Promoting Active Transportation: The Health and Climate Benefits

Vancouver’s Experience

Climate Action Team Public Health Workgroup | October 8, 2014
Geography and Context
Regional Context: Geography
Introduction

Regional Context: Geography

Vancouver

600,000

Metro Vancouver

2,200,000

*City of Abbotsford is a member of Metro Vancouver with respect to the provision of park services.

Scale: 1:285,000

Produced by Metro Vancouver, May 2010
For illustrative purposes only
Three Pillar Plans for Sustainability
Transportation 2040: Goals and Targets
Moving People, Moving Goods

Moving People
1. Walking
2. Cycling
3. Transit
4. Taxi / Commercial / Shared
5. Private Automobile

Moving Goods & Delivering Services
• Port / Long Distance
• Local Goods / Services
• Emergency
What Actually Happened

1976

- Transit: 90%
- Drive: 10%

Far Future

- Transit: 75%
- Drive: 25%

[Images showing urban changes and statistics]
1997 Transportation Plan

- No increase in capacity for cars
- Priorities:
  1. Walking
  2. Cycling
  3. Transit
  4. Goods Movement
  5. Cars
Since 1997 Plan: More Trips, Fewer Cars

City
- 18% population growth
- 16% job growth
- 5% decrease in vehicles entering the city

Downtown
- 75% population growth
- 26% job growth
- 20% decrease in vehicles entering downtown
Transportation 2040

PLAN TARGETS

For all trips originating in the City of Vancouver.

Moving Towards Our Targets

For all trips originating in the City of Vancouver. Source: 2008 and 2011 TransLink Trip Diaries. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the views of TransLink.
Planning for Safety

Transportation Fatalities

Year:
- 1997
- 2000
- 2005
- 2010

Fatalities:
- 40
- 30
- 20
- 10

Graph showing a downward trend in transportation fatalities from 1997 to 2010.
Pedestrian Safety Comparison

Cycling Safety Comparison

Land Use

Support shorter trips & sustainable transportation choices
Land Use Directions

- Locate major **activity generators** near high capacity transit
- Support **higher densities near transit** stations while recognizing local context
- Build **complete communities**
- **Design** buildings to contribute to public realm
Walking

Make walking safe, convenient, comfortable & delightful.

Support a vibrant public life.
Walking & Public Space Directions

• Create **vibrant & interesting streets & public spaces**

• Address **gaps** in the pedestrian network

• Improve street **safety**, **comfort**, & **accessibility**

• **Promote** walking culture
Cycling

Make cycling **safe, convenient, comfortable & fun** for people of all ages and abilities
Cycling Directions

• Build routes that are **safe**, **comfortable & convenient**
• Provide **secure & abundant parking**
• Improve **integration** with **transit**
• Promote cycling as an **everyday option**
• Focus on **education & safety**
Encourage sustainable transportation choices

Educate to promote safe & respectful behaviour

Enforce and support legislation that targets dangerous behaviour
Ongoing Initiatives
Public Spaces Within Street Rights-of-Way

Pedestrian Priority Streets

Pavement-to-Plazas

Parklets

Traffic Calming Opportunities
VIVA Vancouver Activations
False Creek Bridges
False Creek Bridges
Comox-Helmcken Greenway

- All ages and abilities walking and cycling corridor
- Connects schools, parks, community centres, shopping, neighbourhoods, and more
Health, Travel, and Activity Study

Working with UBC on a before/after study of:

- Trip patterns and mode
- Social interactions
- Perceptions of safety
- Frequency of activities
- Physical activity
Comox-Helmcken Greenway

- Parks and Mini-Parks
- Civic Facilities
Health, Travel, and Activity Study: Seniors

Collaborating with Centre for Hip Health and Mobility on a before/after study of:

- Older adult mobility
- Social interactions
- Street usage
- Travel patterns
Health, Travel, and Activity Study: Children

Working with UBC on a before/after study of:

- Grade school student travel patterns (to school, etc)
- Measured physical activity via accelerometers
- Control group of students
Burrard & Cornwall Intersection
Burrard & Cornwall Intersection
Partners in Transportation and Health
Work With our Health Partners
Work With our Transportation Partners