

My Upcoming Meetings**Metro Vancouver Board**

Friday, January 27, 2017

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

TBD



Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/>

Please note there will not be a Director's Update issued for the month of January.

UEL Request for Incorporation Study

Dave Forsyth (UEL Community Advisory Council President), Ron Pears (past President), Bill Holmes (Alternate Director for Electoral Area A) and I met with Minister Fassbender on November 16th for almost an hour. The Minister called the meeting to provide an update with respect to the UEL Community Advisory Council's three-year old request for an incorporation study for the UEL. The Deputy Minister and other Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (CSCD) staff participated in the meeting by phone.

I'll first provide some background for this meeting. The UEL Community Advisory Council (CAC) submitted a request for an incorporation study in November 2013. The Minister at the time advised the CAC in spring 2014 that research was underway to assist the government in deciding how to proceed. Minister Fassbender and CSCD staff then met with Dave Forsyth, Ron Pears, Bill Holmes and me in October 2015 and April 2016. In July 2016, the Minister sent a letter to the CAC in which he indicated his commitment to exploring the governance of the UEL. However, he also stated that, "now is not the time for a study that pre-determines the range of outcomes for governance change," and added that he anticipated a governance study would occur in late 2017. He indicated his intent to share with the community some of the facts that have emerged from the Ministry's work to date and a desire to seek a better understanding of the community's current key issues and priorities. To that end, Minister Fassbender asked his staff to develop a detailed plan on how best to get information out to the community and to be able to gauge the community's key interests.

We were told in the November 16th meeting that CSCD is planning a "community outreach" starting in early December. That will involve nine three- or four-page fact sheets, a feedback form, and a web portal. The fact sheets will address such matters as governance arrangements and the provision of water, sewer and other services. The Minister said that the purpose of the exercise is two-fold: to ensure a common factual foundation, and to get residents' views on services and other matters.

It is not apparent why there will be so much focus in the consultation on services. The CAC's request for an incorporation study was motivated by shortcomings with the current governance arrangement for the UEL, attributable in large part to residents' lack of control over their own community. These shortcomings did not include the delivery of basic services.

The fact that this consultation will be limited to the UEL is an indication that the proposed governance study in later 2017 will likely not encompass the UBC neighbourhoods. However, the geographic scope of the study was not discussed with the Minister.

Community Works Fund

On November 9, Metro Vancouver staff and I met with representatives of the UNA, UBC and the UEL Community Advisory Council to discuss shortlisted projects that would potentially be recommended to the Metro Vancouver Board for funding from the Community Works Fund.

The intersection improvement project at University Blvd and Wesbrook Mall seems to have the most potential for a contribution from the Community Works Fund, but more information is needed from UBC on the specific improvements and associated costs. UBC will undertake additional public consultation in early 2017, so we can expect to have the necessary information by spring or summer 2017. Other project ideas, such as investigating the impacts and potential mitigation of noise from surrounding uses and structures, were also discussed and will be considered when we reconvene in 2017.

Investigation of Cliff Erosion along NW Marine Drive

Metro Vancouver, UBC, the UEL Administration, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure are working in coordination to investigate ongoing cliff erosion along Northwest Marine Drive in proximity to Wesbrook Crescent. More information is expected to be available in the coming months.

Pacific Spirit Regional Park

In the latest issue of University Hill Connections, you'll find an article I contributed about the history of Pacific Spirit Regional Park. We are extremely fortunate to have such a large and beautiful regional park right on our doorstep. Here's an excerpt:

A province-wide competition was held to name the park, to which over 3,200 entries were submitted. The winning entry came from Richmond resident Sherry Sakamoto. She explained that the name Pacific Spirit Regional Park 'was inspired by the First Nations belief in the Great Creator and their connection to Mother Earth... It is the gateway to the Pacific and a spiritual ground to becoming one with nature.'

Read the full article on page 4 of the [November 2016 issue](#).

<http://uelcommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/UEL-News-fall-16.11.14-1319.pdf>



Mayors' Council and TransLink Board Approval of Phase One Investment Plan and Next Steps

A major milestone has been reached in the ongoing effort to improve public transit, roads, and cycling and walking paths across the region. On November 23rd, the Mayors' Council and the TransLink Board of Directors approved the Phase One Plan, which begins the implementation of the Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transit and Transportation.

