

My Upcoming Meetings

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Metro Vancouver Board Budget Workshop

Friday, October 20, 2017

Council of Councils

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Metro Vancouver Boards

Friday, October 27, 2017

Electoral Area Committee

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Climate Action Committee

Wednesday, November 1, 2017



Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes

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

Electoral Area A Emergency Management Plan Review

On August 25, Metro Vancouver's Safety, Security and Emergency Management staff met with Electoral Area A Director Maria Harris, Alternate Director Bill Holmes and Electoral Area Services staff to review the Electoral Area Emergency Management Plan. The discussion focused mainly on understanding Metro Vancouver's role and its relationships with UBC and the UEL Administration in planning for emergencies and in responding to an emergency. Those entities also play a role in their communities' emergency management. A second meeting will take place either late this month or in November, ahead of a planned meeting with UEL Administration and Community Advisory Council members later this fall.

Air Quality Advisories and Fire Season



Metro Vancouver faced one of its worst summers in terms of air quality in 2017, as heavy smoke from the wildfires raging in B.C. and the northwest U.S. drifted across the region. Prolonged hot and dry conditions led to extreme fire risk conditions, significant wildfire activity and deteriorating air quality.

Metro Vancouver played a key role in the early detection and the ongoing surveillance of air quality, due to wildfire smoke, which significantly exceeded any previous year and affected monitoring stations from Hope to Horseshoe Bay.

Five air quality advisories were issued this summer, with an unprecedented 19 days under advisory. The longest period was from August 1 to 12, with elevated levels of fine particulate matter and intermittent spikes of high ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone is usually produced during hot sunny weather, but the smoky skies inhibited sunlight and reduced temperatures, which suggests the smoke coming into the region was also carrying pollutants that accelerated ground-level ozone production.

On a brighter note, despite the prolonged “extreme” fire danger rating, there were few fire incidents in parks and green spaces throughout Metro Vancouver, thanks in part to the diligence of Regional Parks and Watershed Protection staff.

Metro Vancouver residents generally enjoy clean, clear air, but the summers of 2015 and 2017 may be an indication of how the changing climate will increase the severity and occurrence of out-of-region wildfires in the future. As a result, Metro Vancouver plans to adapt its approach to air quality management in response to wildfires, not only to deal with smoke particles but also with ground-level ozone.

Final Report of the 2017 Homeless Count

Metro Vancouver’s affordability crisis is having a noticeable effect on homelessness across the region, with half the region’s homeless population saying they had lived here for 10 years or more before finding themselves living on the streets or in shelters, according to the final report of the 2017 Homeless Count.

The Homeless Count, conducted overnight on March 7 and 8, identified 3,605 homeless persons. Of those who responded to a survey question regarding barriers to housing, more than 50% cited high rents or lack of income as a reason for homelessness. This was followed by the inability to find suitable housing (some respondents gave more than one reason). 82% of the respondents to a question regarding health indicated that they were dealing with at least one health condition: addiction, mental illness, physical disability, or a medical condition/illness.

A total of 746 respondents to a survey question regarding identity identified as Aboriginal, representing 34% of respondents to that question. Seniors aged 55 and over numbered 518, or 21% of those responding to the age question. Of those responding to the gender question, 628 were women and 1,688 men. The most prevalent source of income of survey respondents was Income Assistance (42%), followed by a disability benefit (28%). About 22% of those surveyed were employed part- or full-time.

The Homeless Count is held every three years and represents a conservative point-in-time snapshot of the homeless population over a 24-hour period in Metro Vancouver. The actual number could be three to four times higher. The count includes a brief anonymous survey with people who appear to be homeless and are willing to participate.

View the final report here: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/homelessness>

National Food Policy

At its September 22 meeting, the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board agreed to send a letter to the Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister providing support and recommendations for a national food policy.

The new national food policy is meant to identify how Canada can better ensure that local governments are aligned and equipped to support agriculture and food system resilience as well as to improve coordination and collaboration among government agencies.

