WANT THE BICYCLE VALET** by posting on [Facebook](#), [Tweeting](#) at them, emailing them, or calling them. We have a few suggestions: Malkin Bowl Concerts in Stanley Park and Deer Lake Park Concerts in Burnaby ([Live Nation BC](#)

[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)) and BC Lions home games ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)). Don't forget to tag us!



At the recent EPIC Sustainable Living Expo, Chris Livingstone, EPIC Sales Manager, was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from The Bicycle Valet staff and volunteers.

[Top](#)

Living Streets returns in the fall

BEST is excited to be once again engaged in the [Living Streets project](#) this fall.

Living Streets is a project that takes place in various neighborhoods in the city of Surrey. Community members, especially youth and new Canadians, are educated and trained in conducting street audits which identify ways to create safe and accessible streets. Trained youth learn to assess their neighborhoods, identify concerns and ways to positively address these concerns.

Information gathered from the street audits will be used in workshops attended by Surrey municipal planners and officials. These workshops will facilitate open communication and sharing of ideas between residents and City of Surrey staff.

If you are interested in donating or becoming a

street auditor, please contact Michelle at michelle.drewitz@best.bc.ca or 604-669-2860 ext 211.

[Top](#)

[Visit us at best.bc.ca](http://best.bc.ca)

Thanks for reading!

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

Better Environmentally Sound Transportation Association (BEST)
209 - 175 East Broadway
Vancouver, British Columbia V5T 1W2
CA

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