Investments included in the Phase One Plan extend across the entire region. Residents will start to see the improvements in January 2017, including initial expansion of service on SeaBus, Expo Line, Millennium Line and Canada Line. Bus service improvements will start to roll out in April 2017, and further rail service increases will occur as new fleet is delivered starting in late 2018.

The Phase One Plan includes the following benefits for the UBC/UEL area:

- Improved bus service on many routes that serve UBC: Routes 25, 43, 49, and 84 and the 99 B-Line.
- Introduction of a new B-Line express service on 41st Avenue that would be consolidated with Route 43.
- Commencement of planning and design work for the Broadway subway to Arbutus.

TransLink will be consulting in early 2017 with stakeholders and the public regarding several aspects of the Broadway subway to Arbutus, including construction impacts and station design. More information on the consultation will be available soon.

The capital costs will be funded in part by a \$370 million contribution from the federal government and \$246 million from the provincial government. The remaining \$1.3 billion of capital and operating costs will come from TransLink's existing funding sources, cost savings and efficiencies, as well as new regional revenues including modest property tax and transit fare increases.

The Mayors' Council 10-Year Vision is being implemented in three phases. Work is now underway to develop a detailed plan for Phase Two which will include the major projects: construction of the Broadway subway to Arbutus, construction of light rail in Surrey and Langley, and replacement of the Pattullo Bridge. It is intended that this plan be approved in 2017, after public consultation. The Phase Three Plan, which will complete the delivery of the 10-Year Vision, is anticipated to be approved in 2019.

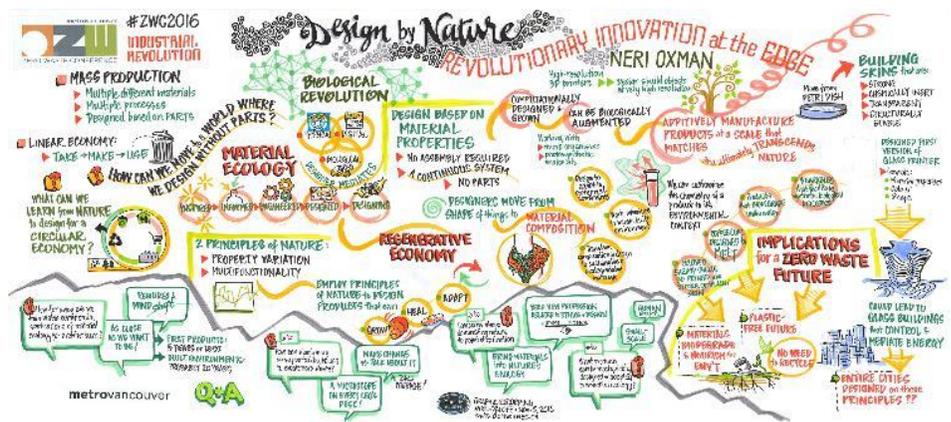
The Phase Two Plan requires substantial funding commitments from the federal and provincial governments, as well as one or more additional regional revenue sources. TransLink and the Mayors' Council are in active discussions to secure the funding. The discussions with the federal government are to determine our region's share of the billions of dollars promised in the March federal budget for transit improvements. A goal of the discussions with the provincial government is to obtain confirmation that the province will pay one-third or more of the eligible capital costs of the rapid transit projects. Another goal is to obtain a provincial commitment to enable new regional funding sources for transit.

One or more new regional funding sources are essential for the implementation of the Phase Two Plan. The existing regional funding sources are inadequate for this purpose, particularly as the Mayors' Council is opposed to the use of property taxes as a source of funding. Any new funding sources must be enabled by the provincial government, which for some potential sources would require legislation.

Visit [TransLink's website](http://translink.ca) for further information on the Phase One and Phase Two Plans. tenyearvision.translink.ca

Zero Waste Conference

Metro Vancouver held its 6th Annual Zero Waste Conference on November 3rd. This well-attended conference presented real-world examples of firms and individuals taking actions to prevent waste and move towards a circular economy. It challenged us all to think more deeply about the opportunities for creating a future without waste.



The opening keynote speaker, Neri Oxman, gave a fascinating talk (with eye-catching pictures) on the new materials being developed at her MIT lab. These materials merge the latest technology with design efficiencies found in nature. While these materials are currently at the human scale, Dr. Oxman and her team are working on scaling them up so that they can be used in the construction of buildings.