Metro Vancouver's regional growth strategy (Metro 2040) and the Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan are two legislated plans that address key agriculture and food issues in the region. Additionally, the Regional Food System Action Plan, endorsed by the Metro Vancouver Board in April 2016, describes a collaborative approach to addressing agriculture and food issues through existing and new actions being implemented by local governments.

While significant local and regional actions are underway, there remain policy and program areas where federal leadership and intervention is necessary to support local efforts in maintaining a viable food system. Of particular interest are actions that enable a multi-level government approach to persistent problems, fill gaps that cannot be addressed at the local level, or are important for building resilience to climate change.

The National Zero Waste Council, of which Metro Vancouver is a founding member, introduced in 2016 a National Food Waste Reduction Strategy – a national, multi-year strategy to reduce food waste using policy change, innovation, and business and consumer engagement.

Metro Vancouver's recommendations pertain to four major themes: agricultural land preservation, water management, food waste reduction and local food economic development.

You can view the full recommendations in the attachment to item 1.3 in the September 22 Board agenda: http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/GVRD/RD_2017-Sep-22_AGE.pdf

Zero Waste Conference

Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Conference, to be held on November 1, will present important insights into how we can adapt and set the course for a circular economy in Canada, and will feature five key areas of innovation: plastics, textiles, food, circular cities and business innovation. In a circular economy, manufacturers consciously design products and packaging with sustainable materials that can be disassembled, repaired, reused and recycled.



This year's conference will have two keynote speakers.

Retired NASA astronaut Dr. Cady Coleman has seen planet Earth from a different perspective, having flown twice on the Space Shuttle and spent almost six months on the International Space Station. Now, inspired by her experience, Coleman is turning her attention to global challenges. Drawing on her work with LAUNCH.ORG and LAUNCH Nordic, Coleman will share her insights into a future where people from all over the world work together to accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

Tristram Stuart, a National Geographic “emerging explorer” and founder of Toast Ale -- a beer launched in the UK in 2016 that is made using fresh, surplus bread – is an international award-winning author, speaker, campaigner and expert on the environmental and social impacts of food waste. His environmental campaigning organization, Feedback, has spread its work into dozens of countries worldwide to change society's attitude towards wasting food.

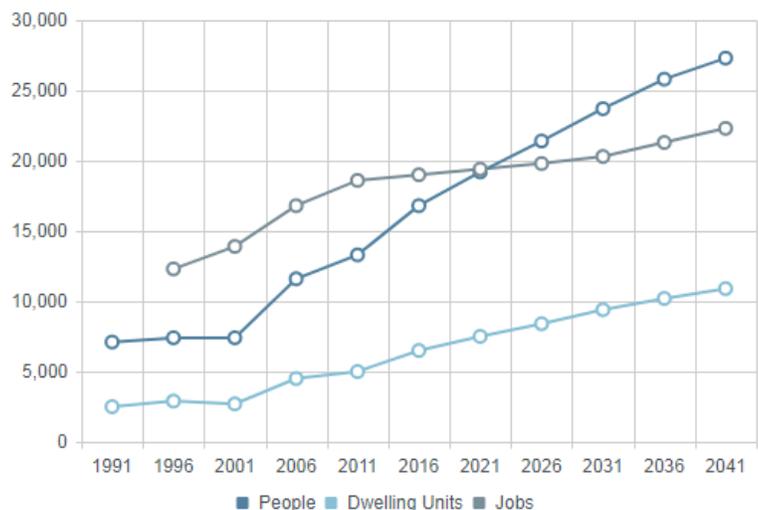
www.zwc.ca/ <http://www.rsvpbook.com/event.php?505687>

Metro 2040 Performance Monitoring Dashboard

The Metro 2040 Performance Monitoring Dashboard is an excellent resource to view data on the region and to get a sense of how well the region is achieving the goals set out in Metro 2040, the regional growth strategy.

The Data Dashboards contain numerous indicators and projections for the region, including population, number of jobs, and number of dwelling units. You can drill down to obtain lots of interesting data. The Data Dashboards show, for example, that Electoral Area A is expected to grow to 27,300 people, 22,300 jobs and 10,900 dwelling units by 2041, up from today's 17,300 people, 19,100 jobs and 6,700 homes.

