



My Upcoming Meetings

Climate Action Committee

Friday, November 15, 2019

MVRD Board (Inaugural)

Friday, November 29, 2019

FVRL Library Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

TransLink Mayors' Council

Thursday, November 28, 2019



Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes

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Director's Report

Hello UBC and UEL neighbours,

I am excited to let you know that I have been appointed to **Metro Vancouver's Climate Action Committee**. This standing committee, chaired by Councillor Adriane Carr of the City of Vancouver, includes a number of fellow elected officials who are concerned about our climate and environment, and who are committed to our region achieving the [IPCC targets](#) of zero net emissions by 2050. For me personally, being able to contribute to protecting our environment and helping our society move away from our dependency on fossil fuels was one of the drivers for me running for the position of Electoral Area A Director. I am grateful to have a voice on these issues on the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors, the TransLink's Mayor's Council, and now the Climate Action Committee. You can follow the work of this committee on the [Agendas and Minutes](#) section of Metro Vancouver's website.



Speaking of our environment, I was fortunate to attend this year's **Zero Waste Conference**. One of the main concepts discussed was something that was new to me: the circular economy. The idea being that in our current, linear economy, products are made, used, and then thrown away. However, as one speaker stated, there is no such thing as "throwing something away." Everything we throw 'out' or even recycle still needs to be dealt with at a significant cost – both financially and in terms of fossil fuels used. In contrast, a circular economy is aimed at continual use and reuse of resources, thereby eliminating waste. The conference speakers presented a number of new innovations on the horizon to address various aspects of waste reduction.

More important than all the technological changes however, is a significant behaviour change by each of us. This means rethinking each of our purchases – is this something we need to purchase? Is there a rental or used option? What are the eco-friendly and less plastic-dependent alternatives? As was mentioned at the conference, each item we chose to buy (or not to buy) sends a message to producers to make more or less of that product. It may feel like your individual decision in the grocery store doesn't matter, but it does, as does that of your neighbours.

Sometimes the "reduce-reuse-recycle" motto is shown as a circle, but it is actually a hierarchy, with reducing and reusing being far superior to recycling (which of course, is much better than throwing something in the garbage).

ELECTORAL AREA A Director's Update

From **Jen McCutcheon**, Director, Electoral Area

NOVEMBER
2019

As we move into the holiday season, this is a great time to challenge you and your family to make as many small (or big!!) changes as you can to consume less (less waste, less plastics, less stuff ... just less!). If you are interested in finding out more about what was presented and discussed at the conference, [you can do so here](#), or I am happy to chat more about it – just send me an email.

For a number of residents, the ongoing strike of the employees of Coast Mountain Bus Company is of great concern. The Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation is watching the situation between Unifor and the Coast Mountain Bus Company carefully, in hopes of reaching a fair and reasonable agreement as quickly as possible. TransLink, which oversees Coast Mountain Bus Company, as well as Skytrain and other regional transportation services, has seen unprecedented ridership growth in the past few years – a 20% increase in ridership since 2016 – and is working to secure the additional funding needed to complete the Mayors' 10 Year Vision. This includes addressing overcrowding on many bus routes to UBC and extending the Skytrain from Arbutus to UBC.

Naturally, the majority of the focus in these monthly reports is on activities related to work being done at Metro Vancouver and TransLink, since these are the areas of my local responsibility. However, I'd love to add any additional community information that would be of interest to our UEL/UNA/UBC residents. If you have information you would like me to share in a monthly report, please email me.

Finally, if you are reading this update on my website, and would prefer to receive monthly updates directly in your inbox, please email me at areaajen@gmail.com.

All the best,

Jen McCutcheon

<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

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



When you attend a Zero Waste conference on Halloween, sometimes you end up dressing up as our oceans' future – one option full of plastic, and the other full of marine life ☺

MVRD 2020 Budget

At the November 1, 2019 meeting, the Metro Vancouver Board approved the 2020 annual budget of \$890.1 million, which is necessary to build, maintain and upgrade the infrastructure required to ensure the region meets federal and provincial regulations and has the resiliency and capacity to serve our growing population of 2.5 million residents. The 2020 budget breakdown is as follows: \$498 million for operating programs, \$135 million for debt servicing on capital investments and a \$257.1 million contribution to capital.



In 2020, the average household will pay an additional \$33 (5.9%) for all Metro Vancouver services for an annual total of \$568. The increase will be used for crucial upgrades to our water, liquid and solid waste infrastructure along with improvements to air quality, affordable housing and regional parks services that will benefit all residents of our region.

