



[Check out BC Commuter Challenge's new website!](#)



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April 2017



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Dear Readers,

The recent glimpse of sunshine in Vancouver has been a welcome relief – learning that the province will match federal funding for the Broadway Subway and Surrey LRT has also lightened our moods! Not that the rains of March dampened our spirits or held us back! In this month's newsletter you will read about The Bicycle Valet's busy start to a new season, the BC Commuter Challenge's great new website, and Seniors on the Move's innovative new training program. This month we are also excited to be introducing a new column, "Multi-Modal Musings," as well as a new contest, in which we ask you to share with us your creative ways of getting around town – with scoops of **seriously good Earnest Ice Cream** as prizes! All this, along with details about the BEST AGM and the upcoming MEC Club Night.

Happy spring, and happy reading everyone!

The Bicycle Valet: Hitting the ground running!



These Bicycle Valet patrons had on their special game day duds for the World Rugby 7s.

[The Bicycle Valet](#) is off to a great start this year! In spite of the rain we had a fantastic turnout at Whitecaps home games and the World Rugby 7s Cup in March, and April will be even better! Wondering where to find us at your favourite April events, or how to volunteer? Keep reading...

April events:

- 1st- [Whitecaps](#) at BC Place, Gate C
 - 5th- [Whitecaps](#) at BC Place, Gate C
 - 8-9th- [Sakura Days Japan Fair](#) at the Van Dusen Gardens
 - 14th- [Whitecaps](#) at BC Place, Gate C
 - 19th- Earth Day at Laura Secord Elementary
 - 22nd- [Party for the Planet](#) at Surrey City Centre (we're on University Blvd. behind the library!)
 - 23rd- [Vancouver Sun Run](#) at BC Place, Gate C
 - 29-30th- [BIL Conference](#) at Beaumont Studios
- Check out our calendar [here](#) for events as they're confirmed...

Interested in volunteering? We'll be having volunteer training in early May. Sign up today online [here](#).

Want more information on events, hiring us, job opportunities, volunteering, or how things work? Contact Sinéad Stinson at sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca or [604.669.2860 ext.207](tel:604.669.2860).

System upgrade = More sustainable commutes!



Spring is here and we've blossomed into a [new website!](#) Thanks to a community partnership with [Red Academy](#), the BC Commuter Challenge has a new look that's refreshingly simple and easy to use! Will that translate into more participants commuting in the challenge? Let's just say we're hoping for a record-setting year!

On the new website you'll find out where to register, who's participating, last year's results, this year's prizes, successful stories, promotional material and more! You could even be featured if you post on Instagram using [#commuterchallenge!](#) All of this is can be viewed at the same old address: www.commuterchallengebc.ca

So come check out the new website, where you can easily find resources and other fun commuting activities to get your teammates ready to compete.

Special thanks to, Anna Kviese, Red Academy and Joe Homesy, Voyager Three Media Inc. for putting in the extra hours launching the website!

Well, what are you waiting for? [Check it out!](#) Register now for a chance to win an early bird prize!

Stephen White will personally guide you and your team if you should need any resources or help with registering. He can be reached at 604-669-2860 or stephen.white@best.bc.ca.



Seniors on the Move offers transit training



Chris Chan from TransLink conducts a training session for Seniors on the Move volunteers.

As part of the [Allies in Aging](#) project, Seniors on the Move teamed up with TransLink to offer the first Volunteer Transit Ambassador Training Session for seniors on February 28. Held at TransLink headquarters in New Westminister, Chris Chan from TransLink's TravelSmart team led the training session, covering topics such as Compass, security, Millennium Line Evergreen extension, zone structures and fare prices and Next Bus texting. Participants also tested out the TripPlanner tool using iPads, and took a trip down to the Sapperton Skytrain station to try out loading Compass cards.

Seniors on the Move will be continuing to offer transit training, so if you know of a senior who wants to come out for training, and is willing to be a volunteer transit ambassador and help others navigate the system, get in touch with stephanie.williams@best.bc.ca

We're specifically looking for individuals living in Burnaby, Tri-Cities, North Shore and Vancouver as part of Seniors on the Move.

Introducing "Multi-Modal Musings"

This month we start a new column, "Multi-Modal Musings," which will focus on sustainable transportation around the Lower Mainland. For our first column we take a look at ride-sharing, ride-hailing, and ride-sourcing - what they are, what's the difference, and why you should care.



