

Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming meetings I will attend:

Council of Councils

Saturday, December 6, 2014

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

Thursday, December 11, 2014

Metro Vancouver Inaugural Board Meeting

Friday, December 12, 2014

Metro Vancouver Board Meeting

Friday, January 24, 2015

Please note there will be no Director's Update for January, 2015.



[Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes](http://www.metrovancouver.org/BOARDS/Pages/BoardsCommittees.aspx)

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/BOARDS/Pages/BoardsCommittees.aspx>

Election Results

The Election for Director of Electoral Area A was held on November 15, 2014. The results are as follows:

Candidate	Number of Valid Votes
Maria Harris	769
Daniel Wood	169

News & Issues

Funding for Upgrades to Wastewater Treatment Plants

Metro Vancouver is facing substantial costs to upgrade two of its wastewater (sewage) treatment plants to comply with new federal regulations. These regulations have major financial implications for local governments all across Canada. Metro Vancouver's is mandated to replace the Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant by 2020 at an estimated cost of \$700 million and upgrade the Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant (which serves the UBC/UEL area) by 2030 at an estimated cost of \$1.2 billion.



Municipalities all over Canada face similar challenges, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities is advocating for the establishment of a dedicated fund for municipal wastewater treatment upgrades. While federal cost-sharing is available under existing programs, the application of the funds to assist local governments in complying with the regulations could divert federal money from other urgent infrastructure needs such as transit.

I have encouraged the UEL Community Advisory Council, the UNA and UBC, as stakeholders in regional wastewater services, to send letters to Minister of Infrastructure, Communities and Intergovernmental Affairs Denis Lebel, supporting both the FCM initiative and the collective effort of Metro Vancouver municipalities to establish a dedicated fund for municipal wastewater treatment upgrades.

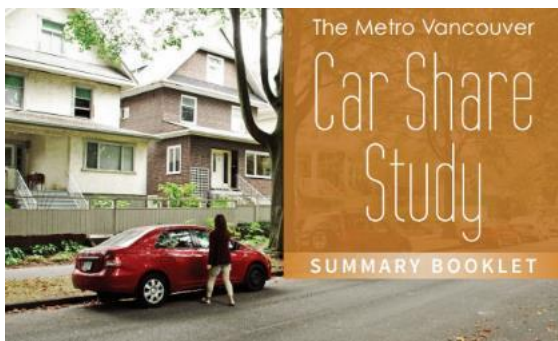
Christmas Campaign

Metro Vancouver's "Create Memories, Not Garbage" holiday campaign is back for the 2014 holiday season. The campaign encourages people to spend more time together, to give memorable experiences instead of stuff and to give quality gifts that last. metrovancover.org/christmas



This Christmas,
Rob is giving his sister
a silent night so she can
shop in heavenly peace.

Car Share Study



The Metro Vancouver Car Share Study is the first comprehensive analysis of car sharing in the region. Evidence was gathered from discussions with car share providers and municipal staff about current practices, and from two online surveys of car share households and apartment households.

The study also identifies issues and considerations for regional growth management and community planning. Municipal planners and engineers, developers, and car share operators can all use the information to further their respective and shared objectives around sustainable transportation choices, housing and transportation affordability, and the environment.

[Metro Vancouver Car Share Study](http://www.metrovancover.org/planning/development/Documents/1507_PPE_MV_Car_Share_Study_14Oct20HR.pdf)

http://www.metrovancover.org/planning/development/Documents/1507_PPE_MV_Car_Share_Study_14Oct20HR.pdf

Funding for Regional Transportation Plan

A decision is imminent on proposed regional funding sources for the 10-year transportation plan announced by the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation in June. This plan will help manage growth, and the resulting traffic and transit congestion, as the region's population grows by a million more people by 2040. The plan anticipates funding from both the federal and the provincial government, in addition to one or more new regional funding sources.

The necessary regional funding is not currently in place. Options under consideration include a regional carbon tax, a regional sales tax, a vehicle fee or a combination of these. The provincial government requires that any new funding sources be put to a referendum. The improvements agreed by regional leaders will proceed only if the outcome is favourable. The referendum will likely take place this spring and take the form of mail-in balloting.

The Mayors' Council is expected to decide at its December 11th meeting which new regional funding source or sources to propose and the wording to recommend to the provincial government for the referendum question.

As I have previously reported, among other service improvements to UBC, the Mayors' Council plan includes a tunneled extension of the Millennium Line from VCC-Clark to Arbutus along Broadway, which will be linked to UBC with enhanced B-Line bus service. In the longer term, it is anticipated that rail rapid transit will be implemented from Arbutus to UBC. The plan leaves open whether this would be a continuation of SkyTrain or a Light Rail connection. It is contemplated that during the design process for the extension of SkyTrain to Arbutus, all stakeholders will work together to determine how and when to complete this second phase.

