

My Upcoming Meetings**Mayors' Council on Transportation**

Friday, September 20, 2019

Metro Vancouver Board

Friday, October 4, 2019

Electoral Area Committee

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Mayors Committee Meeting

Friday, October 11, 2019



Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/>**Director's Report**

I've always loved September for all the possibilities and new beginnings that the month brings. Living in the UBC/UEL area, the sense of excitement, new beginnings, and increased hustle are probably more noticeable than just about anywhere else in Metro Vancouver.

To all our new residents in the UBC/UEL area, welcome! I hope you enjoy living in the UBC/UEL area as much as I do. As your elected director for Metro Vancouver and Translink, this month is the start of a busy fall season. In addition to regular board and committee meetings, this month brings the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention, and next month, the Zero Waste Conference (see below for more information on the conference, as well as registration details). If you are not familiar with "Electoral Area A" and what I am responsible for, please see the blue sidebar.

I am spending as much time as I can meeting with various stakeholders and experts to better understand key issues that are facing our immediate area (UBC/UEL and the rest of Electoral Area A), as well as the region as a whole. The issues are complex, as are the various proposed solutions, and I am enjoying diving more deeply into decisions that I believe will impact the future of our region. A few such issues are: linking transportation improvements to affordable housing, climate action, and water

WHAT IS ELECTORAL AREA A?

Electoral Area A (EAA) is all the areas of Metro Vancouver that do not fall within a municipality. Approximately 98% of the population in EAA live in the University Endowment Lands (UEL) and UBC areas (including the University Neighbourhoods), i.e., the area west of Metro Vancouver's Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Other areas of EAA include rural communities on Barnston Island and on some portions of Pitt Lake, Howe Sound and Indian Arm.

Electoral Area A is represented by its Director at Metro Vancouver and the Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, which are the regional decision-making bodies for a number of key issues that impact our communities.

These include:

- Regional transportation (including the proposed SkyTrain extension to UBC)
- Regional land use planning
- Management of Regional Parks, including Pacific Spirit Regional Park in the UEL/UBC area and Roberts Point Rest Area and Mann Point on Barnston Island
- Affordable housing through Metro Vancouver Housing
- Drinking water, liquid waste management and air quality management

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at areaajen@gmail.com

treatment to ensure protection of our sensitive marine ecosystems.

At our last Metro Vancouver Board meeting (which was in July), I was delighted that we approved (1) more aggressive and targeted climate action goals by aligning our regional Climate 2050 plan with the IPCC 1.5 degrees report, and (2) more rigorous (tertiary) wastewater treatment for the new wastewater treatment plant being built on the North Shore.

I hope to continue to connect with more of my UBC and UEL neighbors. Please reach out to by email (areaajen@gmail.com), stop and chat if you see me walking or biking around the area, or invite me to events happening in the community.

Happy September!

Jen McCutcheon

Community Works Fund

In March 2018, the Metro Vancouver Board approved funding for two projects in the UBC/UNA and UEL communities through the Electoral Area A Community Works Fund. The Community Works Fund derives from the Federal Gas Tax Fund and is provided to local governments on the basis of population. These funds have now been distributed to UBC and UEL following the submission of project documentation.

In the UBC/UNA area, \$424,925 was allocated for pedestrian and cycling improvements to the Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard intersection. The first phase of construction underway will introduce new intersections for pedestrians that will shorten crossing and waiting times, as well as new bike lanes, and new dedicated bus lanes.

In the UEL, \$138,575 was approved for green infrastructure to mitigate stormwater impacts from climate change. Specifically, the funds were used to help fund three new stormwater collection and treatment systems (raingardens) along Toronto Road, Western Parkway at University Blvd, and Allison Road at Dalhousie Road.

The two projects were chosen through a consultation process with representatives of the UEL Community Advisory Council, UNA and UBC. In the coming months, Metro Vancouver and I will set up consultation meetings to look at future potential projects to be funded by the Community Works Fund.

Local Government Matters

Last month, Metro Vancouver launched **Local Government Matters**, a campaign to raise the profile of local issues ahead of the 2019 federal election. **LocalGovernmentMatters.ca** provides the four main federal political parties the opportunity to publicly clarify their platforms on critical issues facing the region – climate change, housing affordability and infrastructure funding.

Metro Vancouver sent seven key questions to the Liberal Party of Canada, the New Democratic Party of Canada, the Conservative Party of Canada and the Green Party of Canada, with a response deadline of September 20, 2019. Their answers will be posted on the Local Government Matters website in the weeks leading up to the federal election on October 21.

Questions include:

If elected, will your party commit to providing permanent, predictable, and sustainable funding sources for infrastructure projects to meet the needs of a growing population in Metro Vancouver?

