

Savings by FareCard...

	Cost of 20 Regular Adult Cash Fare return trips	On your monthly commute save
1 zone	\$63	\$80
2 Zone	\$87	\$120
3 Zone	\$120	\$160
		\$40

And the savings don't end there. For additional savings you can use your FareCard evenings and weekends.

After 6:30 pm or at any time during the weekend, travel as far as you wish in the three zones and just show your FareCard. (At these times zone boundaries do not apply so it doesn't matter whether you show a one, two or three-zone card). There will be absolutely no additional charge. Watch for the FareCard sign.

Alternative routes to UBC and SFU.

Since heavy bus loads are likely during the first two weeks of September at Broadway to UBC and Production Way-University to SFU the following alternative routes are available for SkyTrain customers:

Customers travelling to UBC may disembark at the following SkyTrain stations other than Broadway and board routes to the university.

From Joyce: Board either the #41 or #43 routes

From Nanaimo: Board the #25 route

From Metrotown: Board the #49 route

From Waterfront: Board the #44 route

Customers travelling to SFU may disembark at the following SkyTrain stations other than Production Way-University Station and board routes to the university.

From Burrard: Board the #135 route

From Metrotown and Sperling-Burnaby Lake: Board the #144 route.

COMING EVENTS

Bard on the Beach presents *The Comedy of Errors*, 'til Sept 21, *The Merchant of Venice* 'til Sept 20, ✓ Want to share your research with the Archaeological Society of B.C. and the interested public? The society is always looking for lecturers for their public meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (Sept-) at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre. Info: Patricia Ormerod 604-733-0571 ✓ Arts 2003, is a juried exhibition that celebrates the diverse artistic talents of emerging visual artists, generates awareness of their work and plays an important role in their development. The Arts Council of Surrey has collaborated with the Surrey Art Gallery to present works by up to 60 artists. They range from traditional paintings to contemporary expressions and reflect innovation in thinking and use of mediums ✓ Does public speaking stress you out? Positive Thinkers Toastmasters can help you master the art of public speaking. Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:30 pm at BC Hydro Building, 333 Dunsmuir St, 2nd Floor. Contact Debbie, 604-876-3542 or www.toastmasters.bc.ca ✓ St. Philip's Fall Rummage Sale, Sat, Sept 20, 9:00-noon, 3737 West 27th Ave, Vancouver. Lots of good stuff ✓ October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Each woman in B.C. over the age of 40 is eligible for a free annual mammogram. Call 604-879-8900 to make your appointment today. ✓ Book Sale, Sept 4 & 5, 3-7 pm., Thrift Sale, Sept 6, 10 am to 2 pm, West Point Grey United Church, 4595 West 8th Ave at Tolmie. Phone 224-4388 ✓ Get a kick out of Karate. XIV Pan American Junior Karate Championships, Aug 28-30, Minoru Arena, 7551 Minoru Gate, Richmond, B.C. Events start at 9 am. Ticket & Event info: (604) 737-3051 ✓ Vancouver Opera has announced a varied and adventurous new season that opens with *The Girl of the Golden West*, Oct 11, 14, 16 and 18, and *The Barber of Seville*, Nov 22, 25, 27, 29, Dec 1 (both appearing in the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Italian with English surtitles <> Bargains galore on deluxe 20th Century junkie! Home decor, books, antiques, kitchenware, records, toys and dolls, china, jewellery, pottery, glass, tools, sports items, video & CD's, silver, linens, paintings, etc. 175 tables of treasure-hunting fun. Sunday, Sept 21, 10 am to 3 pm. Croation Cultural Centre, Commercial Drive at 16th. Adm \$2. Children 12 & under 1/2 price. Cafe & snack bar. Participating charities: Development Disabilities Assoc, Union Gospel Mission, Pets in Need/Aid to Animals in Distress

Note: You'll get fewer busy signals with our newly-combined operator/automated voice information system (IVR)

Call anytime, day or night 604-953-3333

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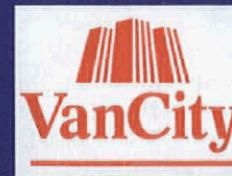


BUZZER

Published by TransLink, Monday, August 25, 2003

TransLink's U-Pass program starts September 1

- TransLink welcomes VanCity as the exclusive sponsor of the U-Pass program.
- VanCity's support of the U-Pass program demonstrates their longstanding commitment to green transportation and environmental sustainability and their strong focus on supporting students.



U-Pass Questions & Answers

What is a U-Pass?

