Promoting Active Transportation: The Health and Climate Benefits

Vancouver’s Experience
Geography and Context
Regional Context: Geography

Vancouver
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.*
Three Pillar Plans for Sustainability
The Three Wheels

Economy

Environment

People
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

Far Future

Transit

75%

Drive
Graph showing transportation modes over time:

- **1976**
  - Transit: 90%
  - Drive: 10%

- **1992**
  - Transit: 15%
  - Drive: 70%
  - Walk/Bike: 15%

- **Far Future**
  - Transit: 75%
  - Drive: 25%
1997 Transportation Plan

History

- 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
+16% Jobs
-5% Vehicles entering City

Downtown

+75% Population
+26% Jobs
-20% Vehicles entering Downtown
Transportation 2040

**PLAN TARGETS**

- **2008**: 40% of all trips on foot, bike, or transit
- **2020**: At least half of all trips on foot, bike, or transit
- **2040**: At least two-thirds of all trips on foot, bike, or transit

**Chart Details**

- **Motor Vehicle**
- **Transit**
- **Walk**
- **Bike**

For all trips originating in the City of Vancouver.
Moving Towards Our Targets

- **2008:** 40%
- **2011:** 44%
- **2020 Target:** 50%

- **Walk, Bike, or Transit Trips**

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

1997 2000 2005 2010
Pedestrian Safety Comparison

Annual Fatalities Per 10,000 Daily Walk-To-Work Trips

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

1 Kilometre
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

CLASP
COALITIONS LINKING ACTION & SCIENCE FOR PREVENTION

An initiative of:

CANADIAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST CANCER
PARTENARIAT CANADIEN CONTRE LE CANCER

CENTRE for HIP
Health and Mobility

Vancouver Coastal Health
Research Institute
Healthier lives through discovery

ASAP
active streets / active people

UBC
HEALTH & COMMUNITY DESIGN LAB
School of Population and Public Health

WalkTheTalk

HEALTHY CANADA
by design

HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION
Work With our Transportation Partners

BEST
BETTER ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TRANSPORTATION

ICBC

TRANSLINK
cyclingincities

HUB
Your Cycling Connection

CityStudio

Vancouver Police

Vancouver School Board