

Great Treks

Fall Semester 1998

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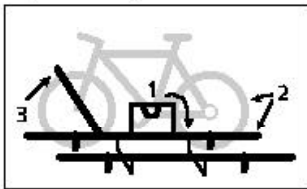
UBC's Commuting Newsletter

Committed to providing reasonable commuting alternatives to the Single Occupant Vehicle

BC Transit Enhances 99 B-Line

When BC Transit's 99 B-Line service went into operation in September 1996, the hope was that the new service would become a quick, efficient option for Broadway corridor commuters. The B-Line exceeded all projections in customer satisfaction and ridership. An astounding average of 12,000 riders use the service each day, that's 30% higher than projected. Possibly the most impressive B-Line achievement is that 20% of its riders formerly drove their private automobiles, a clear indication that people will choose transit if the services are fast and frequent.

HOW TO LOAD YOUR BICYCLE (Adult or full-sized bicycles only)



Remove child carriers, panniers and other luggage before bus arrives

- Alert operator of your intention to load your bike, then lower the bike rack by pulling on handle 1
- Lift your bike onto rack 2
- Lift the support arm up and over the front tire 3
- Sit at the front and keep an eye on your bike
- When leaving the bus, please advise the operator that you need to remove your bike - leave from the front door
- Raise the rack to the upright position

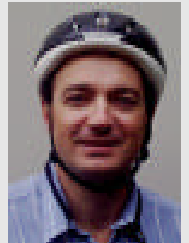
The user is responsible for properly loading and unloading the bicycle. BC Transit will not be liable for any property damage or bodily injury caused by the loading and unloading of the rack.

BC Transit is bringing further enhancements to B-Line. A new, distinctive fleet of 60 foot, low-floor, articulated buses have been dedicated to this route. B-Line service westbound from Broadway Station to UBC is now available every 3 to 4 minutes at the height of the morning rush hour, and every 7 to 8 minutes at other times of the day. There is now 15 minute service from Brentwood Mall, every 12 minutes from Lougheed Mall during peak hours and every 30 minutes at other times. Evening hours have been extended eastbound, the last bus now leaves UBC at 12:20 am, so you can still take B-Line after those late night cram-sessions. By popular demand, B-Line will operate on Sundays and holidays as well.

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Welcome back! How'd you get here?

The TREK Program Centre is here to help make your commute safer, healthier, less costly, more relaxing and less polluting. Under the Official Community Plan approved in 1997, UBC has committed to reduce everyone's reliance on driving alone to/from/across the campus by 20% through improved alternatives - transit, car/van pooling, bicycles, walking, telecommuting, on-campus housing. If driving alone five days per week, this might involve switching one day per week to an alternative mode of travel. UBC TREK surveys have confirmed that transportation (and parking!) is a major issue at UBC. There is a great latent demand at UBC to do the right (i.e. green) thing. It's no longer a matter of why should we, it's how - what are the reasonable alternatives. Check out the articles on how much money you can save on alternate forms of transportation. If you are fed up with the commute and want to cut down on vehicle intrusion at UBC- get involved. If driving alone five days a week, switch one day per week to a "greener" mode of travel. If we all do our part we'll hit the 20% target and benefit from a cleaner, greener campus! Contact us anytime at 827-8735. Good luck with your studies and/or work at UBC.



Gord Lovegrove

Gordon Lovegrove

UBC's Director of Transportation Planning



Bike racks, half funded by the Alma Mater Society of UBC, have been added to the entire new B-Line fleet. All B-line stops are designated as loading/unloading stops. The Bike and Ride program is part of an initiative towards a more multi-modal transit system, aimed at providing a network of sustainable transportation options. The rack is durable, simple to use, and safely carries two bikes. Cyclists must remove panniers from the bike, sit near the front of the bus to watch over their bike, and indicate to the operator their desired stop.



The New B-Line!

Also in the B-Line plans this fall are sidewalk and shelter improvements at B-Line stops as well as an improved terminus at Lougheed Mall. An additional stop has been added at 10th and Sasamat. Total stops is now fifteen. B-Line schedules are available at the UBC Trek Centre #207 - 2210 West Mall 827-TREK (8735) and at www.bctransit.com.

New Vanpool Setup 'Looking Good'

If you've spent any time at UBC, you've probably seen these vans buzzing to and from campus. This seven year old program, which got its start at UBC, is about to get a face lift.