If elected, will your party maintain and expand funding levels and priorities of the national housing strategy?

If elected, will your party commit to improving regulatory standards for air, marine and rail emissions to help Metro Vancouver and others fight against air pollution and climate change?

I encourage you to view all the questions at LocalGovernmentMatters.ca and to read the party responses when they are received and posted.

LocalGovernmentMatters.ca

Food Scraps Campaign

Metro Vancouver has launched an enhanced organics recycling campaign to further build on the region's waste diversion successes by reminding people, *Hey! Food Scraps Aren't Garbage.*

Since the implementation of the organics disposal ban in 2015, approximately 1.6 million tonnes of organics have been diverted from the landfill through 2018, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by over half a million tonnes. The organics recycling rate in Metro Vancouver went up 60% between 2013 and 2017, and currently stands at about 68%.

Nearly all single family and multi-family residences now have organics collection. While the program continues to be extremely successful, there is room for improvement, especially when it comes to reducing the amount of avoidable food waste such as fruits and vegetables thrown away, and also minimizing the amount of non-food waste put in green bins, particularly plastic items.

Plastic does not belong in green bins. Plastic bags, containers, produce stickers and cutlery, even those labeled 'biodegradable' or 'compostable' may not break down fully at compost processing facilities and can contaminate the finished compost. Read more about why you should never put plastic in the green [here](#).

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/food-scraps-recycling/residents/tips/plastics/>



Metro Vancouver's website includes new resources to help alleviate the confusion around composting, including a comprehensive list of what goes in the green bin (and what should stay out), tips to make green binning cleaner and more convenient.

[This page](#) has signage templates, instructional posters and other useful resources for improving composting and recycling in your building.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/food-scraps-recycling/residents/tools-resources/>

2022 Board Strategic Plan

Metro Vancouver has approved its [2019-2022 Board Strategic Plan](#), which includes key themes such as resiliency, climate action and innovation.

The Plan is the outcome of a workshop held in April that was attended by almost all Board members and provides strategic directions for each of the organization's functions. The workshop provided an opportunity for the Chair, Vice-Chair, and the Board to share ideas and insights as well as to clarify priorities for the next four years.

While I was not yet elected when the workshop was held, my alternate, Mike Feeley attended, and I have reviewed the Plan. I am excited about the deep commitment to important issues such as climate action and regional planning that focuses on affordability and livability.

The plan was informed by the long-term planning underway at Metro Vancouver that anticipates several factors, including a growing population, climate change, and the need to maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure. Specifically, the plan aims to help Metro Vancouver sufficiently maintain regional infrastructure so it's resilient to impacts from seismic events, natural disasters and the effects of climate change while leveraging opportunities within our operations for energy, resource recovery, and greenhouse gas reduction. Other important themes in the Board Strategic Plan are a commitment to long-term financial planning, the value of collaboration, leadership on climate action and the importance of innovation.

The 2019-2022 Board Strategic Plan will provide guidance to Metro Vancouver staff in their work and planning over the Board's mandate.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/about/aboutuspublications/BoardStrategicPlan2019-2022.pdf>

TransLink Mayors Council Update

Arbutus to UBC Skytrain Update

As described in my previous report, in February 2019 the Mayors' Council directed Translink to advance a SkyTrain Millennium Line Extension from Arbutus Street to UBC to the next stage of project development, including an assessment of alternative concept designs and preliminary and business case inputs. This decision triggered commencement of Arbutus to UBC Skytrain Design Development and Preliminary Cost-Benefit Estimate

Work. The project will begin with an assessment of alignment options and stakeholder engagement. It is anticipated that early work from this process can be included as an input into development of Transport 2050. You can learn more about this project in the July Mayors' Council Public Agenda [here](#)

TransLink awarded Transit System of the Year

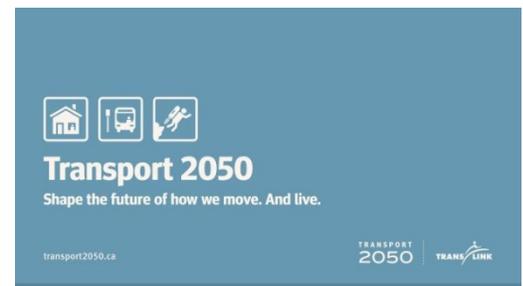
In July, TransLink was awarded the 2019 Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). You can learn more in this [open letter](#) from TransLink's CEO, Kevin Desmond!

