

Newsletter

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2011 Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee Welcomes New Members

On February 10th, the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee (UAC) held its first meeting of 2011. The UAC ensures that the Access Transit Strategy is put into practice, and continually provides advice on all TransLink plans, programs, and initiatives to make sure that accessibility issues are consistently addressed. Members

meet once every two months to discuss matters relating to the accessibility of our transportation system.

UAC Committee Members unanimously re-elected **Rob Sleath** as Committee Chair and **Heather McCain** as Committee Vice Chair for 2011.

The Committee is pleased to welcome new members **Johanna Johnson** of Vancouver, **Lorraine Logan** of New Westminster, and **Janice McTaggart** of Langley. The new members will each serve three year terms.

The UAC and TransLink would also like to thank departing member Merle Smith for her valuable contributions to enhancing the accessibility of the public transportation system.

UAC meeting information and eligibility criteria can be found on the TransLink website:

<http://www.translink.ca/en/Rider-Info/Accessible-Transit/Access-Transit/Users-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

CMBC Achieves a Top Employer Milestone

Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) has been named a BC Top Employer for the fifth year in a row! The past year was full of successes, including welcoming the world to the 2010 Olympic Winter Games by delivering an additional 41 thousand hours of extra service. Remember to congratulate your drivers and customer information clerks for helping make CMBC a company of distinction!

Get TravelSmart!

During the 2010 Winter Olympics, TransLink found that Metro Vancouverites are enthusiastic about having options for travel. They want smarter, environmentally-friendly modes of travel that will benefit themselves, and their communities. With this in mind, TransLink has created a website that will be the regions' best source for travel planning – www.travelsmart.ca.

TravelSmart is a lifestyle that acknowledges that personal travel choices affect a number of things, from your health to air quality. Using the new website, everyone can find out more about methods like teleworking, ridesharing, and altering commuting patterns to avoid major peak use periods. TravelSmart goes beyond public transport as a sustainable option, and will help shape a new travel culture in Metro Vancouver. The website provides tips, maps, and tools for better ways to travel in our region today from buses, SkyTrain to walking and biking.

People are encouraged to register with www.travelsmart.ca, and begin tracking how they travel now to see what kinds of options are available. A great group of partners is offering some exciting prizes, including a Grand Prize – one of two **Rocky Mountain bicycles**, an **iPad™**, or one of nine \$500 gift packs from **VancouverAttractions.com**.

TravelSmart for Seniors

TravelSmart.ca will also include a new section just for seniors. The Burnaby Fall Prevention Society and TransLink, with funding from The Federal Government's New Horizons for Seniors grant, are developing a TravelSmart for Seniors Pilot Program designed for those who want to know more about the public transit system. This program's purpose is to help seniors be comfortable and confident when traveling independently.

The pilot program will begin this spring, with room for 40 participants to enroll. Each trainee will receive two free transit fares and a chance to win a monthly fare card. If you would like more information on the program and how you can participate, please contact Julie Rogal at **604.453.4587**.

Accessible Bus Stops in Metro Vancouver

In January 2011, the total percentage of accessible bus stops in Metro Vancouver was 57.7%. A detailed comparison of the accessible bus stops for the month of January 2011 and January 2010 is outlined below.

	Active Stops 2011	% Accessible Jan 2010	% Accessible Jan 2011
Belcarra/Anmore	28	17.4%	28.6%
Bowen Island	1	100.0%	100.0%
Burnaby	945	44.7%	47.6%
Coquitlam	549	42.6%	44.3%
Delta/TFN	530	40.5%	45.1%
Langley - City	117	70.1%	70.9%
Langley - Township	339	53.5%	59.0%
Maple Ridge	306	30.1%	40.5%
New Westminister	258	64.4%	70.9%
North Vancouver - City	166	69.3%	69.3%
N. Vancouver - District	435	48.8%	49.7%

Pitt Meadows	52	48.1%	53.8%
Port Coquitlam	229	20.8%	22.3%
Port Moody	163	38.7%	39.9%
Richmond	710	53.1%	56.2%
Surrey	1337	64.8%	70.9%
Vancouver/UBC	1947	67.1%	69.2%
West Vancouver	4	57.1%	75.0%
White Rock	107	35.8%	39.3%
Total	8223	56.7%	57.7%

Please call **604.953.3333** to find out if the bus stop you are intending to go to is accessible.

E.A.T.I. Can Help Many Achieve Employment Goals

BC Personal Supports Network is pleased to promote their Equipment and Assistive Technology Initiative (E.A.T.I.). The objective for this initiative is to help BC residents with disabilities and seniors reach their employment goals. This program provides funding for assessment, testing, and acquisition or training with equipment and assistive devices.

E.A.T.I. has helped people acquire assistive technology to overcome a variety of functional barriers. Access to this technology opens many doors for people who, without the technology, may not have many career options.

If you are interested in learning more about the BC Personal Supports Network and E.A.T.I., contact 1.877.333.7554, or check their website:

<http://www.bcspn.org>

Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee will be held on April 7, 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