Ride-sharing is a great way to participate in the BC Commuter Challenge!

By Stephanie Williams, BEST GM

Ride-sharing, ride-hailing, ride-sourcing - these terms have been in the news a lot lately. But what is the difference and what do they mean?

First off, ride-sharing is simply sharing a ride with others - or what used to be known as carpooling. It's really that simple. Of course, sharing rides has become easier as of late with the introduction of new technology and companies such as Spare Rides and Hitch Planet.

Ride-sourcing or ride-hailing, whichever term you prefer, is where Uber and Lyft or a new homegrown solution would come in. These Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) enable users to hail rides through an app, rather than traditionally on the street as taxi companies do.

Of course, ride-hailing companies can help facilitate ride-sharing through their applications. So, ride-hailing can be paired with ride-sharing, but ride-hailing is not necessarily ride-sharing on its own. While the distinction may seem minor, for BEST the difference can be stark. With ride-hailing, often it can be one person being chauffeured to their destination, and with ride-sharing at least one other person is going to the same destination - while both can be useful ways to get around, only ride-sharing is a sustainable trip.



Are **you** a multi modalist?

We know that our readers find a whole range of sustainable, creative ways to get around town – and we thought it was time to celebrate you! Just send us a short description of how you multi modal and **you will be entered in a draw to win a gift certificate for some scoops of seriously good [EARNEST ICE CREAM!](#)**

Here's some examples of what we have in mind:

Getting to the Sunshine Coast:

I took a Mobi to work. After work I took a Mobi to Dunsmuir and Richards, walked about four blocks to get the 257 Express Bus to Horseshoe Bay, walked on the ferry, then met two of my family members in their car and we carpooled to the cabin.

Getting back we carpooled to the ferry, I grabbed the 257 from the ferry, then took the 16 home as it was raining.

Getting to the grocery store:

I gave up my car when I retired and now use public transit to get around. But when I am going grocery shopping I like to walk the 2 km to the shops – and if it's nice out and I am feeling energetic I walk both ways!

Getting to the movie from work:

Last week I had to get our Bicycle Valet van to the office in Mt. Pleasant, get to a meeting in Surrey City Centre, come back to the office, and then head downtown Vancouver for a movie night (Beauty and the Beast!). How did I make it all work without a personal vehicle? Let me tell you! Starting from home, I drove the work van down near the office, then walked the rest of the way. When I had my meeting, I caught the 99 to Commercial-Broadway and then the SkyTrain out to Surrey City Centre. I did the reverse to get back to the office after the meeting, and then hopped on a Mobi bike traveling along the Seawall to get downtown to see the movie (it was great!). A bit of walking and a bus to get home rounded off my multi-modal day.

Inspired? Want to share with other readers how you make getting around the Lower Mainland a multi-modalling adventure? Send your description of how you multi modal to info@best.bc.ca by April 30 and you will be entered to win that Earnest Ice Cream. A nice reward for being a multi modalist!

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- SERIOUSLY GOOD -**

BEST AGM: Please join us!

The BEST Annual General Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, April 26, 2017** from 6:00-8:30 pm at the YWCA Hotel, Canfor Room, 733 Beatty Street, Vancouver.

The AGM is a great opportunity for members to speak with the board and staff and to give suggestions as to BEST's future directions. There are a lot of exciting initiatives taking place at BEST these days and we would love to have members' input.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by **Wednesday, April 19, 2017** by calling 604-669-2860, or email sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca. If your membership has expired you can [renew online](#), or you will have the opportunity to renew at the meeting.

We hope to see you there!



MEC Club Night: Stock up for spring



Another [MEC Club Night](#) is coming up in April, and once again BEST members are invited! Club Nights are a great opportunity to purchase the clothes and gear you will be needing this spring and summer, as members of BEST/MEC receive 10% off regularly-priced in-stock items.

Date: Thursday, April 20 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Location: MEC Vancouver, 130 West Broadway

To attend, please RSVP to sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca.

Participants need to be a member of BEST and MEC in order to make a purchase. If you are not a member of BEST, you can [join online](#), or contact Sinead Stinson at 604-669-2860, Ext. 207. If you are not yet a member of MEC, you can purchase a \$5.00 membership that evening. We hope to see you there.

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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