As it is now, a vanpool is a group of 6-8 people who all live in the same area and travel to and from UBC at the same times. Under this system the riders bear the full brunt of the cost of the van. Currently the cost to the riders is about \$100 per month. While the vanpool fares



Aran Cameron would prefer to be run over by a Vanpool than by any other mode of Alternative Transportation

are reasonable, a lower monthly fare would encourage more commuters to join a vanpool. So how can we cut the costs of vanpooling? Aran Cameron, UBC's rideshare specialist, on loan from the Jack Bell Foundation, claims that "one of the problems with Vanpool groups is that they are essentially charged fixed costs such as, insurance and loans even when the van is parked while they are at work." The answer is vehicle sharing. The van, normally idle between 8:00am and 3:00pm, can be put to use during the day. By sharing their vans with UBC's Plant Operations they will be able to cut the fixed costs in half. "This translates into huge savings for the commuter! Also people can now start Vanpools with as few as four, with each additional person bringing the monthly rates down. This gives the Vanpool groups some incentive to keep their Vans fully occupied."

"This translates into huge savings for the commuter!"

While this sounds good, there are some catches. The Vans must be left at the USB (Plant Ops) and users will not have access during the day unless they book through the Tool Crib at Plantops. Also, vans with empty seats will be referred riders for occasional rides. While our new option has more restrictions it's nice to see that Vanpooling is evolving and offering more than the one program. Because it is generally staff that uses the Vanpools, Aran is also working with the AMS to get more students involved in Vanpooling.

If you want start your own vanpool, contact Aran Cameron; at 827-RIDE(7433) or 341-RIDE(7433), by email at cameron@cpd.ubc.ca, stop by the office at #207 - 2210 West Mall. Free carpool registration is at www.trek.ubc.ca



The Trek Centre's Partnership List

Acadia Tnts Assn 822-3172	MoTH 660-2290
Alma Mater Society 822-2901	Outlying Comm. (Call Trek Cntr)
AMS Bike Coop 82-SPEED	Student Env Centre 822-8676
BC Transit 521-0400	Transport 2000 681-3192
B.E.S.T. 669-2869	UEL 660-1808
Coop Auto Ntwrk 685-1393	UBC Plant Operations 822-2172
GVRD 432-6200	UBC Trek Centre 827-TREK
GSS 822-3203	UBC Waste Mgmt 822-3827
Jack Bell Fdn/UBC 827-7433	West Coast Express 689-3641

Strategic Transportation Plan, Get Involved!

The high quality of campus life that contributes to UBC as a leading Canadian academic and research institution, is built upon access to the best students, faculty, and staff in the world. To enshrine that quality, UBC has committed, under the Official Commu-

You are a stakeholder! Be heard!

nity Plan process, to look at where their people live and how they will continue to get to, from, and across the campus. As Kyoto 1997 told us, we all must act now to avoid acute health and safety problems (i.e. air pollution, global warming). Continuing to drive by ourselves on increasingly congested roads is not sustainable - for either UBC or GVRD communities. Hence, UBC has set a target of reducing Single Occupant Vehicle (SOV) use by 20% by 2003. UBC's quality of life is being threatened by overcrowded or non-existent transit services, limited car/van pool programs, lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and campus sprawl. The UBC Strategic Transportation Plan stakeholder consultation process is intended to help UBC decide how to meet its 20% SOV trip reduction target, while addressing these threats and facilitating reasonable SOV alternatives. You are a stakeholder - get involved!



The Trek Team: Rob the Ham, Ted "wou wou" Buehler, Manic Michelle, TJ "Research Day" Mackay, Gord "Grover" Lovegrove, and Ride-sharin' Aran

There are many opportunities: public forums, user groups, advisory committees, TREK Program web site and e-mail access, special events - check them out! We plan to make final recommendations on a UBC STP in Spring 1999 to a second series of public meetings and, finally, to the UBC Board of Governors by Summer 1999. Stay tuned!

Real Suggestions from Real People

You could WIN one of many prizes. We have lots of PRIZES. Email us your suggestions at trek@ubc.ca or call us at 827-TREK

-Suggestion: Have a "Bike to School" day or week.

TREK Response: Great! But why not Trek to UBC Day including bus, bike, walk, telecommute and car and vanpool? We just had one on June 3rd it was a huge success.

-Suggestion: Increase parking on campus to \$5 per day. Currently, B-lot is 50% less than taking BC Transit.

TREK Response: Parking is a critical element in an overall Strategic Transportation Plan, but we must also ensure that transit, car/van pool, and bicycle alternatives are improved. The parking fee was increased in May up to \$3 per day in order to make it equivalent to transit fare to and from UBC.

-Suggestion: For cyclists continuing straight on 16th approaching Wesbrook/16th, or straight on East Mall approaching East Mall/16th there should be dashed paint lines across the turning lanes to warn motorists that they are crossing a bike route.

Agency Response: MoTH: Agreed. We have permission to go ahead.

TREK Response: It will be completed at the end of September 1998.

-Suggestion: Put an HOV lane on 41st, West of West Blvd.

Agency Response: The City of Vancouver supports it, but it may be up to 7 years away before it is installed.