The Board also endorsed the Five-Year Financial Plan (2020-2024), which is indicative of future annual budgets and long-term financial plans with respect to anticipated capital projects, expenditures and funding projections of the regional district's four legal entities.

Projected capital investments over the five years total \$6.3 billion, and focus on utility system upgrades and major capital projects that are necessary to make infrastructure more resilient to an earthquake, to accommodate future population growth, and to meet federal requirements for upgrades to wastewater treatment plants.

Water Services, for instance, has \$2.4 billion in capital investments planned over the next five years, focused primarily on responding to growth, improving resiliency and ensuring maintenance of critical drinking water infrastructure. Metro Vancouver is encouraging water metering across the region as a way to conserve water both through decreased use, and through better identification of leaks in the system. I am happy to report that both the UEL and UBC already participate in water metering.

The Board also endorsed The Five-Year Financial Plan (2020-2024) which is indicative of future annual budgets and long-term financial plans with respect to anticipated capital projects, expenditures and funding projections of the regional district's four legal entities. Over the five-year period, the cost to the average regional household is currently projected to increase an average of \$46 per year.

Regional Parks Land Acquisition & Development Fund

Metro Vancouver's Regional Parks continue to grow in popularity, with visitor numbers increasing at an average rate of 3.9 percent per year – twice as fast as the population.



The increasing demand means existing parks are often at capacity during peak times, prompting Metro Vancouver in 2018 to adopt a Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy, which explores options for acquiring new parkland to further develop the Regional Parks system to meet increasing demand and to protect sensitive ecosystems.

In the past five years, more than 1,600 hectares of sensitive ecosystems have been lost across the region – the equivalent of four Stanley Parks. Metro Vancouver has identified 1,286 hectares of land for potential Regional parks and greenways but given the competitive property market,



it estimates it will need additional funding over the current allocated \$7.6 million annually to buy and develop this land over the next 30 years.

The recently-approved 2020 budget includes a new tax requisition that will see an additional \$4 million added to the Regional Park Land Acquisition Reserve Fund, in order to further develop the Regional Parks system. This requisition will result in an approximate additional household impact of about \$4 per year.

This funding is intended to accelerate parkland purchases and development for the future enjoyment and conservation before land is redeveloped for other purposes.

Metro Vancouver will continue to explore other funding options such as grant programs, partnering with non-governmental organizations and member jurisdictions, as well as fundraising.

In the past 50 years, the Regional Parks system has grown from 3,835 hectares to an estimated 13,557 hectares of parkland, with 22 regional parks, five greenways, two ecological conservancy areas and three regional park reserves in communities from Bowen Island to Maple Ridge. About 9,644 hectares, or 68 percent of those lands, are classified as sensitive ecosystems in the regional Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory.

Zero Waste Conference

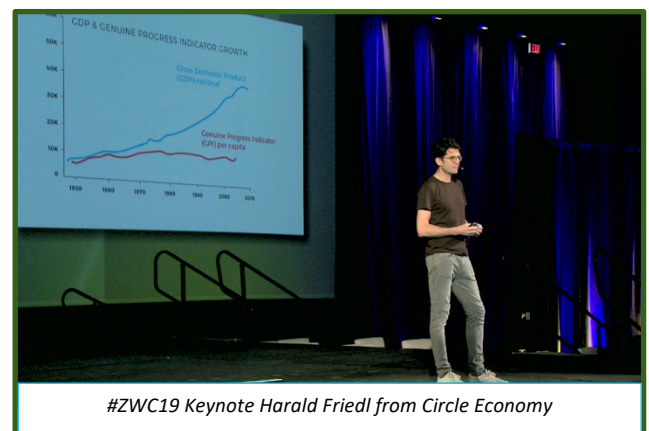
Metro Vancouver's Ninth Annual Zero Waste Conference took place on October 30 and 31, 2019. As you read in my introduction, I was fortunate to be able to attend this year's conference and learned a great deal from it.

With the conference theme of "Mobilizing for Success in the Circular Economy," the conference attracted over 500 attendees representing governments, businesses, industry associations, academic institutions, activists and more.

Conference attendees heard about innovative technologies, proven and novel circular business models, and learned the latest lore on everything from the influence of packaging on food waste, to national and global efforts to reduce the negative impacts of plastic waste. Speakers and conference participants grappled with big questions that probed our society's fundamental relationship with plastics and the systemic biases that are barriers to a thriving Circular Economy in Canada.

