Overview
Transportation is a key factor influencing the economic, social and environmental sustainability of our cities and towns. Most Canadian urban centres are highly automobile dependent. Sprawling, low-density land uses combined with few viable alternatives mean only a small fraction of trips are made by walking, cycling and transit.

While reducing dependency on the car is a key goal of sustainability, current trends are not encouraging. Urban sprawl proliferates and car use has risen, especially in suburban areas. And so have the many impacts – on the environment, economy, personal mobility and community livability. At the same time, transportation faces new challenges in the 21st century – climate change, a peak in world oil production, urbanization and demographic change.

Achieving sustainable transportation requires an integrated approach that blends a range of transportation and urban design and development strategies that encourage a shift towards options such as transit, walking, and biking. This course will provide participants with an appreciation of the important role urban transportation plays in supporting quality urban spaces and livable communities. It also provides an understanding of the principles, concepts, techniques and holistic approaches for achieving sustainable transportation through sound urban design.

Objectives
By the completion of the course, participants will have been introduced to:

• Knowledge of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable transportation
• Key design drivers and solutions for better transportation and urban design outcomes
• The ‘big picture’ connection between urban design and transportation – fit with planning and urban design, infrastructure and service, technology regional and municipal/regional contexts
• An appreciation that there is no ‘silver bullet’ solution to the transportation challenge and that integrated and holistic approaches are required
• An overview of future challenges – energy, environment, demographic change
• Understanding of opportunities and limitations of technology in achieving sustainable transportation
• Knowledge of a range of design and policy strategies in support of sustainability; their opportunities and limitations and finding the right mix
• Leading-edge integrated transportation planning case studies that highlight key success factors and how barriers were addressed
• Understanding of the relationships between transportation planning processes and governance and sustainable transportation outcomes
• A passion for sustainable transportation!
Instructor:
Tamim Raad, Director, Strategic Planning and Policy, TransLink

Guest Speakers:
Gordon Price, Director of SFU’s City Program
Stu Ramsey, Manager, Transportation Planning, City of Burnaby
Meghan Woods, Consultation Coordinator, TransLink
Margaret Wittgens, Senior Manager, Strategic Planning, TransLink
Andrew Curran, Manager, Policy, TransLink
Jeff Busby, Senior Manager, Infrastructure and Network Management, TransLink
Michelle Babiuk, Project Manager, TransLink

Day 1
Class-based Instruction and Dialogue

9.00 (prompt) – 9.15 am
Introductions and Course Objectives
  • Student and Instructor Objectives and Expectations
  • Course Overview
  • Housekeeping items

9.15 – 10.30 am
The Big Picture
  • Defining Sustainable Transportation
  • Purpose of the city/community and purpose of transportation
  • Sustainability and the transportation challenge
  • Evolving Transportation Ideas
  • 10 Myths of Sustainable Transportation
  • Regional/City-wide Context - intro to transportation concepts, land use, air quality issues etc

10.30 – 10.45 am
Break

10.45 an – 12 pm
The 6Ds of Sustainable Transportation
The best transportation is a good land use plan! Learn how building better cities and towns can deliver better transportation outcomes with a simple and memorable formula for success.

12.00 – 1 pm
Lunch

1 –2 pm
Guest Lecture: Motordom
Gordon Price, Director of SFU’s City Program, former City of Vancouver Councillor and Board Director of the GVRD (now Metro Vancouver) and TransLink.
We won’t know where to go, until we know how we got here. Gord will give us an entertaining and information filled tour of transportation past, present and future.

2 – 4 pm (with Break 3 – 3.15pm)  
Exploring Transportation  
• The modes: Transit, Autos, Cycling, Walking, Goods  
• Opportunities and limitations  
• Transportation Demand Management, Universal Accessibility  
• Land Use/Urban Design Connection  
• Finding the right mix

4 – 5.15 pm  
Guest Panel: Metro Vancouver Transportation Referendum  
• Meghan Woods, Consultation Coordinator  
• Margaret Wittgens, Senior Manager, Strategic Planning  
• Andrew Curran, Manager, Policy

Join the guest panel of representatives from the Mayors’ Council for Regional Transportation for a candid, seminar-style discussion on the Metro Vancouver Transportation Referendum. Get the inside scoop - the Good, the Bad, the Ugly  
• What’s the Plan and how was it created?  
• How is it different from every other plan?  
• Why does it matter to cities, to design?  
• Are referenda a good means of engaging citizens and making decisions?  
• What happens next if there’s a ‘yes’? A ‘no’?  
• Open discussion

5.15 – 5.30 pm  
Day 1 Wrap Up  
• Debrief on Day 1  
• Check-up: student expectations, adjustments for day 2
**Day 2  Metrotown Tour and Workshop**

Walking tour and workshop with:

- Stu Ramsey, Manager, Transportation Planning, City of Burnaby
- Jeff Busby, Senior Manager, Infrastructure and Network Management, TransLink
- Michelle Babiuk, Project Manager, TransLink

Please wear comfortable shoes and wear clothes appropriate to Vancouver’s April weather.

9 – 10 am  
Pre-Tour Discussion – Metrotown: Issues, Opportunities, Ideas  
Presentation at SFU Harbour Centre

10 – 10:30 am  
Travel to Metrotown by SkyTrain

10 – 11:30 am  
Orientation and Tour of Metrotown  
Meet on site (TBA in class before leaving)

11:30 am – 12:00 pm  
Return to Harbour Centre

12 pm  
Lunch

1 – 2 pm  
Presentation: Metrotown – Past, Present, Future  
Stu Ramsey, Manager, Transportation Planning, City of Burnaby

2 – 4 pm  
Workshop
  - Divided into theme groups: undertake assessment and develop design proposals
  - Report back to class at 4.00 for presentation and discussion

4 – 5 pm  
Groups Report Back on Findings

5 – 5:30 pm  
Wrap Up: Assignment and Course Evaluations