

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

APRIL
2015

From Maria Harris, Electoral Area A Director

Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming meetings I will attend:

Metro Vancouver Board

Friday, April 17, 2015

Metro Vancouver Strategic Planning Session

April 17-18, 2015

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

**Intergovernment and Finance - Electoral Area
Sub-Committee**

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Climate Action Committee

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Mayors Committee

Friday, April 24, 2015

Special Metro Vancouver Board Meeting

Friday, May 1, 2015

[Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes](http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/)<http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/>

Issues and News

Toxic Air Pollutants in Metro Vancouver

A new Metro Vancouver study has confirmed that diesel particulate matter (DPM) remains the key driver of health risk from toxic air pollutants in our region, with the largest sources being marine vessels and non-road engines (construction equipment like backhoes, bulldozers and diggers), followed by heavy-duty trucks.

In addition to common air pollutants like fine particles, nitrogen oxides, and ground-level ozone, the air we breathe contains tiny amounts of hundreds of other substances, many of which may harm our health. These substances are often referred to as "toxic air pollutants" because they have been linked to cancer and other health issues like reproductive and developmental problems.

The good news is that DPM emissions are expected to decline significantly with the implementation of international regulations requiring the use of cleaner marine diesel, more stringent engine emission standards for light and heavy-duty vehicles, and regulations such as Metro Vancouver's [bylaw for non-road diesel engines](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/Permits-regulations-enforcement/non-road-diesel/). <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/Permits-regulations-enforcement/non-road-diesel/>

Metro Vancouver is also working with other levels of government to develop programs to reduce DPM emissions from heavy-duty diesel trucks.

Aside from DPM, our study also showed that light-duty vehicles, gasoline powered non-road engines, and wood burning are significant sources of other air toxics like formaldehyde, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and acrolein. To reduce health risks associated with exposure to these toxic air pollutants, we are investigating measures to:

- Prevent vehicle emissions from increasing now that the AirCare program is no longer in place.
- Address emissions from gasoline non-road engines.
- Reduce emissions from residential wood burning.

The study will be available on the Metro Vancouver website soon.

How Youth Get Around - Chair Update

Greg Moore, the Chair of Metro Vancouver's Board of Directors, has added a post to the [Metro Vancouver blog](http://metrovancoverblog.org) that explores the relationship between regional growth planning and transportation investment. As Metro Vancouver's [Regional Growth Strategy](http://www.metrovancover.org/services/regional-planning/metro-vancouver-2040) is implemented, it's important to consider who will make up the bulk of the workforce in the coming years, and their living and travel preferences.

<http://metrovancoverblog.org> / <http://www.metrovancover.org/services/regional-planning/metro-vancouver-2040>

Millennials and the coming-of-age Generation Z have very different lifestyle preferences than the generations that preceded them.