All of the presentations from the conference will be available on the official website in the coming weeks. But in the meantime, you can run a Twitter search for the conference hashtag ([#ZWC19](https://twitter.com/ZWC19)) to get a taste of the discussions and insights from the conference.

www.zwc.ca





Council of Councils

Metro Vancouver hosted its fall Council of Councils on October 26, 2019 at the City of Surrey's Civic Hotel. The event featured an overview of Metro Vancouver's draft Budget for 2020, as well as updates on the Regional Parks Land Acquisition Strategy, Metro Vancouver's 10-Year Housing Plan, the Regional Economic Prosperity Service, Climate 2050, Metro 2050 and other important issues. TransLink also provided an update on Transportation 2050.

Metro Vancouver Monitors Viruses in Wastewater

Metro Vancouver has partnered with the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) to assess the fate of viruses in its Liquid Waste Services system and the potential risks associated with wastewater discharges.

Viral enteric pathogens are responsible for a wide range of infections, resulting in various symptoms for humans, and include viruses such as norovirus and rotavirus.



Current monitoring techniques mostly use surrogates or indicators of fecal contamination, such as E. coli, in the wastewater treatment plants and the environment. However, their link to human disease is not necessarily direct and the risk to human health may be over- or underestimated.

The work, conducted by BCCDC's Dr. Natalie Prystajek and her team, employs a molecular technique called real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction and focuses on viruses that directly cause disease, with the intent to better understand the sources and associated risks. The results of this research are expected to provide Metro Vancouver with a more accurate understanding of the fate of viruses throughout the wastewater treatment and disinfection process.

Understanding what is going into the wastewater treatment system may also provide the BCCDC with an early warning system for viral outbreaks that may be occurring in the community.

Clean Air Plan



Metro Vancouver is developing its next Clean Air Plan aimed at reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and air contaminants in the region over the next 10 years. As a member of the Metro Vancouver Climate Action Committee, I am excited to be able to contribute to this plan, and to help push our region to meet the aggressive but necessary IPCC greenhouse gas emission targets.

The Clean Air Plan is a near-term action plan that will launch in conjunction with Climate 2050, a 30-year strategy to help the region become carbon neutral and resilient.



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The Plan will be organized around seven issue areas, with feedback from the public, stakeholders and other orders of government, including First Nations, to take place in two phases during 2019 and 2020. The feedback will consider the goals, targets and actions to help protect human health and the environment and avoid dangerous levels of climate change.

The Plan is the fourth air quality and greenhouse gas management plan, following others in 1994, 2005 and, most recently, the Integrated Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (IAQGGMP) in 2011. The Clean Air Plan, will build on the 2011 plan and identify opportunities for accelerated emissions reductions, including greenhouse gas emission reduction actions.

Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation Updates

While the ongoing Transit strike is occupying much of the TransLink news, there are other activities going on.

Record-high 31,682 responses for Transport 2050 Phase One engagement: The first phase of Transport 2050 engagement with Metro Vancouver's residents is complete. Translink reached 159,000 people and received 31,682 responses. In addition, residents submitted over 4,000 ideas on the future of transportation.

The full Phase One report will be released later in November, and the phase two engagement will begin in Spring 2020. [Click here to learn more.](#)

TransLink is proposing two new bus routes serving North Vancouver, Vancouver and Burnaby. These new routes are:

- **Phibbs Exchange to Metrotown Exchange** – A proposed limited-stop express service that would connect North Vancouver to Skytrain and destinations including Brentwood Station and BCIT
- **River District** – A proposed service that would run between Metrotown Station and the East Fraser Lands (River District)



Find out more about these proposed routes [here](#).

<https://buzzer.translink.ca/2019/11/record-high-31682-responses-for-transport-2050-phase-one-engagement/#more-57798>

<https://buzzer.translink.ca/2019/10/translink-proposes-two-new-major-bus-routes/#more-57683>

Media

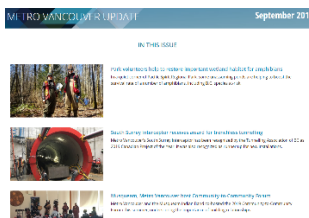


Metro Vancouver Close Up shows how municipalities and community groups are promoting sustainability and shared regional goals. New videos are posted each month. To see sustainability stories about Metro Vancouver, you can search "Metro Vancouver Close Up" at metrovancover.org or follow metrovancoverblog.org.



For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates

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



Links & Connections

Metro Vancouver

www.metrovancouver.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/jcmcc2

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

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