Electoral Area A's growth projection



Another page you may find interesting shows regional land use designations: lands with an Agricultural, Conservation and Recreation, General Urban, Industrial, Mixed Employment or Rural designation.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/metro2040/>

Transportation and Public Transit

Mobility Pricing Independent Commission

As mentioned in my June Update, the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation and TransLink's Board of Directors announced the launch of the Mobility Pricing Independent Commission on June 6th.

The Commission's purpose is to make recommendations to the Mayors' Council and the TransLink Board on how to improve transportation pricing in Metro Vancouver, including the use of roads and bridges. It is being asked to evaluate mobility pricing options for Metro Vancouver based on the following objectives:

- **Reduce traffic congestion** on roads and bridges across the region, so people and goods can keep moving and businesses can thrive and be competitive.
- **Promote fairness** to address concerns around our long-standing approach to tolling some roads and bridges but not others.
- **Support transportation investment** to improve the current transportation system in Metro Vancouver for all users.

The Commission has commenced its work, and is to deliver its report and recommendations by Spring 2018. The Commission's [website](#) provides information on the Commission and on mobility pricing, including a set of FAQs. It also contains short biographies of Commission members.

Over the coming months, the Commission will be hosting engagement opportunities online and in person, seeking public feedback about mobility pricing options. If you would like to be notified of opportunities for public engagement, click on "Get Involved" on the Commission's website.

www.mobilitypricing.ca

Broadway Subway

Preliminary work on the Broadway subway is continuing. This extension of the Millennium Line – formally called the Millennium Line Broadway Extension – will run from the VCC-Clark station to Arbutus Street.

The preliminary work includes continuing design parameter development and geotechnical investigations, gathering input on design features and considerations, and starting the discussion regarding the construction phase and related management strategies.

TransLink has posted online a Project Update dated June 2017. You can obtain the Update and other information from [this page](#). For the Update, click on the link under Related Documents.

The Mayors' Council and TransLink continue their discussions with the provincial government regarding the remaining funding that must be lined up before the Broadway subway and other projects can be given the go-ahead. In particular, the source for the regional share of funding remains to be determined.

Assuming that all the funding is in place soon, it is anticipated that construction of the Broadway subway could start in late 2019 and that the subway will commence operations in 2025.

www.translink.ca/en/Plans-and-Projects/Rapid-Transit-Projects/Broadway-SkyTrain-Extension.aspx

Media

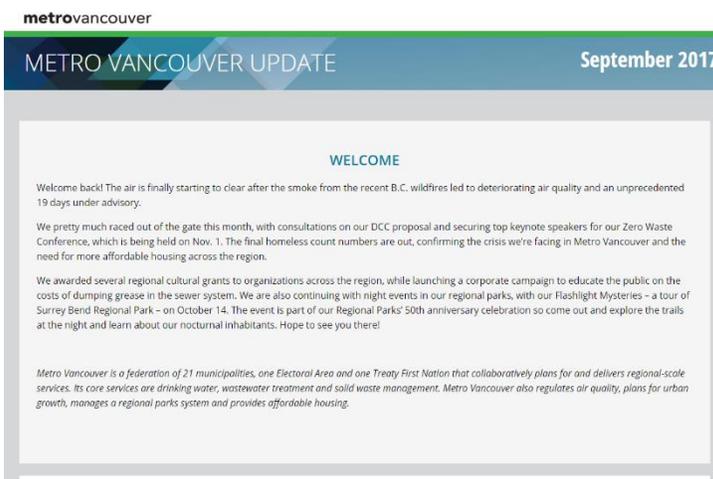
Metro Vancouver Close Up



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 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.metrovancover.org/metroudate/>



Links & Connections

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

www.metrovancover.org

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

www.mariaharris.ca

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

[www.twitter.com/EADirector](https://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

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

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

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

www.uelcommunity.com

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

www.metrovancover.org/media-room

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

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