



[Take the Transit Fare survey!](#)



December
2017



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Dear Readers,

As our readers will know, BEST's 26th year was spent actively promoting sustainable transportation in Metro Vancouver. While this remains a constant our methods and priorities have changed over the years, so we're proud to announce a new vision and mission – one which better reflects our goals for the future and BEST's role in it:

Our vision: Through sustainable transportation, we build vibrant, inclusive communities.

Our mission: To activate better transportation options through initiatives, collaboration and leadership.

We look forward to working towards achieving this new vision and mission over the coming years.

In this, our last newsletter of 2017 we share stories about The Bicycle Valet's activities and about the recent BEST-HUB Holiday Party. We also have stories about

developments around transportation in the region – all of which need your feedback.

In addition to the Arbutus Greenway project, there are opportunities to give your ideas about the Burnaby Transportation Plan, Mobility Pricing, the Transit Fare Review, and the Georgia Street Complete Street. That's plenty of ways you can get involved in shaping the future of sustainable transportation in our region!

Happy reading, everyone, and happy, sustainable travels in 2018.

The Bicycle Valet: Slowing down to a Crawl



The Bicycle Valet accommodated bikes by replacing cars at HUB's Bike Shorts and the Eastside Culture Crawl.

[The Bicycle Valet](#) started off November by parking 64 bikes at HUB's Bike Shorts event. We set up right outside the Rio Theatre along Broadway, filling up the few parking spaces right in front. That's 64 people we were able to accommodate by replacing just a few cars!

We were also back at the Eastside Culture Crawl again this year and, with the generous support of TransLink, this time we were able to be there for the full four days of the Crawl! Even though it was a typical rainy Vancouver weekend, we had 183 bikers ride out to take in all the lovely artistic offerings.

It looks like The Bicycle Valet has entered its winter season! Currently we do not have any events lined up for the remainder of the year, but of course that can change at any time, so as always, check our [calendar](#) to stay up to date.

For more information on anything Bicycle Valet, please contact Anita at anita.man@best.bc.ca or (604) 669-2860, or [sign up now](#) if you'd like to volunteer.

BEST-HUB Holiday Party casts a warm glow



On Nov 29 BEST and HUB once again joined forces for our 5th Annual Holiday Party. A warm glow enveloped the assembled revelers as they enjoyed a bounty of food and drink, a visit from Santa, and greetings from BEST GM Stephanie Williams, HUB Acting Executive Director Laura Jane, and lawyer David Hay, Q.C. This has become quite a go-to event at this time of year and a grand time was had by all.

Many thanks to Richards Buell Sutton and Central City Brewers for sponsoring this event, to everyone who donated a door prize, and to all the good people at BEST and HUB who helped put the party together.



(Photos: Ken Ohm)

Arbutus Greenway: Design Jam a smash



On Oct 27-29 the City held a Design Jam for the [Arbutus Greenway](#) at Point Grey Secondary School. Participants who had been chosen randomly from a cross-section of the population worked with the Arbutus Greenway project team to explore design possibilities and test emerging designs. The Bicycle Valet provided services to the participants and to members of the public who dropped by the site to ask questions and make suggestions.

Here at BEST we are pretty excited by the possibilities offered by the Greenway.

Ultimately it will connect people, parks, and places from False Creek to the Fraser River, providing a high-quality, accessible public space for walking, cycling, and rolling. While the future Arbutus Greenway is being planned, a temporary path has been constructed to give people the opportunity to enjoy the space and explore the corridor.

For background information and to watch video recaps of the Design Jam, go [here](#).

Citizens are invited to continue to participate in events and provide feedback as the project team develops design options. **For more information on how you can get involved, go [here](#).**



The Bicycle Valet kept peoples' bikes safe and secure while they dreamt up some great ideas for the Arbutus Greenway.

Thinking about Burnaby transportation's big picture



(Photo: City of Burnaby)

Planning for the new [Burnaby Transportation Plan](#) is now well underway.

In July 2017 Burnaby City Council [officially approved](#) the scope of the new Plan, which replaces the previous Plan that was adopted by Council in 1992. The draft Vision considers the question: “What if Burnaby’s streets were not just corridors for movement, but public space to be enjoyed by all?”