The regional plan is crucial to expanding our transportation options, maintaining our quality of life, moving our economy, addressing affordability issues, and preserving air quality and our natural environment. I will take an active role in engaging our community in the referendum and will do this in close collaboration with organizations in the UBC/UEL area, including UBC, the AMS, the UNA and the UEL Community Advisory Council.

Please watch the [Mayors' Council website](http://mayorscouncil.ca/) for regular updates on these and other developments.

<http://mayorscouncil.ca/>

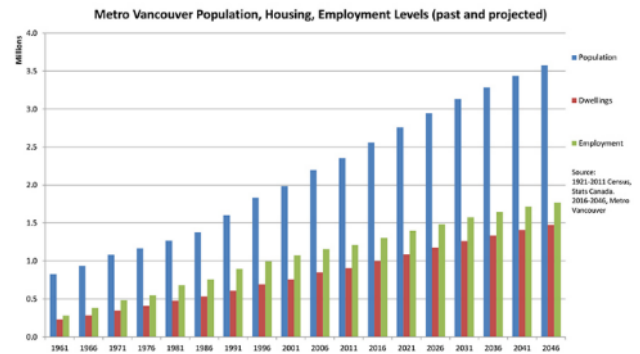
BC on the Move

You might be familiar with the provincial government's consultation supporting its 10-Year Transportation Plan: [BC On the Move](#). The Mayors' Council has submitted a letter urging the province to include the Mayors' Council regional plan as part of the province's transportation plan. Metro Vancouver will be doing the same. As an elected representative for the UBC/UEL area, I have also made a submission (attached). I encourage you to have your say about transportation here in B.C. before the December 12 deadline, through either the online [survey](#) or [other](#) ways of participating in the consultation.

<http://engage.gov.bc.ca/transportationplan/> <http://surveys.givingopinions.ca/s/b6370/> <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/transportationplan/ways/>

Metro Vancouver Provides Regional Economic & Planning Data

Metro Vancouver compiles from various sources economic, employment, development, population, and other available data. Every month, Metro Vancouver publishes Regional Planning Indicators, which is a brief summary of regional economic, development and transportation statistics. This data is supplied by Metro Vancouver municipalities, Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, TransLink, Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Fraser Valley Real Estate Board, ICBC, BC Stats, and Statistics Canada.



This resources offers a wealth of statistics including everything from housing costs, to median age, to business licences by municipality to the relative popularity of the modes of public transit.

[Statistics Page](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/statistics/) <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/statistics/>

[Monthly Data](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/statistics/Pages/MonthlyIndicators.aspx) <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/statistics/Pages/MonthlyIndicators.aspx>

[Annual Data](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/statistics/Pages/KeyFacts.aspx) <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/statistics/Pages/KeyFacts.aspx>

Updated Development Cost Charge Bylaw

Metro Vancouver applies Development Cost Charges (DCCs) for all new developments in the region to offset impacts on the regional sewage treatment system. Anyone who obtains approval of a subdivision or a building permit authorizing the construction, alteration or extension of a building or structure must pay DCCs, which are calculated based on the type of development and the location. Applicants for permits to build within the University Neighbourhoods will be asked for payment by UBC, and applicants within the UEL will make their payments to UEL Administration. All payments collected by these two authorities get forwarded to Metro Vancouver.

On November 28, Metro Vancouver amended its DCC Bylaw to delete an exemption concerning building permits issued for the construction of fewer than 4 dwelling units and clarified some language to facilitate the collection of DCCs for all types of developments and numbers of dwelling units.

Did You Know? Metro Vancouver Has a TV show



Produced by Metro Vancouver, The Sustainable Region is a community television newsmagazine that goes behind-the-scenes to highlight the people, policies and initiatives that make our region such a great place to live, work and play.

Watch **The Sustainable Region:**

Shaw TV (Cable 4)

Wednesdays 7:30pm; Saturdays 12:30pm; Mondays 3:30pm; Tuesdays 11:00pm

Delta Cable

Sunday/Monday 8am & 2pm; Monday to Fri at 11:30am

Novus TV (NVTV 4)

Daily at Sun, Mon, Wed, Fri @ 8:30pm; Tues, Thurs, Sat @ 9am & 3:30pm

Online

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/mediaroom/videos/Pages/FullEpisode.aspx>

Upcoming Events



Annual Zero Waste Breakfast...Storytelling, Holiday Memories and Food

Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

BCIT downtown campus - 555 Seymour Street, Vancouver

For many, the holiday season means sharing memorable moments and good food with friends and family. Once again, as part of our Create Memories Not Garbage Christmas campaign, three of the region's premier storytellers from The Flame join us with their entertaining holiday memories.

