

We Ride Transit: Public Consultation Guide

The following guide outlines the consultation schedule of events, the process for participation, and a deliberative dialogue format for a series of public consultations on transit.

These consultations are organized by the Canadian Federation of Students in partnership with Students' Unions, regional transport authorities, community and other non-governmental organizations.

This version of the guide is designed for screen viewing only. If you would like a copy suitable for printing, or for up to date information about the consultations, visit www.weridetransit.ca

Written by Marco DeLuca
Canadian Federation of Students
250 - 1385 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V9
Email: weridetransit@cfs.bc.ca
Phone: 604.733.1852
Fax: 604.733.1852

Published Nov 13, 2007



We Ride Transit: Consultation

October 2007 - January 2008



**Transit Consultations
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Fax: 604.733.1852

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We Ride is an initiative of the Canadian Federation of Students. We are a community of concerned riders calling on those in power to improve our system of public transit in BC.

**WE RIDE.
AND WE'RE CALLING FOR CHANGE.**



We Ride Transit: Consultation Guide

Four ways to Participate.

- **Submit your transit stories online**
- **Record personal audio or video messages**
- **Read a statement at a consultation**
- **Participate in a deliberative dialogue**

The Canadian Federation of Students is hosting a series of Public Consultations to listen to your stories, views and opinions on transit issues in Metro Vancouver.

Responses from this process facilitate the exchange of information between transit riders and decision makers, improving our ability to collaborate, make choices and promote effective action.

Your opinion matters.



CONSULTATIONS ON TRANSIT TRANSIT

Consultations Schedule of Events

NOV 01: **Vancouver Community College** 11:00am - 12:45pm **Broadway Campus Cafeteria** ✓

NOV 14: **Simon Fraser University** 2pm - 4pm **Burnaby, Maggie Benson room 2296**

NOV 22: **Simon Fraser University** 1pm - 4pm **Surrey Campus TBA**

TBA: **Capilano College** details TBA

NOV 29: **Douglas College** 11:30AM - 2PM **Student Union Lounge**

JAN 19: **Nanaimo** Province wide student leaders consultation

DEC 05: **Kwantlen University College** Time & room TBA

JAN 28: **Emily Carr Institute of Technology and Design** 1pm - 4pm room# TBA

Written Statements | Open Mic | Deliberative Dialogue

Please Have Opinions Ready and Join Us for Consultation & Dialogue.

www.weridetransit.ca

Four ways to Participate.

Written Stories |

Go online to www.weridetransit.ca and send us your thoughts, questions, experiences, or concerns you've had about transit.

Audio & Video Submissions |

We are setting up audio and Video recording stations on campuses across Vancouver. Or be creative! Use your cell phone to record a personal statement and submit it to us via email:

weridetransit@cfs.bc.ca

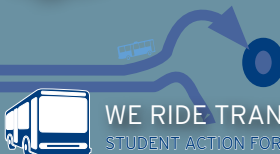
Prepared Statements |

Join us at one of the Consultations featuring keynote speakers, moderators, students, transit riders and transport authorities to read your statements out loud. You can come prepared with something to say, jump up to an open mic if something comes to mind, or just come to listen.

Deliberative Dialogue |

Join us in a deliberative dialogue on transit - where we bring together individuals from a variety of backgrounds with different view points to examine different approaches to improving transit.

Read more about that on the next page.



WE RIDE TRANSIT

STUDENT ACTION FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT

Using Deliberative Dialogue...

Deliberative dialogue is a directed discussion, more focused than a casual conversation and less confrontational than a debate. The format offers a way to talk about issues that are important to us. It helps us explore the benefits and values of different perspectives. It helps us identify potential conflicts, obstacles, choices and actions that may apply to the issue at hand.

In our consultation specifically, this process creates the possibility of bringing people with distinct interests and responsibilities in transit together to work through the tough choices and trade-offs associated with creating a transit system that reaches everyone.

We will listen for key issues and common values between participants, and these key points will be the basis from which action, understanding, and collaboration can spring. Every person plays an important role in a deliberative dialogue: Listening, and then sharing your perspective so others can listen, learn, and understand.



Dialogue vs Debate

Collaborative	Oppositional
Common ground	Points of divergence
Listening to find meaning	Listening to find flaws
Listening to find agreement	Listening for points to argue
Openness to being wrong	Determination to be right
Weighing alternatives	Winning

The Deliberative Process

We are presented with three different approaches of how to improve public transit. They are not mutually exclusive nor should any approach be considered the right one. Each approach offers a distinct perspective with issues and ideas that are real and important to many people.