The universal student transit pass is available to UBC and SFU students and is equivalent to a 3-zone Adult FareCard, which provides access to all bus, SeaBus and SkyTrain services. Additional fare is required on West Coast Express at a reduced rate. (The U-Pass is not valid for "family" travel on weekends, as are adult FareCards).

If more students will use transit as a result of the U-Pass program, how will TransLink keep up with demand?

TransLink will provide an additional 48,000 service hours to meet anticipated UBC and SFU ridership demands generated by the U-Pass program.

Increased UBC services:

More frequent #99 B-Line service midday and in afternoon peak shoulder;

A new UBC/Broadway Station peak directional non-stop bus service;

The #44 Downtown/UBC service will feature all articulated coaches for increased capacity, increased frequency in the morning peak and the introduction of midday service on 4th Avenue

Who is eligible for a U-Pass?

Any UBC or SFU student who is assessed student fees will have a U-Pass with the following exceptions:

- Students who do not reside in the GVRD and who do not attend any university classes held in the GVRD;
- HandyDART users;
- Students who have a valid Government of B.C. Pass or a CNIB Pass or TransLink/subsidiary, employee or family pass
- Students have obtained a U-Pass from another institution.

The cost of the U-Pass will be part of the student society fee.

Can students opt-out of U-Pass?

SFU and UBC students cannot opt-out of U-Pass unless they qualify for an exemption. U-Pass was approved by referenda of students at SFU and UBC.

When are the U-Passes valid?

At SFU, a U-Pass will be issued each semester and is only valid for that semester. At UBC, a U-Pass will be issued at the beginning of each academic year and will

be valid until April 30 each year. A U-Pass is not available at UBC during the summer months and therefore; summer and graduate students attending UBC from May 1 to August 31 each year must pay regular fares.

When will students receive their passes?

SFU will begin issuing U-Passes to their students in mid-August for the fall semester. A student will be entitled to use their U-pass upon receipt, even though the fall semester may not have commenced.

For the 2003/2004 academic year, UBC students will be entitled to use their U-Pass commencing October 1. For the month of September only, UBC students will be entitled to show their new UBC student card in lieu of a U-Pass.

Will there be changes to the FastTrax program?

FastTrax program will no longer be available to UBC or SFU students. FastTrax will continue for qualifying students at other approved post-secondary institutions. (FastTrax allows students at qualifying post-secondary schools to use a one zone FareCard for travel across as many as 3 zones. Students must have a valid student card with a FastTrax decal attached).

UBC summer and graduate students attending UBC from May 1st to August 31st each year will have to pay regular fares to use the transit system. They will not be eligible for FastTrax.

Why is U-Pass only available to UBC and SFU students?

The U-Pass program is being piloted in co-operation with the support of the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University and their respective student societies. Once successfully in operation, TransLink may consider expanding the program to some other post-secondary institutions

Why is there a sponsor for the program?

Sponsorship dollars help to reduce TransLink's cost for the program, which ultimately means less money required from transit customers. TransLink's goal is to make the U-pass program a "revenue neutral" program," as such, sponsorship money is intended to help recover costs as much as possible.

I don't use public transit why should I have to support this program?

All students will benefit from the U-Pass program,

which was passed by referendum at each of the universities. It's important to look at the big picture of how U-Pass will positively impact the student community as a whole. U-Pass is expected to reduce pressure on parking spaces on campus, reduce traffic through adjacent neighbourhoods, and reduce tail pipe emissions.

Why is TransLink able to offer the U-Pass at a reduced price?

Students voted in support of sharing transit costs over the entire student body and thereby reducing the per student price of the U-Pass. The U-Pass program is also partially supported by the two universities, who are partners in the program, as well as VanCity who is the exclusive sponsor.

Will the price of U-Pass go up if there is an overall transit fare increase?

No. The U-Pass agreement with the universities states that the price of U-Pass will remain frozen until September 2005. This also means that TransLink will receive the same revenue per year from the student base that it did in 2002 regardless if the U-Pass generates more ridership. After September, 2005 the need for an increase in the U-Pass rate will be reviewed by TransLink in concert with the student societies and universities and will be based upon a number of factors including costs and benefits of the program and changes proposed for TransLink's general fares and structures.

If TransLink will incur increased costs as a result of the U-Pass program with no chance of additional revenue over the next two years, why bother with the program at all?

TransLink hopes to build transit growth by encouraging transit-using habits among young people. Universal 'unlimited' transit passes have been successful in more than 200 markets throughout North America where they shift travel behaviour from dependence on automobiles to use of alternative modes of transportation. The U-Pass is expected to generate more off-campus transit trips by students for work, shopping, entertainment and other purposes which will benefit our local economy as a whole.