The day included sessions on food waste, repair and reuse, and the built environment (i.e., buildings), as well as other topics. One presenter on repair and reuse spoke about Toronto’s Tool Library and Sharing Depot. Another presenter in the same session, Value Village’s VP of Recycling and Reuse, talked about clothing reuse and pointed out the surprising lack of recycling facilities for textiles. We also heard about the LEGO Group’s sustainability program.

I found Matthew Ridenour’s presentation on OpenIDEO especially interesting. OpenIDEO invites people from around the world to collaborate to solve social challenges by sharing inspiration and ideas in OpenIDEO’s online innovation challenges. Matthew presented on a recently completed challenge: How might we dramatically reduce waste by transforming our relationship with food? www.openideo.com

The conference program, videos of many of the presentations, and presentation slides can be accessed from the conference home page. www.zwc.ca

Christmas Campaign



For the sixth year, Metro Vancouver is encouraging people to invest in creating memories not garbage with a focus on reducing waste during the holiday season. The campaign reminds residents to celebrate the holidays with the gift of time and high-quality, long-lasting gifts.

This year’s campaign continues to use positive and humorous behaviour. Residents are invited to share their “best gift ever” ideas and experiences

with Metro Vancouver through social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, using #BestGiftEver and #CreateMemories.

Visit the [campaign homepage](#) for festive inspiration, waste-free gift ideas, green gift wrap and decorating tips, e-cards, gift cards and more. creatememoriesnotgarbage.ca

Utility of the Future Recognition

Metro Vancouver's Liquid Waste Services has been recognized as a Water Resources Utility of the Future by a key group of wastewater industry associations. The award was presented during the Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference in New Orleans in September. The Federation's recognition program celebrates wastewater utilities that demonstrate progress in innovative and sustainable utility management practices and it supports an organizational culture of innovative business practices. Utilities of the Future Today are meant to inspire other wastewater utilities to help spur a revolution focused on resource recovery, sustainability and resilience.

Metro Vancouver was recognized for activities and initiatives in five areas: organizational culture, beneficial use of biosolids, community partnering and engagement, energy efficiency, and energy recovery.

Metro Vancouver was the only Canadian utility of the 61 public and private utilities that received this recognition.

Changes to Metro Vancouver's Water Shortage Response Plan

Metro Vancouver is reviewing and updating its Water Shortage Response Plan to clarify and potentially adjust plan objectives, the restrictions, and the rationale for moving from one stage to another.

At its November 25 meeting, the Metro Vancouver Board directed staff to consult with the public on proposed changes to the Plan. The changes include amending the activation period for Stage 1 from May 15 to October 15, to May 1 to October 15, restricting lawn sprinkling to two mornings per week, and limiting the watering of flowers, trees and plants when using a sprinkler.

Events & Media

Tackling Food Waste: A National Strategy - Regional Initiatives Sustainability Community Breakfast

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Thursday December 15, BCIT Downtown Campus, Vancouver

Join Metro Vancouver to learn how the National Food Waste Reduction Strategy, launched by Canada's National Zero Waste Council at the 2016 Zero Waste Conference, provides a means to reduce food waste in Canada through policy, innovation, and behaviour change, and hear about efforts underway in the Metro Vancouver region to tackle this issue at a local level.

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

Conifer Walk

January 21, Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Get to know the common conifers in the temperate rainforest of Pacific Spirit Regional Park.

\$8 per adult, \$4.25 per youth/adult 65+

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/calendar/vancouver/500/conifer-walk>

Family Day Campfire

February 13, Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Drop by for a cozy campfire and learn about plants and animals through story and song.

Free event

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/calendar/vancouver/503/family-day-campfire>

Metro Vancouver Close Up



Metro Vancouver Close Up shows how municipalities and community groups are promoting sustainability and shared regional goals. New videos are posted each month. To see more sustainability stories about Metro Vancouver, you can search "Metro Vancouver Close Up" at metrovancover.org or follow metrovancoverblog.org.

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)

www.twitter.com/EADirector

[Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](http://www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/Governance-and-Board/Mayors-Council.aspx)

www.translink.ca/en/About-Us/Governance-and-Board/Mayors-Council.aspx

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

www.ubcm.ca

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

www.myuna.ca



ELECTORAL AREA **A** Director's Update

MARCH
2016

From **Maria Harris**, Electoral Area A Director

[University Endowment Lands Administration](#)

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

[UEL Community Advisory Council](#)

www.uelcommunity.com

[Metro Vancouver Media Releases](#)

www.metrovancouver.org/media-room

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