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Better Environmentally Sound Transportation

e-News July 2014

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Opt to stay with BEST!

Dear friends, members, supporters and patrons of BEST,

As Canada's new Anti-Spam Legislation is coming into effect July 1st 2014, we are 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](#).

You can continue to keep in touch with BEST by connecting through social media and visiting our website: follow us on Twitter [@BESTmobility](#), like us on [Facebook](#), and check out our website at www.best.bc.ca.

For more information about CASL click the following link:
<http://fightspam.gc.ca/eic/site/030.nsf/eng/home>

Thank you for your interest in BEST.

And now for the good stuff!

In June the Mayors' Council released its Transportation Investment Plan, which gave Metro Vancouver a vision of what our transportation system could look like – and we like it. (see below). At BEST, we continue to do our part to promote the kind of positive vision found in the mayors' report – by supporting the wonderful new Seaside Greenway extension to Jericho, announcing a new ongoing gig for The Bicycle Valet on Granville Island, breaking all Commuter Challenge participation records, with STAR supporting innovative solutions in seniors' transportation, and continuing to extend Living Streets' reach in Surrey. We may be entering the hazy days of summer, but the fish are jumping around BEST -- and you can read all about it in our newsletter!

BEST supports mayors' transportation plan

The regional mayors have come together in an unprecedented way over the past several months to develop a visionary regional transportation investment plan for Metro Vancouver. The plan developed by the Mayors' Council was released on Thursday June 12 and it identifies the new services that we need, how much

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these new services will cost, and recommendations for how we can pay for them.

Here at BEST we stand behind the mayors' plan, which will help support our vision of vibrant, healthy communities built around sustainable transportation. The plan is a balanced, responsible transportation vision that meets the needs of the region, builds on our transportation and land use successes, and moves us forward in the next 10 years.

With these investments, two thirds of the regional population will be within walking distance of frequent transit, and a quarter of the population will be within walking distance of the rapid transit network. Everyone in the region will spend 10 per cent less time commuting.

However, important questions remain regarding what happens next.

Speaking for the Province, BC Transportation Minister Todd Stone said the financial aspects and funding mechanisms of the plan need additional consideration. If a referendum is to be held this fall, he will need formal notification from the Mayors' Council by July 15. If the plan is to hold a referendum next year instead, Mr. Stone said recommendations on a referendum question could wait until the fall.

Visit our website for a more detailed description of the elements in the Mayors' Council plan: <http://best.bc.ca/mayors-council-on-regional-transportation-regional-transportation-investments-releases-vision-for-metro-vancouver/#more-2124>

Find additional information on the referendum at:

<http://mayorscouncil.ca/>

<http://www.movinginalivableregion.ca/>

<http://www.getonboardbc.ca/>

The Essence of the Seaside Greenway, Burrard St. to Jericho Beach

By Steve Beck

BEST's vision, as noted on our website, is of "healthy vibrant communities, built around walking, cycling, public transit and car shares." The recently completed Point Grey Greenway is a delightful and inspiring piece of that vision that epitomizes the transformation of a dangerous, vehicle dominated corridor into a people-friendly place.

As anyone who has walked or cycled on Point Grey Road knows, it used to be a very unfriendly place for pedestrian and cyclists (it wasn't actually all that friendly for motor vehicles either). When our offices were downtown, I used to often ride home to the 41st and Dunbar area along parts of that route. One of the most treacherous stretches was from Point Grey Crescent to MacDonald—the road was narrow; traffic split into a dedicated turn lane onto MacDonald with racing commuters splitting off to the right along Point Grey Road. It was dangerous and required maximum alertness even for experienced cyclists.

Two weeks ago I saw something wonderful when riding west between Point Grey Crescent and MacDonald. In the first block was a father riding with his five or six year old son; in the next block was a woman pushing a baby carriage accompanied by a three-year old on a push bike!

What a transformation! A dangerous, vehicle-dominated stretch of road is now a



comfortable space for children and families of all ages to enjoy the outdoors, a park-bejewelled stretch of road built for everyone.

On Saturday July 5th there will be a community celebration of this new Seaside Greenway from 11 AM to 3 PM. It's being organized by the [Vancouver Public Space Network](#) and our friends at [HUB](#). [The Bicycle Valet](#) will be there at Hastings Mill Park.

Come out and celebrate this new treasure of public space.

The Bicycle Valet: Taking up residence on Granville Island!

If you ever ride a bike, you probably look for [The Bicycle Valet](#) to keep your ride safe at most of the special events in Metro Vancouver. But what if you had the chance to see us almost every day?

Already one week in, The Bicycle Valet Team will be at your service from 10am to 7pm Thursday through Sunday at Granville Island, all summer long! That's right, you can get free and safe bicycle parking on Granville Island this summer!

You can find us directly behind the Granville Island Brewery (convenient!). When you're riding on to the island, instead of turning right, just hop off your bike at the Brewery and walk the ten feet across the crosswalk to our new summer home! Here's a photo of the site for your convenience:



And here's how we looked on our first day!



We also have another big announcement: we're going to be providing free and safe bicycle parking from 8:00am to 9:00pm July 8-12 for the [UBC Special Olympics Summer Games!](#) You will find us right in the middle of Thunderbird Park.

