

BEST eNews October 2011



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OCTOBER NEWS

THE BICYCLE VALET TEAMS UP WITH THE WHITECAPS!

As we move into Autumn The Bicycle Valet continues to provide its excellent service at events across Metro Vancouver.

Sunday, October 2nd marked our first time offering The Bicycle Valet at [Vancouver Whitecaps FC](#) games! We parked 67 bicycles as the Whitecaps played under the new roof at BC Place. Find us at the Plaza of Nations for the remaining three home games in the 2011 season:

- Thursday October 6: Open from 5:30pm to 9:00pm
- Wednesday October 12: Open from 6:00pm to 9:30pm
- Saturday October 22: Open from 3:00pm to 6:30pm

Also in October we will be at the Applefest at UBC, the Arcteryx Factory Sale in North Vancouver, as well as at the Main Street, Trout Lake and Kitsilano Farmers Markets. To find out more about locations and times visit our [calendar](#) or check us out on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

At the end of September we had a party to celebrate all our hard-working staff and volunteers. The party was at the Wired Monk on West Fourth. It was the third and final party of the year and once again a great time was had by all!

Congratulations to our September contest draw winners: Jaspreet Basi and Clark Henderson.

For more information on The Bicycle Valet, including sponsorship interests, please contact Steve Beck (steven.beck@best.bc.ca) or Stephanie Williams (stephanie.williams@best.bc.ca) at BEST, (604) 669-2860.

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THE MAYORS COUNCIL TO VOTE ON TRANSLINK FUNDING

On Friday The Mayors Council, a body that has overview and veto



power over TransLink's budget (though not management authority, which rests with the Provincially appointed board), will vote on whether to support TransLink's annual supplemental plan.

The plan would provide a lot in the way of additional bus services, and generally help with the growth in demand for transit.

Keep your fingers crossed.

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BOLTAGE - TEACHING KIDS TO WALK AND BIKE TO SCHOOL

Over the last thirty years Canadian kids have picked up some bad habits. Back in the day just about everybody walked and biked to school, but these days we seem to jump in our cars to do just about everything. And now we have severe environmental, energy and health problems.

The innovative Boltage program is about starting to make some lifestyle changes, and teaching our kids in Grades K-8 that getting outdoors and using human power is good for them and their world. Using communication and incentives that are designed to make biking and walking cool, Boltage gives kids a way to belong to something great. And it's FUN for the whole family!

For more information see www.boltage.org.

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CHRIS' CORNER

By Christopher Wilcott

This month, I am going to take a look at two important local transit issues: the SFU Gondola and the Surrey Skytrain.

SFU Gondola Tug of War

It seems that the SFU Gondola project is generating some friction between TransLink and some Burnaby residents. According to *Burnaby Now* "[residents] concerns include cost, safety, the affect the gondola could have on property values, and a lack of regional consultation on the project." As a recent graduate of SFU, I must state that while I do share their concerns around the cost effectiveness of the line, I do feel that their safety concerns are unfounded given the track records of gondolas around the world. I also feel that their concerns for their property values are misplaced, as most public transportation improvements increase property values in their vicinity. Also, while the concerns of a relatively small number of property owners are valid, the concerns of the thousands of SFU students who ride the 145 bus from Production Station everyday should not be ignored either.

[Burnaby Now Article](#)

If you have any comments about this project, you can submit your opinion to TransLink and also send an email to Burnaby Mayor,

MAYA CYCLE



Derek Corrigan.

[TransLink's Gondola Consultation Link](#)
[Link to Derek Corrigan's Email Address](#)

Skytrain for Surrey

There has been a lot of talk lately about which approach to getting Surrey commuters out of their cars and into public buses and trains is the most effective.

The group Skytrain for Surrey is making some very strong arguments against traditional LRT and for ALRT technology, more commonly known in the Lower Mainland as Skytrain. The group's main concern is that to get people out of their cars and into the public transit system there must be a time-benefit of transit over driving. LRT technology (think Portland MAX streetcar system) is much slower than the personal automobile while Skytrain offers a time convenience over driving and should be the preferred option for rapid transit development in Surrey. Check out their site: <http://skytrainforsurrey.wordpress.com/>

Meanwhile, it is becoming clear that some residents of Surrey are already feeling fleeced by lack of efficient public transportation in their city while at the same time paying TransLink gas taxes and TransLink property taxes, as Stephanie Ryan points out in her recent Georgia Straight commentary. The prospect of paying even more in tolls on the Port Mann and Pattullo bridges is predictably being met with some resistance.

The truth of the matter, in my opinion, is that providing transit in Surrey is very expensive because of the sprawling land-use pattern. Improving the bridges over the Fraser, without a land-use strategy to prevent more sprawl, will likely only entrench this anti-transit land-use pattern further. Tolls may be unpopular, as proven by the financial struggles of the Golden Ears bridge; however, tolls are an effective way to fund Skytrain expansion which, in turn, will help accelerate a change in the land-use pattern towards a public transit supporting built-form in Surrey. Tolls also encourage drivers to take transit. Anyway, I do remember once reading that the Pattullo bridge, when it first opened, was referred to as the 'Paytolla' bridge. Why fight bringing back this gem of our historical lexicon? To see Ms. Ryan's commentary visit: <http://www.straight.com/article-443596/vancouver/stephanie-ryan-stop-punishing-surrey-gas-tax-tolls-and-poor-transit>

Those are my thoughts on the news for this month. Have a great October, everyone!

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ARE MOTORISTS REALLY SOCIALISTS?

Blogger and cycling enthusiast James D. Schwartz outlines in a recent post how automobile users are the recipients of socialism: <http://www.theurbancountry.com/2011/08/motorists-prime-beneficiaries-of.html>

The private automobile is one of the most visible and destructive

legacies of the individualist/capitalist era; however, in order to maintain this illusion of increased personal freedom, the governments of the world subsidized oil companies to provide affordable fuel and spent billions of taxpayer dollars on maintaining the road network. And this does not even begin to take into account the negative externalities of sprawling cities, poor health related to obesity and air pollution or the increased costs of policing the ever-growing "free" road system.

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NOVEMBER FUNDRAISING

In early November we will launch our annual fundraising drive. This will be your opportunity to financially support B.E.S.T.'s vision of vibrant, healthy communities built around walking, cycling, public transit and ride/car shares.

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