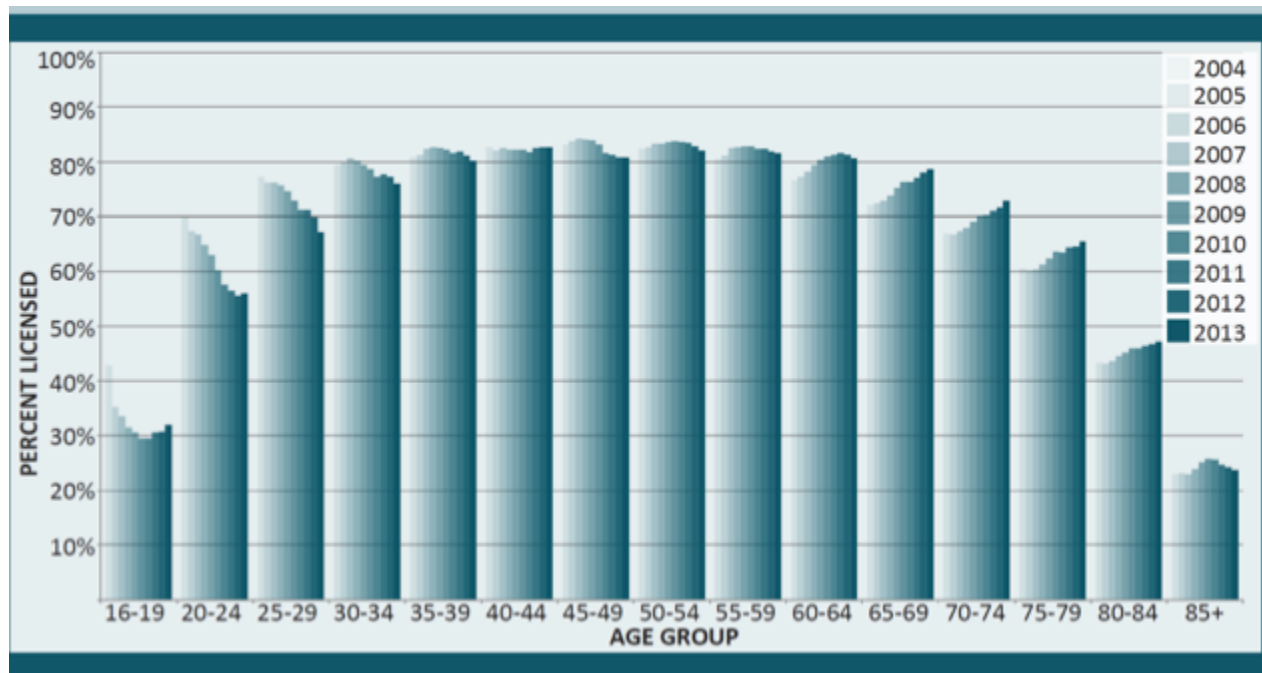
Increasingly, younger generations are opting not to get a driver's license. In fact, the percentage of Metro Vancouver residents aged 16 to 34 with a driver's license dropped significantly between 2004 and 2013. The decline in licensed drivers was sharpest for those under 30, and the trends vary by subregion with the sharpest declines in subregions that have the best access to transit service. However, the preference to opt for alternative modes of transportation seems to be consistent across Metro Vancouver.



The UBC A Cappella group's transit song

<https://youtu.be/muUCp6Y6fQ0>

Licensed Drivers in Metro Vancouver by Age Group (2004-2013)

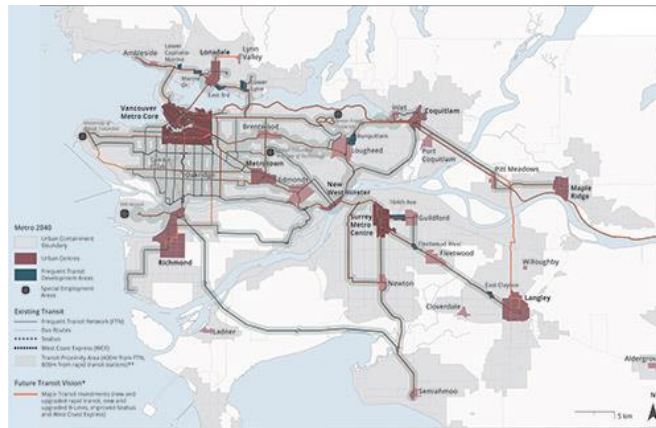


As youth move into the workforce, they aren't looking for a car-dependent lifestyle. A recent transit [ridership portrait](#) created by Bing Thom Architects shows that 60 percent of riders in Metro Vancouver are under 40. <http://www.biv.com/article/2015/3/who-takes-transit-work-metro-vancouver-info-graphi>

The generations currently entering the workforce seem to prefer transit-oriented communities, and the market seems to be responding to that preference. If these trends continue – and if more residents have the opportunity to choose transit – there could be great social, economic, and environmental benefits for our region.

Map of the Month: Shaping Growth and Investing in Transit for a Livable Region

Metro Vancouver's latest [Map of the Month](#), demonstrates the important relationship between planning for growth and investing in transit.



<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/regional-planning/regional-planning-maps/map-of-the-month/>

Today, approximately 55 percent of Metro Vancouver residents live within a five to 10-minute walk to the Frequent Transit Network, and the Mayors' Council [Transportation and Transit Plan](#) will increase that to 70 percent. We now have the opportunity to provide the sustainable transportation options that future generations want. <http://mayorscouncil.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Mayors-Council-Vision-Document-Mar-2015.pdf>

Transit Funding Plebiscite

Engaging with Residents and Others

Since my last Update, I have continued to provide information to voters about the transit funding plebiscite and to help potential voters become registered.