The Plan's development is taking place in three phases over two years. Public consultation for Phase 1 – "Setting a Direction" – concluded on November 30 and focused on providing information about the current transportation system, receiving input on issues and opportunities in the City, and obtaining feedback on the draft Vision, Themes, and Goals. Phase 2 – "Building the Plan" – is now set to begin.

City representatives can be reached at transportation@burnaby.ca. They will be also be available at community events and can meet individually with interested community groups to discuss the Plan update.

[Seniors on the Move](#) was happy to host a planner from Burnaby working on the project, focusing on the plan from the lens of a senior.

Mobility Pricing: Tackling congestion in Metro Vancouver



Vancouver's traffic congestion is now the worst in North America (Photo: Van Sun)

On October 25 the Mobility Pricing Independent Commission launched its project, entitled "It's Time."

Mobility pricing refers to usage charges associated with using transportation services, including road usage charges, bridge tolls, transit fares and parking fees. It has been proposed that mobility pricing could pay for transit and transportation improvements in the region.

At the launch the Commission released its [first research report](#) on local traffic and transportation, which details the arguments for why mobility pricing needs to be explored. It also released the findings of a public opinion poll on traffic congestion and mobility pricing that show a majority of people support studying how paying for transportation could change.

BEST is pleased to see this project proceeding, as it is an opportunity for Metro Vancouver to re-evaluate our transportation networks and better reflect the real cost of

using different modes, and in the process, promote sustainable transportation.

The Commission dates from November 2016, when members of TransLink's board of directors and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation formed a joint mobility pricing steering committee to develop regional objectives for mobility pricing and oversee the establishment of the mobility pricing commission.

Public engagement will take place over the next few months, with preliminary recommendations likely to come in January. The commission is expected to make a final recommendation to TransLink's board of directors in spring 2018.

Still time to complete the Transit Fare Review



Phase 3 of the [Transit Fare Review](#) is now underway and TransLink is looking for feedback from customers on how they would like to see the current fare system change and improve. TransLink says that so far they have heard from more than 43,000 people, with most saying they would prefer a system that prices fares more closely to the distance they travel.

TransLink is proposing two options that could replace the three-zone system currently being used in the region. Both options would introduce fares based on the distance travelled, with commuters paying a fare that would rise every five kilometres. Option 1 would see distance-based rapid transit and a flat fare for buses, while Option 2 would see distance-based rapid transit and bus fare.

Customers can provide feedback until December 8 on these proposals as well as on new ways to structure fare products and the possibility of expanding customer discounts. Visit the [Transit Fare Review page](#) to find resources relating to the options and to take the survey.

TransLink plans to make a draft recommendation for final changes to its fare structure by mid-2018.

Making Georgia a Complete Street



(Photo: Price Tags)

The City of Vancouver is beginning a transportation planning process to explore how to make [Georgia Street](#) from Chilco St to Nicola St. a Complete Street that welcomes people of all ages, abilities, and modes of travel.

Georgia Street is an important gateway into Vancouver. Every day, it welcomes thousands of people into the city for work, to visit, and to and from Stanley Park. It also connects people to three neighbourhoods – the West End, Coal Harbour and Downtown. But the street can be uninviting and unsafe for people walking, taking transit, and cycling.

In November the City held an open house and walkshop so people could share their insights and experience about travelling in this area. **Citizens are invited to [fill out their online survey](#) by December 2, 2017.**

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:





Thank you for your continued interest in **BEST!**

Our Mission:

To advance the transformation to sustainable transportation

Our Vision:

Vibrant, healthy communities built around sustainable modes of transportation

As Canada's new [Anti-Spam Legislation](#) came into effect July 1st 2014, we are in the process of updating our mailing lists and documenting subscriber consent. We currently send you electronic communications that you have opted into in the past, or because you have participated in one of our events, utilized our services, or supported us in some way. We will continue to send you news and updates about our organization, but please note that you are free to unsubscribe at any time.

We hope you will choose to stay with us at BEST!

Get in touch with us! info@best.bc.ca | 604.669.2860 | best.bc.ca

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Better Environmentally Sound Transportation Association (BEST)
204A - 175 East Broadway
Vancouver, British Columbia V5T 1W2
CANADA

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