Transport 2050

Have you seen TransLink's posts on social media or the dark pastel-tinted posters around your neighbourhood transit hubs with 'Transport2050'? This is TransLink's largest campaign to engage the community of those who live and work in Metro Vancouver on what they want public transportation to look like in thirty years.

Through marketing, engagement, communications, a special event focus at the PNE, and an intergovernmental forum Translink has been gathering ideas about the future of transportation in our region. By late August more than 26,000 surveys had been completed by participants within Metro Vancouver and beyond, and an online ideas board has received more than 2,000 ideas to date.

Learn more about Transport2050 in the latest [Mayors' Council public agenda](#)



Charging ahead into transit's next frontier: battery-electric buses



Translink has set an ambitious goal: a bus fleet that's powered with 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050. Already, more than half of TransLink's fleet is now operating on clean energy, including compressed natural gas and hybrid diesel-electric buses, as well as zero-emission trolleybuses. On September 11, Translink launched its Battery Electric Bus Pilot. **The first stage of the pilot was the roll out of two electric buses on 100 Marpole Loop/22nd Street Station.** Two more electric buses will be rolled out before October 1.

You can watch Translink's live media event at VTC [here](#). The project

is a pan-Canadian partnership involving multiple partners: **Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC)**, Natural Resources Canada, and BC Hydro.

<https://buzzer.translink.ca/2019/09/charging-ahead-into-transits-next-frontier-battery-electric-buses/>

UBC Bus Exchange Upgrades



If you've been in the neighbourhood of UBC Exchange as of late, you'll likely have noticed some big changes. TransLink and the University of British Columbia joined forces to deliver a massive overhaul of this vital transit exchange that serves not only the students, but also the growing community of the University Endowment Lands.

The upgraded UBC Exchange is conveniently located near the new student Exchange Residences and Aquatics Centre, with improved safety and comfort for customers.

[Find out more here](https://buzzer.translink.ca/2019/09/welcome-to-your-new-ubc-exchange/) (https://buzzer.translink.ca/2019/09/welcome-to-your-new-ubc-exchange/)

2019 Zero Waste Conference

Excitement is building for the **2019 Zero Waste Conference: A Future Without Waste: Mobilizing for Success in the Circular Economy**. The annual conference attracts thought leaders from around the world, highlighting circular economy success stories, waste prevention innovations, and local and global perspectives. I look forward to attending, and hope that some of you will be interested in attending as well.

The conference is your guide to the people, ideas and actions that are having the biggest impact as the shift to waste prevention and the transition to a circular economy continues to gain momentum. The two day-conference features five keynote speakers, each with inspiring experience and perspective.

- **Harald Friedl – CEO, Circle Economy:** On the heels of the Circularity Gap Report 2019, Friedl argues the Circular Economy is essential if we are to tip the balance in battle against climate change.
- **Tom Szaky – Founder & CEO of Terracycle & Loop:** Szaky is a leader in “recycling the unrecyclable” and works directly with brands and consumers to set up bespoke reuse and recycling services.
- **Arthur Huang – Founder & CEO of Miniwiz:** This upcycling pioneer has developed a portable, solar-powered recycling platform that turns plastic into new products in only ten minutes.
- **Skylar Tibbits – Founder, Self-Assembly Lab at MIT:** Hear about the cutting-edge research that may lead to buildings, products and machines capable of self-assembly, self-repair and replication.
- **Valerie Craig – Deputy to the Chief Scientist & Vice President of Operating Programs, National Geographic Society:** Craig's presentation focuses on the issue of ocean plastics – and what can potentially be done to address it.

2019 Zero Waste Conference: Mobilizing for Success in the Circular Economy.

October 30 - 31, 2019, Vancouver Convention Centre East - 999 Canada Place, Vancouver

[Information and Registration](http://www.zwc.ca/)

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

Events

Forest Bathing at Pacific Spirit Regional Park

September 19, 2019, Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Step into nature, take a deep breath of fresh forest air and let your body relax. Awaken your senses and experience the Japanese practice of forest bathing in this urban park oasis.

Registration required. Call 604-432-6359 and use barcode 7838. \$8.50 per adult; \$4.50 per adult 65+

Media



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

www.metrovancover.org

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

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

Jen McCutcheon's Website

www.areaajen.ca

Jen McCutcheon's Twitter

www.twitter.com/jmcc2

Jen McCutcheon's Facebook

www.facebook.com/AreaAJen

Union of BC Municipalities

www.ubcm.ca

University Neighbourhoods Association

www.myuna.ca

University Endowment Lands Administration

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

UEL Community Advisory Council

www.uelcommunity.com

Metro Vancouver Media Releases

www.metrovancover.org/media-room

Metro Vancouver Videos

www.metrovancover.org/media-room/video-gallery

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