



Better Environmentally Sound Transportation e-News September 2013

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Time to walk and cycle back to school

School is just around the corner – and once again [HASTe](#) is helping students and educators calculate, track and reduce their school-related transportation emissions.

The [iSchoolTravel calculator](#) is an easy-to-use online tool for individuals and groups to measure their impacts traveling to and from school. The tool calculates distances for multi modes of travel to and from school, calories burned through active travel, and greenhouse gas emissions and gasoline cost through vehicle use. To check out this and other tools visit [here](#).

And while you are visiting the HASTe website, take a look at the [Walking School Bus / Bicycle Train](#) – think of them as car pools without the car! Whether informal or formal, these are great ways to encourage kids to walk or bike to school.

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Compass Card debate heats up

There has been a broad and widening reaction to the restrictions on the new Compass Card -- most recently SkyTrain's decision not to accept bus transfers with the new system.

Here is a selection of the discussion that has been taking place in the media:

<http://vancouver.24hrs.ca/2013/08/13/skytrain-wont-take-bus-transfers-with-new-compass-card-system>

<http://stephenrees.wordpress.com/2013/08/14/skytrain-wont-take-bus-transfers-with-new-compass-card-system/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/compass-system-will-be-cheaper-for-bus-to-skytrain-transfers-translink-says/article13779054/>

<http://buzzer.translink.ca/2013/08/bus-to-rail-transfer-still-possible-with-compass-card/>

There is now a [petition](#) circulating relating to SkyTrain's decision; here is one [response](#) from a bus rider who views that position as "misinformation."

No doubt the debate on this and other aspects of the Compass Card will heat up as the card is rolled out – BEST encourages people to continue to educate themselves on this important issue.



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The Bicycle Valet: *You parked what???*

Over the course of the summer our valets park loads and loads of bicycles – and some other things besides. Recently we asked our team members to tell us about some of the whacky things they have parked, and there really have been some doozies! Here's some of our favourite responses:

- a pogo stick
- an off-road unicycle
- a bottle of tequila
- a segway
- 4 ocean-worthy dinghies
- backpacks
- skateboards
- blankets (at the Mumford and Sons at Holland Park in Surrey – people were not allowed to bring them into the Park, so we valeted as many as possible)
- a snowboard
- a box of peaches
- a stand up paddleboard
- kayak paddles
- rollerblades
- groceries

The Bicycle Valet is happy to park any form of sustainable transportation you use to get to an event. As for many of the items listed here ... well, if you are really nice to the valets and maybe leave a tip, they just might agree to help you out!

That being said, an exception to this rule occurred on August 22 when the Bicycle Valet was at **le Diner en Blanc**, the world famous dining extravaganza. What a fantastic experience for everyone involved! It was a first for The Bicycle Valet because we didn't park bikes – but we did park a whole lot of tables, chairs and dollies!





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The Bicycle Valet staff looked gorgeous AND had a fabulous time at the recent Diner en Blanc!

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Moving In Metro community dialogue

Moving In Metro: A discussion on mobility pricing, will be taking place throughout Metro Vancouver in October.

Metro Vancouver is a region that relies on many modes of transportation to keep its economy and its people moving – from trucks to trains to cars to bicycles. Being able to move around our cities is critical for transporting goods, accommodating jobs and population growth, building strong and vibrant communities, and connecting with our partners within and outside the region.

But how do we pay for our transportation system in a way that is fair and transparent and provides for our current and future needs?

The SFU Centre for Dialogue is hosting a series of four regional dialogues with residents to explore one response to this question – mobility pricing. The goal of each session is to increase our understanding of mobility pricing as it applies to roads and to hear citizens' perspectives on its potential role in Metro Vancouver's transportation system.

Four community dialogues will be held throughout Metro Vancouver:

- October 22 – Surrey
- October 24 – Burnaby
- October 28 – Vancouver
- October 29 – Langley

For information about these dialogues and how to get involved contact ctalks@sfu.ca, 778-782-9622, or visit the [website](#).

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Cycling Without Age innovative seniors cycling program

No doubt about it – seniors' transportation is moving in some interesting directions these days!

For the past year the innovative [Cycling Without Age](#) program in Copenhagen has been linking residents of nursing homes with volunteer pedicab drivers. Seniors choose to go off in a small group or go solo – and once out on the road it's their decision what direction they would like to take!

Both seniors and volunteers benefit from the program. Seniors who usually spend their days indoors are exposed to the fresh air and re-engage with their local communities and volunteers get lots of exercise.

The mission of Cycling Without Age is to extend the cycling life of every senior resident by setting up cycling programs in nursing homes across Denmark and abroad. "Cycling Without Age believes that cycling has no age. We ride bikes from when we're put in a child seat right until we're 106 years old."

Wouldn't it be great to see a program like this come to Vancouver?



Photo source: [Copenhagen Cycle Chic](#)

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