TREK Response: We also support it, but why 7 years away? Any high occupancy vehicles, like Vanpools, Transit and Carpools should have the privilege of a fast commute.

Keep Sending Us Your Great Suggestions

Lack of Bike Facilities BUG You? Standing Room Only Busses TUG You The Wrong Way? Rigid Nature Of Van/ Carpooling ever PUG You?

Get involved in our Bicycle (BUG), Pool (PUG), or Transit (TUG) User Groups. As we implement UBC's Strategic Transportation Plan, we'll need quick input and feedback on planning and operational matters related to continued improvement of SOV alternatives. These User Groups will be structured to reflect UBC gender, geographic, and student/staff/faculty classifications. To volunteer, send us your name, work and home address, classification and usual commute mode.

Not So Fun Facts

-Despite a small population (0.5% of the world), Canada is responsible for 2% of global greenhouse emissions

-It is estimated that as many as 40% of children in Langley have Asthma, a doubling since 1989

-Canadians pay some of the lowest gas prices: 50c/litre compared with \$1.50 in Norway, \$1.10 in France, and more than \$3 in Japan

-Parking charges reduce commute trips by 8-18%, and when financial support for alternative modes is matched with parking charges, reductions can approach 50%

-Studies have found an 8.3% increase in the death rate on poor air quality days

-A car costs about \$700/month, bikes are \$23/month, Transit is \$54 to \$103/month, Vanpooling is about \$100/month, walking is \$12/month, and telecommuting is about \$83/month



Transit Board

FasTrax- The FasTrax strip is available to all full-time UBC students. Simply pick up the FasTrax strip at the Student Union office and attach it to your student ID card. You may be charged a small fee (around \$2.00) for the FasTrax strip. When combined with your One Zone monthly FareCard, the FasTrax strip allows you to travel all day, any day throughout BC Transit's system (one, two or three zones) for the price of One Zone.

EPP- If you are on the UBC payroll you could receive a 15% discount on monthly Transit passes. You pay for the pass through payroll deduction.

BC Transit Website- BC Transit's new website is extraordinary. You can get specific route information on line anytime! www.bctransit.com

For info on these programs call 827-TREK(8735) or see our website at www.trek.ubc.ca

AMS Bike Coop Peddles the Way for Green UBC

UBC could be more bike friendly. There are few bike repair facilities available should you encounter any mechanical problems en route, the University Boulevard bike route is narrow and rough, and other routes are circuitous. But these things will soon change. The forming of the AMS Bike Co-op, earlier this year, will make the campus more bike friendly, and make bikes more campus-friendly. The co-op has four goals:

- * Provide public bikes for those who spend time on campus
- * Provide mechanic training and shop facilities co-op members
- * Provide commercial bike repair services for the university community
- * Advocate bicycling issues/safety improvements to campus bike routes

The Co-op, a product of the Trek Program and the school of Landscape Architecture, will provide better bike access on campus. The Dean of Agricultural Sciences, Moura Quayle and Landscape Architecture students launched the idea. The Co-op is run by Planning Student Ted Buehler and volunteers from various parts of campus.

Co-op members meet every Tuesday evening to work on public bikes, learn new mechanical skills, and tune up their personal bikes. To date they have rebuilt 25 bikes for use by anyone who wants to join the Co-op. Bikes are locked with a same-keyed padlock system, any member can use any bike. The bikes are easily recognized by the purple and yellow paint scheme, applied in a way to make them attractive, yet tacky enough to discourage theft.

Future plans include mechanic training courses, bike safety courses, opening a retail/commercial repair shop in the SUB or other central campus location, and expanding the public bike fleet.

The Co-op is actively seeking new members and donations of bikes, tools, and supplies. See us at our Tuesday night work parties at 2613 West Mall, call us at 82-SPEED (827-7333), email us at bikecoop@interchange.ubc.ca or visit our web page at www.trek.ubc.ca/bikecoop

Ted Buehler
wants your
old bike!



Ted "wou wou" Buehler's Day Off



"Tool Crib" Steve

Want to help improve the UBC environment by taking alternative transportation but need your car during the day? We have a solution! The UBC Trek Centre has Jack Bell Foundation vans for use on campus for any student, faculty, or staff member. Book either of these natural gas powered vehicles from Steve at the UBC Tool Crib 822-1341. If you have questions or would like to hear our fabulous rates call Aran at 827-RIDE(7433).

Trek Events & Dates to Remember

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sept 8	Imagine '98	Main Library
Sept 17	GGC Workshop	TBA
Sept 18	Welcome Back B-BQ	MacInnes Field
Sept 24	Trek Public Forum	Bus Loop
Sept 30	Clean Air Day	SUB

Later Public Forums and transportation fairs do not yet have set dates. Keep in touch via the website at www.trek.ubc.ca