



[Sign the Complete Street petition!](#)



**BEST.bc.ca**  
BETTER ENVIRONMENTALLY  
SOUND TRANSPORTATION

November 2016



[\*\*DONATE NOW!\*\*](#)

## Dear Readers,

Rainy days are upon us, but being good Vancouverites we don't let a little rain hold us back. The Bicycle Valet continues at events around the city, with more coming down the pike. We are all massively looking forward to the upcoming seasonal gala -- held along with our friends at HUB, this party has evolved into a must-do holiday event. And we have news from STAR and our Seniors on the Move project about the importance of transportation in preventing isolation among seniors. Also in our newsletter you will find reports about BEST and Granville Island 2040, the Commercial Drive Complete Street initiative, and the public input phase of TransLink's 10-Year vision (there's still time to fill in a questionnaire by October 31).

A happy and safe Hallowe'en everyone -- and if anybody manages to pull together a sustainable transportation-themed costume we'd love to see it!

## The Bicycle Valet: Making a big splash!



*We parked lots of bikes -- and strollers -- at the Autumn Fair!*

October was another great month in a great [Bicycle Valet](#) season! We were at the Apple Festival up at UBC, cheered on the Whitecaps, and participated in the fall Bike to Work Week. We even managed to make another splash in the local newspapers - check out this front-page [article](#) in The Province about [Operation Rudy](#) and the amazing 60% reduction in bike theft this summer on Granville Island.

Wondering where to find us next? Here is a list so far, and don't forget to check our [calendar](#) as it is kept up to date.

November 5-6th- [CUTA Conference](#)

November 19-20th- [Eastside Culture Crawl](#)

December 2nd- BEST/ HUB Holiday Party

*Interested in volunteering or having us out to an event? Know of an event where you'd like to see us? Want to be a sponsor? Have random questions about The Bicycle Valet? Get in touch with Sinéad Stinson at [sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca](mailto:sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca) or [604-669-2860 ext. 207](tel:604-669-2860) for more information.*

---

**BEST Holiday Party of the season: You're invited!**



Looking for the *best* holiday party of the season? Might we suggest the BEST Holiday Party, coming up Friday, December 2nd?! It's held along with our friends at HUB, and there's great food, drink, prizes, games, and excellent company to be had... To get an invite, simply sign up to be a member of BEST – not only will you get to attend this fantastic party, you'll be supporting all of our amazing programs!

Sign up online [here](#). or get in touch with Sinéad Stinson at [sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca](mailto:sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca) or [604.669.2860 ext.207](tel:604.669.2860) to have a form sent to your home address.

---

## STAR: Fighting back against social isolation



When seniors stop being connected to their communities everyone suffers. There is a lack of social cohesion, increased social costs, and loss of the huge and unmeasurable wealth of experience that seniors bring to our families and neighbourhoods. Unfortunately, [social isolation](#) amongst seniors is on the increase, due to risk factors that include living alone, being in poor health or disabled, having a low income, and being marginalized. Another significant risk factor is lack of access to transportation.

In an article by the [North Shore News](#)' Margaret Coates, Silver Harbour Executive Director Annwen Loverin addresses this issue: "Transportation is individual, complex, and resource-intensive. But it's incredibly important because it connects seniors to all the programs, people, and places that keep them well and involved in community."

Silver Harbour Seniors Activity Centre is one of five senior serving agencies partnering on Seniors on the Move, a three year initiative BEST is coordinating to improve transportation for seniors and reduce social isolation. Along with many other stakeholders and committee members, we look forward to engaging the community and helping seniors get where they want to go.

For more information about BEST's STAR program and Seniors in Motion, contact Stephanie Williams, [stephanie.williams@best.bc.ca](mailto:stephanie.williams@best.bc.ca), 604-669-2860, ext 212.



*(Photo: AARP)*

---

## Granville Island revisioning underway



*Bikes, peds, and cars jockey for position on Granville Island (Photo: 604 Now)*

Since the 1970s Granville Island has developed into one of Vancouver's most beloved public spaces. With this year's departure of Emily Carr University and the possible revitalization of the Public Market, discussions are underway to articulate the future of the Island for the coming 25 years. Over the next few months a committee headed by Dr. Michael Stevenson will work on a vision for [Granville Island 2040](#), with input from people from around the city.

As anyone who has travelled down to the Island knows, one of the key areas to be dealt with in any plan is traffic congestion. Parking is at a premium, cars clog up the roads, the easy fit between pedestrians and automobile traffic is being tested. Clearly, we need to move in the direction of bike and pedestrian traffic rather than a reliance on the automobile. Transit to the Island also needs to be improved – the Island is a huge asset to the city and should be easily accessible by transit. Is a car-free Island an impossible dream? Are there any other innovative ways to get people to and around the Island?

BEST has been working with Granville Island for many years, partnering to offer The Bicycle Valet on a seasonal basis and on Canada Day, encouraging more people to ride to the island.

In September BEST participated in a workshop on transportation as part of the 2040 visioning, and was thrilled to hear that the number of vehicles entering the island has decreased by 22% since the last data was captured. We look forward to working with Granville Island and other stakeholders to reimagine the possibilities for a future built around sustainable transportation.

A second public [Public Open House](#) on the future of the Island takes place on December 3. You can also give your feedback in the [survey](#).

---



## Let's make Commercial Drive a Complete Street!

Commercial Drive, the heart of Grandview Woodland, is a great street now – but it could be fantastic! Over the past two years [Streets For Everyone](#) have been hard at work trying to realize the kind of changes that would make this happen. Their vision includes widened sidewalks, better transit and transit shelters, separated bike lanes, better pedestrian crossings and more marked or signalized crosswalks, more street furniture, and more landscaping.

BEST supports these efforts 100% because, as Streets For Everyone says, they “will set a precedent for the rest of Vancouver by providing a local demonstration of how progressive street design bolsters the local business environment and makes a street more equitable, vibrant and attractive.”



*(Photo: Vancouver Observer)*

In October the City of Vancouver started a consultation process on the Commercial Drive Complete Street Project. Two Open Houses took place in October, and citizens may complete their on-line [questionnaire](#) until November 6. To find out how you might become involved and to sign up for updates about the project visit the City [website](#).

BEST looks forward to providing input on the Grandview Woodland Transportation Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

If you want to see a Complete Street on Commercial Drive, sign the [petition](#)!

---

## TransLink 10-Year Vision: Get involved!

Throughout October TransLink has been engaging in public consultation on Phase One of their [10-Year Vision](#). This public input will inform the final Investment Plan to be presented to the Mayors' Council and TransLink Board in November. The goal of the plan is to reduce road congestion and add new transit services throughout the Lower Mainland.

Open Houses took place earlier in October but there is still time to [complete the online questionnaire](#) by October 31. Get involved in the future of transit in our region!



(Photo: 24 hours)

---

## 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. If you would like to give us your permanent (until you unsubscribe) express consent, please click [here](#).

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

---

Get in touch with us! [info@best.bc.ca](mailto:info@best.bc.ca) | 604.669.2860 | [best.bc.ca](http://best.bc.ca)

---

[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](#)

---

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



[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.