Other new events in July include:



Other new events in July include:

- [Gastown Grand Prix](#) on July 9- special thanks to [Tuc Restaurant](#) for sponsoring the Valet- find us right outside the restaurant on Cordova between Carrall and Abbott.
- [Khatsalano](#) on July 12- Find us near the main stage at 4th & Vine.
- [Sunset Beach Social](#) on July 11- Ride down to Sunset Beach for some food truck goodness, and free and safe bicycle parking!
- [East Van Summer Jam](#) on July 5- Great concert featuring local musicians The Boom Booms, with proceeds going to amazing charities. Ride on down to Strathcona Park!
- [Seaside Greenway Party](#)- July 5- The Seaside Greenway that connects downtown's Seawall and False Creek with Jericho Beach is ready to be biked, walked, or rolled - and may the best costume win! There will be music, food, kids crafts, and more along the route and especially closer to Jericho Beach. Bring your decorated bikes, kids and picnic baskets!

And of course you can find us at perennial favourites:

- Whitecaps at BC Place July 12 and 27
- Celebration of Light July 26, 30 and August 2
- Food Cart Fest and Kits Market every Sunday

To keep track of the places we're valeting, check out our [event calendar](#). We're updating it all the time!

Thanks for riding and see you soon!



Valets parking bikes and more bikes at the popular Food Cart Fest.

On June 13 a gaggle* of valets gathered at Trout Lake Community Centre for The Bicycle Valet's first volunteer party of the season.

Fortified by fine food and an assortment of beverages, valets shared stories from the road and generally had a rip snorting good time.

A highlight of the evening was a rousing game of Bicycle Valet Jeopardy, in which teams competed for amazing (and surprisingly useful) prizes. Quarterbacked by Tanya Paz, aka the Ken Jennings of bike valets, Team "Flat Out Awesome" ultimately steamrolled the competition.



Thanks to everybody who came out – and if you missed the party there will be two more later in the season. Stay tuned!

* What do you call a group of bike valets? A mass, a convoy, a spoke, a jam?

BC Commuter Challenge: It's a wrap!



The [BC Commuter Challenge](#) is finished for this year, and the results are in! Across Canada, Commuter Challenge participants from over 1800 workplaces saved over 394,000 kg of CO₂!! BC had 486 workplaces involved, and we came the closest we ever have to beating Manitoba, which had only 21 more. We had over 4700 people register, and saved over 97,700 kg of CO₂! All in all, a very successful BC Commuter Challenge!

To celebrate, a BC Commuter Challenge Wrap-Up Party was held at the YWCA Hotel in downtown Vancouver. All participants were invited, and we even had two people join us from Grand Forks! The room was packed full of people enjoying sushi, pizza, and drinks. Winners were presented their prizes, and there were door prizes for everyone who came!

We had over 18 prize categories, and winners included:

- Grand Prize for the participant who saved the most CO₂: Greg Steeves from Kodak Graphic Communications Canada in Burnaby has won a Kobo eReader, an iPod shuffle, Kicking Horse Coffee, and some Travel Smart incentives.

- Most CO2 saved per employee in Metro Vancouver:
Tourism Vancouver has won 2 tickets to see the BC Lions, passes for Open Door Yoga, Kicking Horse Coffee, and Travel Smart incentives.
- Most CO2 saved (cumulative) in Metro Vancouver:
TELUS Brian Canfield Centre for Excellence 4 tickets to see the Vancouver Canadians, Kicking Horse Coffee, passes for Open Door Yoga, and Travel Smart Incentives.
- Most CO2 saved per employee – outside Metro Vancouver:
Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (Nanaimo) has won an Ethical Bean gift set and assorted gift certificates.
- Most CO2 saved (cumulative) – outside Metro Vancouver:
City of Victoria has won an Ethical Bean gift set and assorted gift certificates.
For the full list of winners and prizes, click [here!](#) Thank you to everyone who participated, and we'll see you all next year!!

Living Streets: Celebrating SUCCESSES in Surrey!

The [Living Streets](#) program was busy this Spring! Our staff and volunteers were out in the streets of Surrey throughout the last week of May presenting to members of partnering groups such as [SUCCESS](#) and the [Lower Mainland Green Team](#).

The week of May 26th – 30th was spent at the SUCCESS school in Guilford where our staff and volunteers presented to 6 groups of ESL students from all different backgrounds. The SUCCESS students spent the month of April studying the Environment and the month of May focusing on Transportation, making it a perfect time for BEST to come in and demonstrate how those two issues are connected! Students learned how, for example, our behaviours getting around in our communities can have a direct impact on our environment.

Over 130+ SUCCESS students participated in 7 events, where they identified distinct barriers to travelling sustainably in their communities. Here is a photo of some of our amazing participants!



We also spent May 31 out in the streets with members of The Lower Mainland Green Team, which is always a rewarding experience! Youth from across the Lower Mainland came out to the Gateway station where we subsequently surveyed the area to identify issues preventing sustainable transportation in the community. Here is a photo of the team!



We are looking forward to continuing to work with more community groups throughout Surrey in the forthcoming months!

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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