

# Newsletter

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### **Call for Interest to Serve on the 2012 Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee**

The Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee (UAC) is accepting applications from those persons interested in serving a three year term on the Committee beginning January 2012.

Candidates will be selected based on qualifications and the need to

reflect a balanced representation from multiple areas including: persons with one or more disabilities; persons who use mobility aids; seniors; representatives of people with disabilities who attend educational institutions; representatives of people with disabilities from social service agencies supporting or representing immigrants and new Canadian and representatives of people with disabilities from medical service agencies. The Committee structure also reflects a balance between disability sectors, municipal and regional districts, age groups, gender types and ethnic communities.

Committee members will be expected to promote accessibility awareness and work towards solving accessibility issues through creative, open-minded and inclusive thinking.

The role of the Committee is to assist TransLink in ensuring the implementation of the Access Transit Strategy and provide

ongoing advice on all plans, programs and other initiatives that TransLink funds such as:

- Advise TransLink on matters which will enhance accessibility.
- Assist TransLink in determining whether its measures are inclusive or exclusive of persons with disabilities and/or seniors.
- Assist TransLink in setting priorities on accessibility issues.
- Provide comments on TransLink policies and strategy.

A sub-committee of the UAC will review new applications and select the 2012 members. Applicants may apply on their own volition or may attach a letter of nomination or endorsement from an agency or service provider (such as a rehabilitation agency or educational institute).

Interested persons may access the application form online at [http://www.translink.ca/~media/documents/rider\\_info/access%20transit/uc%202012%20application%20form.ashx](http://www.translink.ca/~media/documents/rider_info/access%20transit/uc%202012%20application%20form.ashx).

Please submit your application to [sarah.chung@translink.ca](mailto:sarah.chung@translink.ca) no later than September 30, 2011.

If you have any questions regarding the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee and the application process please contact:

Sarah Chung  
604/453-4619  
[sarah.chung@translink.ca](mailto:sarah.chung@translink.ca)

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## **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bus Stop Hop!**

The BC Paraplegic Association's (BCPA) 10th annual Bus Stop Hop had another successful year! The Bus Stop Hop is an annual racing adventure using bus, SkyTrain, SeaBus and Aquabus to introduce new users in wheelchairs to the transit system, while raising access awareness for TransLink and Aquabus employees and all transit users.

On August 7, a total of 63 racers in were divided into 15 teams that included two able-bodied players and at least one player using a mobility aid. During this day-long Amazing-Race-type event participants searched for clues, read maps and answered trivia in a race to the finish line. This year's race included stops at Granville Island, Vancouver International Airport, Lonsdale Quay, and Science World. Participants included persons with recent spinal cord injuries, their friends and family and members of the community.

Enthusiastic participant Katie Lee later revealed that the event really opened her eyes: “Participating in the Bus Stop Hop has changed the way I understand accessibility. The word has a lot of different meanings around the city. We had some savvy teammates who knew the ropes, which really made a difference. It made me wonder how persons with accessibility needs manage in more rural settings; even though there are some barriers to accessibility in Vancouver, it was still possible to move about given time and awareness of resources.”

In celebration of its 10th anniversary, a party was held on Granville Island after the race. Event founder Brad Jacobsen was awarded a commemorative plaque on behalf of TransLink, recognizing his contribution to building an accessible public transportation system.

Congratulations to everyone involved for a great race and very successful event!

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### **Faregate Construction Update**

Faregate Project construction and preparation began at Commercial-Broadway Station in early July. Phase two began during the first week of August, with construction commencing at Royal Oak Station. Other stations involved in phase two include Patterson and Joyce-Collingwood. These stations will implement temporary entrances during construction.

Construction at Royal Oak is scheduled to begin August 2. The entrance to Royal Oak Station on Beresford Street will be closed and a temporary

entrance ramp will be installed at the rear of the building. The base of the ramp will face Royal Oak Avenue, behind the bus stop shelter.

For the most up-to-date information on the Faregate Project and service impacts, please visit TransLink OnTrack online at

<http://www.translink.ca/en/Be-Part-of-the-Plan/Projects/OnTrack.aspx>.

## **Accessible Bus Stops in Metro Vancouver**

In July 2011, the total percentage of accessible bus stops in Metro Vancouver was 59%. A detailed comparison of the accessible bus stops for the month of July 2010 and July 2011 is outlined below.

	<b>Active Stops 2011</b>	<b>% Accessible July 2010</b>	<b>% Accessible July 2011</b>
Belcarra/Anmore	28	30.8%	28.6%
Bowen Island	1	100.0%	100.0%
Burnaby	944	45.1%	49.8%
Coquitlam	537	42.9%	46.4%
Delta/TFN	532	43.2%	46.2%
Langley - City	118	71.8%	71.2%
Langley - Township	340	56.5%	61.2%
Maple Ridge	306	34.3%	43.1%
New Westminster	259	67.6%	71.4%
North Vancouver - City	166	69.3%	74.7%
N. Vancouver - District	430	49.0%	50.0%
Pitt Meadows	52	52.9%	53.8%
Port Coquitlam	229	20.7%	27.9%
Port Moody	163	38.7%	41.7%
Richmond	710	54.7%	56.2%
Surrey	1332	70.0%	71.2%
Vancouver/UBC	1944	68.8%	70.0%

West Vancouver	4	60.0%	75.0%
White Rock	106	37.7%	39.6%
Total	8201	56.3%	59.0%

Please call **604.953.3333** or check [www.translink.ca](http://www.translink.ca) to find out if the bus stop you are intending to go to is accessible.

## **The 2011 BC Youth Summit for Sustainable Transportation is Here!**

TransLink, BC Transit, and the Canadian Urban Transportation Association (CUTA) is sponsoring 45 youth to attend a conference in Vancouver from August 19-21, 2011. This conference, *Connecting Communities: 2011 BC Youth Summit for Sustainable Transportation* is one of five regional youth summits. Delegates from all over British Columbia will meet to exchange ideas on transit and sustainable urban transportation issues.

The conference aims to build teamwork and leadership skills, to give a foundation of the principles of urban and transit planning, to discuss youth targeted programs, and to discuss active transportation and community marketing. This conference will feature a number of guest speakers from British Columbia, including UAC Vice-Chair Heather McCain.

For more information about this conference or other regional conferences sponsored by CUTA, please visit

<http://www.cutaactu.ca/en/eventsandawards/RegionalYouthSummits.asp>

## **Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee Meeting**

The next meeting of the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee will be held on September 15, 2011.

Please forward these updates on to others within your organizations or to other individuals who may find them of interest.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the status of the Access Transit project, please contact: [access.transit@translink.ca](mailto:access.transit@translink.ca)