[Register](http://www.metrovancouver.org/region/breakfasts/) <http://www.metrovancouver.org/region/breakfasts/>



Winter Watershed Snowshoe Tours

Mt. Seymour, January 18 – March 12

\$18 with own snowshoes; \$25 includes snowshoes rental. Ages 18+

Enjoy a moderately strenuous snowshoe tour. This is a fun and active way to learn about the role our mountains play in collecting and storing our drinking water. Learn about local plants and animals that call the Seymour Watershed home. Wrap up your tour with a cup of hot cocoa.

[Register](http://www.metrovancouver.org/region/calendar/Pages/WatershedTours.aspx) <http://www.metrovancouver.org/region/calendar/Pages/WatershedTours.aspx>

For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates

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



Links & Connections

[Metro Vancouver](#)

www.metrovancouver.org/

[Maria Harris, Electoral Area A Director](#)

www.mariaharris.ca

[@EADirector Twitter](#)

twitter.com/EADirector

[Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](#)

<http://mayorscouncil.ca/information-centre/>

[Union of BC Municipalities](#)

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

[University Neighbourhoods Association](#)

myuna.ca

[University Endowment Lands](#)

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

[UEL Community Advisory Council](#)

uelcommunity.com

[Metro Vancouver Media Releases](#)

www.metrovancouver.org/mediaroom/Pages/MediaReleases.aspx

[Metro Vancouver Videos](#)

www.metrovancouver.org/mediaroom/videos

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December 2, 2014

BC on the Move Consultations
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
P.O. Box 3623 Vancouver Main
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3Y6

Via email: transportationplan@gov.bc.ca

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: BC on the Move

I am making this submission as the elected representative for Metro Vancouver's Electoral Area A, an area that includes the UBC campus and the University Endowment Lands (UEL). I am the only member of Metro Vancouver's Board of Directors who is directly elected to the position and, by virtue of being the Electoral Area Director, I am also a member of the Mayor's Council on Regional Transportation.

Since UBC and the UEL are not within a municipality, there is no municipal government to raise the transportation concerns of the UBC/UEL area in the consultation on the province's proposed 10-year transportation plan. Accordingly, I am doing so. This submission reflects the many conversations I have engaged in with residents and others as an elected representative.

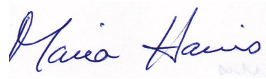
Three transportation issues are of particular importance to the UBC/UEL area. The first is the necessity for improved public transit to UBC. The inadequacy of the current transit service—especially in the Broadway corridor—is well known and I'm sure that there's no need for me to provide details here. The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation has developed a detailed vision for regional transportation that would go a long way towards improving the transit situation for those travelling to and from UBC. The vision includes an underground extension of SkyTrain to Arbutus Street and enhanced bus service from there to UBC. The vision has a lot of support from residents, students and organizations in the UBC/UEL area as a substantial first step in addressing the region's transportation needs. It should be incorporated into the province's proposed 10-year transportation plan.

The second issue relates to the U-Pass Program. Under that program, students at UBC and other post-secondary institutions obtain transit passes at a considerably reduced price. The favourable price is possible because the program is universal for students at participating institutions and because the province contributes to the program. U-Pass has been tremendously successful in getting students to use public transit, thereby reducing traffic congestion and greenhouse gases and encouraging students to make transit a permanent part of their lifestyle. The program runs until 2016. The 10-year transportation plan should recognize the value of the U-Pass program and make a long-term commitment for the province to contribute.

The last issue concerns the cycling infrastructure on MOTI roads. Cycling is a significant mode of transportation in the UBC/UEL area. Many students, faculty and staff commute to UBC by bike on MOTI roads and a large number of recreational cyclists use these roads. While some of the roads have adequate cycling lanes, this is not the case for all—in particular Northwest Marine Drive. The 10-year transportation plan should include upgrades to the cycling infrastructure on the MOTI roads. In planning any upgrades, I would urge the Ministry to engage with a group of informed citizens who have recently formed the UBC/UEL Alliance for Biking and Walking. This group has produced a website (bikewalkubc.org) that lists the cycling conditions on all MOTI roads in the area.

Thank you for giving consideration to this submission.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light blue rectangular background.

Maria Harris
Director, Electoral Area A
Metro Vancouver

cc: Mayor Greg Moore, Chair, Metro Vancouver
Mayor Richard Walton, Chair, Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation
David Eby, MLA, Vancouver-Point Grey