A set of Frequently Asked Questions that I prepared contain extensive information, including information on the Mayors' Council plan, the funding of the plan, and TransLink. The FAQs are available from the home page of my website: www.mariaharris.ca

At a community meeting which I organized at MBA house on the evening of March 25, Geoff Meggs (Vancouver City Councillor), Mike Buda (Interim Executive Director of the Mayors' Council) and I gave short presentations on the plebiscite. This was followed by a lively Q&A session.

I have spent several afternoons at the UBC bus loop with a street team talking to transit riders about the plebiscite and encouraging them to register. In addition, along with AMS representatives and Mayors' Council staff, I have participated in registration drives for students at the Student Union Building and in student residences.

On Friday, April 10, I will speak at another meeting at MBA House. The meeting is sponsored by the UNA Civic Engagement Committee and organized by Sabrina Zhang and Ying Zhou. On April 22, a member of the Mayors' Council staff and I will have a transit plebiscite table at the UHill Elementary School Earth Day picnic.

TransLink: The Facts Matter

TransLink has sought to counter misinformation spread about it in the last few months. Its [Facts Matter](#) web page presents lots of excellent information, including comparisons of TransLink's performance against that of other transit authorities and steps that TransLink has taken to cut costs and increase revenues. www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/The-Facts-Matter.aspx

Voter Statistics

Elections BC publishes a report every Wednesday showing the number of registered voters in each municipality and in Electoral Area A and the number of ballots returned from each jurisdiction. The reports are available on the [plebiscite results](#) page on the Elections BC website. www.elections.bc.ca/plebiscite/results.html

The April 8 report shows 6,262 registered voters in Electoral Area A and no returned ballots. There is clearly a significant lag between the receipt of ballots and their inclusion in the report.

Upcoming Events



On-Site Organic Management - Sustainability Community Breakfast

April 15, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

BCIT Downtown, 555 Seymour St., Vancouver

Join us to learn about these options, and hear two case studies about on-site food waste processing technologies currently in use.

Register: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/community-breakfasts/>



Zero Waste and the Textile Industry - Future of the Region Sustainability Dialogue

April 22, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fairmont Waterfront Hotel 900 Canada Place Way, Mackenzie Room, Vancouver

This special session will take an in-depth look at how the textiles industry is meeting zero waste challenges.

Register: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/calendar/vancouver/83/future-of-the-region-sustainability-dialogue>

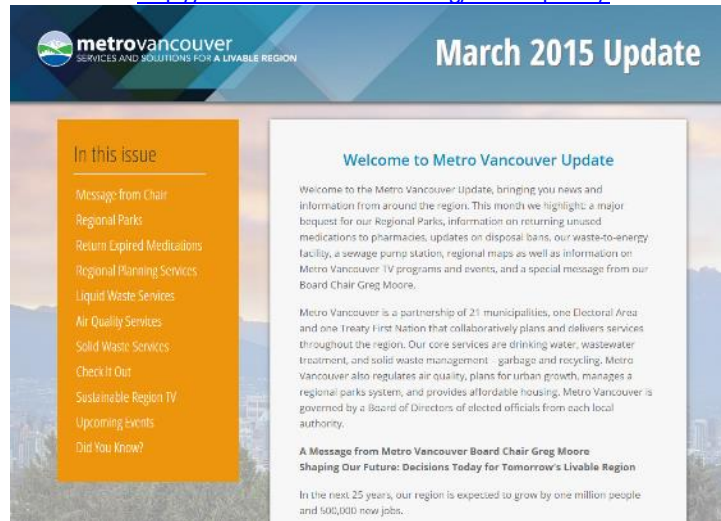
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For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/metroudate/>



Links & Connections

[Metro Vancouver](http://www.metrovancouver.org/)

www.metrovancouver.org/

[Maria Harris, Electoral Area A Director](http://www.mariaharris.ca)

www.mariaharris.ca

[@EADirector Twitter](https://twitter.com/EADirector)

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[Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](http://mayorscouncil.ca/)

<http://mayorscouncil.ca/>

[Union of BC Municipalities](http://www.ubcm.ca/)

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

[University Neighbourhoods Association](http://myuna.ca)

myuna.ca

[University Endowment Lands](http://www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca)

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

[UEL Community Advisory Council](http://uelcommunity.com)

uelcommunity.com

[Metro Vancouver Media Releases](http://www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/)

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/>

[Metro Vancouver Videos](http://www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/video-gallery/)

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