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Better Environmentally Sound Transportation e-News October 2014

[STAR: On board The Bus Co-op!](#)

[The Bicycle Valet: Still extending our reach!](#)

[It's a good day to join BEST](#)

[Poetry on Transit](#)

[HASTe BC: Back to school!](#)

In This Issue:

1. [STAR: On board The Bus Co-op!](#)
2. [The Bicycle Valet: Still extending our reach!](#)
3. [It's a good day to join BEST](#)
4. [Poetry on Transit](#)
5. [HASTe BC: Back to school!](#)

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Hello friends of BEST:

This month we are excited to share the news of STAR's involvement with the first bus sharing co-op in North America, the Fraser Valley Transportation Cooperative, aka The Bus Co-op. Based in Langley, this innovative new program will be big step forward for seniors transportation in the region. Read about this, the latest from The Bicycle Valet, and more, in our newsletter!

STAR: On board The Bus Co-op!



Seniors Transportation
Access and Resources

BEST's [STAR](#) program is pleased to be involved in the first bus sharing co-operative in North America, which launches on October 15. The Fraser Valley Transportation Co-op ([The Bus Co-op](#)) will own a fleet of buses which member agencies can use to provide rides to their constituents. Instead of owning a bus that sits idle much of the time, agencies will have access to buses in a variety of sizes to suit their particular needs.

Why share a bus? Our current rural transit system is under-served and cannot connect many people with the wider community. As a result community members can feel isolated and excluded. The Bus Co-op believes that by working together more can be done for our communities, agencies, and constituents, whatever their age or ability. Sharing a bus helps people become part of a safe, affordable and green solution that makes community events and services accessible to everyone.

STAR will provide management and administration for The Bus Co-op. MODO The Car Co-op is also participating, providing fleet management services. Financial support is provided by Vancity and TransLink.

The co-op is made up of three founding agencies: The Langley Seniors' Resource Society, The Langley Care Society (Langley Lodge), and Bria Communities Inc. (Magnolia Gardens). At the founding annual general meeting of the co-op it is hoped that the number of member agencies will increase to five.

More information on The Bus Co-op is available at 604-440-6222, info@busco-op.com, and www.BusCo-op.com.

The Bicycle Valet: Still extending our reach!

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Beyond, Every Day.



<https://www.myhealthmycommunity.org/survey.aspx>



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Arriving on 2 wheels -- Bike to the Nat!

[The Bicycle Valet](#) 2014 season is winding down – but it's not over yet! This past Saturday we were set up at the three locations of the first Doors Open Vancouver: City Hall, False Creek Flats, and Vancouver Public Library. #DoorsOpenVan is a one-day event that invites the public to enjoy free, behind the scenes access to popular Vancouver buildings and learn about civic services while experiencing Vancouver's architectural, design, engineering and cultural heritage.



The first customers of the day at VPL!

Later on this month you'll find us back at the Whitecaps at BC Place, and at one of our perennial favourites, the UBC Apple Festival!

As we catch our breath and start planning for next year, now is the time to let us know what you think of the service, and where you want to see us in the future. While we'll be requesting your input next month via way of our annual survey, we welcome your feedback at any time of the year! [Fill out this survey anytime!](#) And remember, if you want to see us at an event in the future, let us know, but also let the event know. Social media is a great way to connect!

Thanks for riding everyone!

It's a good day to join BEST!

It's always a good day to support sustainable transportation – so why not make today even better and join BEST!

Members of BEST know that they are part of a forward-looking organization that has been promoting sustainable transportation throughout Metro Vancouver since 1991. Our focus is on building viable social enterprises based on offering services to encourage and enable sustainable transportation. These initiatives include [STAR](#), Seniors Transportation Access and Resources, [Living Streets](#), a unique model of engaging recent immigrants to affect change to the pedestrian

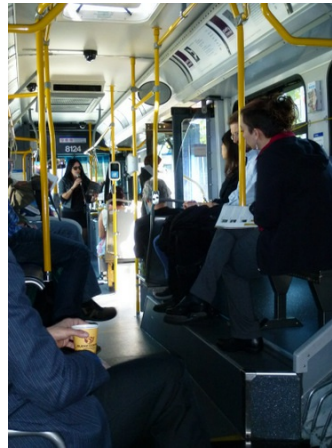


experience in their neighbourhood, [Commuter Challenge](#), a free one-week national initiative encouraging sustainable commuting, and [The Bicycle Valet](#), Vancouver's much-loved free and safe bicycle parking for events – which this year parked it's 100,000th bike!

Membership is \$30 for adults, \$40 for families, \$10 for seniors/students/concession, and \$125 for organizations.

To join, just visit our [website](#), or, if you would like more information please contact Dinah at dinah.steele@best.bc.ca, 604 669 2860. We hope you will join us!

Celebrating the arts and sustainable transportation



Anybody who spends any time on local transit has likely enjoyed reading the work of local poets, placed in the advertising space by the people at [Poetry in Transit](#). As part of the [Word on the Street Festival](#) on September 28, Poetry in Transit arranged for a B-Line bus to park on Homer Street beside Library Square, where it served as a venue for the public to listen to the work of some great local poets. Who knew that a B-Line bus could be such a comfortable venue for poetry readings!



On the way home along False Creek BEST staff took in some of the [BIKEnnale](#). The BIKEnnale is a family-friendly bike ride, or walk, held in conjunction with the Vancouver Biennale. Tours provided by organizers give people a fun and healthy way to explore the wonderful public art installations set up around the Lower Mainland.

All in all a great day celebrating the intersection of culture and sustainable transportation in Vancouver!

HASTe BC is back to school!

The kids are back in school and the folks at [HASTe BC](#) are back at work helping

students, teachers and schools plan healthy and sustainable ways to get there.

HASTE is a resource and networking center that helps students, teachers and schools improve the health of individuals, communities and the environment. Groups can start or enhance initiatives to reduce the negative impacts of school-related transportation choices, and plan active and safe routes to school.

HASTE can help you create an idle free zone at your school, develop a walking school bus/bike train, calculate travel emissions, and much more. Check out their [website](#) for more information, tools, and resources.

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

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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!

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