We will spend time identifying the benefits of each approach, potential conflicts that we see, and how each might be achieved. The dialogue ends with a segment on common ground which we will use to identify key issues and values. With that in mind, this is the question:

A good approach to developing a world class transit system would be...

Approach 1

Policy, Paperwork & Promotion

An advocate of this approach would stress the need to increase ridership through programs like the U-Pass, not just for students but for businesses, government, and other organizations that involve daily commutes into, around, and out of city centres.

Approach 2

Service, Infrastructure & Finance

An advocate of this approach would stress the need to invest in the immediate expansion of services, like more buses, and infrastructure like roads and bridges, as well as investment for future expansions and repairs.

Approach 3

Alternatives for Transportation

An advocate of this approach would stress the need to educate, promote and expand alternatives to car and bus transportation, including work/live spaces, car co-ops, bike co-ops, and car pooling.

Choice. What choices do we have to make to create a world class transit system?

Outcome. What actions, consequences and potential conflicts we must face?

1. The First Approach: Policy, Paperwork & Promotion

Increasing ridership through programs like the U-Pass, not just for students but for businesses, government, and other organizations that involve daily commutes into, around, and out of city centres.

Can you see any **benefits** to this approach?

What are some of the **choices** we would have to make to pursue this approach?

Do you foresee any potential **conflicts**?

Can you identify possible **actions** and the parties that should be responsible for them?

2. The Second Approach: Service, Infrastructure & Finance

Invest in the immediate expansion of services - more buses and infrastructure like roads and bridges, and invest for future expansions and repairs.

What is **valuable** about this approach?

How do we make **choices** regarding what we do, and are there any apparent **conflicts**?

Do you foresee any short or long-term **consequences** to this kind of development?

"In 2008 this region will see the largest bus expansion in 31 years, with the addition of 94 new buses and 160 replacement buses."

3. The Third Approach: Alternatives for Transportation

Educate, promote and expand alternatives to car and bus transportation, including work/live spaces, car co-ops, bike co-ops, and car pooling.

What is **valuable** about this approach?

What **actions** could we take to develop this approach?

What **impacts** could this approach have?

In order to achieve greenhouse gas emission targets set by the Premier of British Columbia, transit ridership would have to double in the GVRD by 2020.

4. Finding Common Ground

What **key issues** did you hear throughout each approach?

Can you identify any **common values** that people shared?

Were there any apparent or potential **conflicts** that each of the approaches shared?

Were there any clear choices and **actions** that everyone agreed upon?

Are there any actions that **you** can take?

Through the process of understanding the values of stakeholders, we are exploring the choices we have and the actions we need to take to create a world class transit system.

Does the public transit system in Greater Vancouver meet **your needs?**

“One-third (33%) of Canadian adults - 8,250,000 - absolutely **depend** on transit infrastructure to do their life’s essential activities on a day to day basis.”

“In the period between 2000 and 2006, BC Transit ridership increased roughly 31%. Service hours over the same period saw only an approximate increase of 13%.”

Can transit services in your community **improve to serve you better?**

“A Majority (61% of Canadians) do not feel confident that there is enough support for public transit infrastructure to be able to keep up with the growth demands of their community...”

Transit Service | Frequency of trips, Number of stops, & Late Night

Are there enough trips to and from your campus? Do buses run late enough for you to get to and from work? Do you have access to express routes?

Access to Transit | For wheelchairs, bikes, any other needs.

Do you have access to the services you need? Do you enjoy taking the bus? Are there common obstacles that hinder the growth of ridership?

Service Expansions | Campus Express routes, etc

The Canadian Urban Transit Association’s last national survey reported a \$21 billion need for public transit capital infrastructure investment for 2006-2010.

The Environment | Emission Targets

Can we achieve GHG emission targets set by the Premier of British Columbia? Transit ridership would have to double in the GVRD by 2020.

U-pass | Availability & Price

Vancouver transit fares are on the rise: \$2.50 for one zone trip and \$5.00 for three zones effective January 1, 2008.

Are these **issues** important to you?

Consultation Participants & Supporters

Canadian Federation of Students
www.cfs.bc.ca

Douglas Students' Union
www.cfslocal18.ca

Emily Carr Students' Union
www.emilycarrstudentsunion.ca

Simon Fraser Student Society
www.sfss.ca

Students' Union of Vancouver Community College
www.suvcc.ca

We are inviting you, people and groups with a vested interest in public transit, to participate and support these public consultations.

To do that, all you have to do is come join us in dialogue.

weridetransit@cfs.bc.ca