Cast your vote for the name of our new smartcard!

In October, we asked you to submit names for our future smartcard, coming in 2013—and now we need you to vote for a winner!

Visit translink.ca/contest to see the shortlisted names and vote for your favourite. The poll should be up by mid-January: if it’s not there yet, check back within a couple of days to cast your vote.

Come to the 2011 BC youth summit on sustainable transportation!

Calling all youth! We’re hosting Connecting Communities, the 2011 BC regional youth summit on sustainable transportation, and you’re invited to apply to attend.

Every year or so, the Canadian Urban Transportation Association (CUTA) partners with local agencies to host a youth conference, encouraging young people to learn about transportation, sustainability, and planning. This year, TransLink, BC Transit, and CUTA will sponsor 45 or so youth to attend our conference in Vancouver from August 19-21, 2011. So if you’re aged 18-30, live in BC, and interested in attending—apply today! Check out details: due date is January 31, 2011.

The Buzzer has been published since June 2, 1916! So in this section we mine our back issues for nuggets of transit history. Huzzah!

1985

The May 31, 1985 Buzzer featured the InfoBuses—four specially equipped buses staffed to provide customers with travel information, and serve as FareCard and Fairclaver sales outlets. The buses showcased the SkyTrain-Savus-4 bus, a low-order transit system that would be operational the following year. Onboard, customers would also find racks of schedules, a FareCard and Fairclaver area, plus staff to answer questions. Buses parked at locations downtown during weekdays, and were found at shopping centres on Saturdays.

B U C K E T  L I S T

Talk to TransLink's Youth Outreach Team about your ideas for our 2011 BC youth summit on sustainable transportation! Visit the Buzzer blog at buzzert.ca to see more transit history! Contact: Buzzert@translink.ca.
The rails between Waterfront and New Westminster have an average trip length of about 11 km. SkyTrain riders in the busiest section, from Broadway station into downtown, have logged more than 12.5 billion km of travel, more than a round trip to Pluto (it’s 5.7 billion km from Earth).

Since starting service on January 3, 1986, SkyTrain’s Expo/Millennium Lines have carried more than 1.1 billion (1,100,000,000) passengers. This would form a queue from Earth to the Moon, and halfway back again! (That’s 550,000 km at 0.5 m per person, vs. the 384,000 km average distance from Earth to Moon.)

With an average trip length of about 11 km, SkyTrain riders have logged more than 12.5 billion km of travel, more than two round trips to the Sun (the Sun orbits at 150 million km from the Sun).

SkyTrain’s 258 Expo/Millennium cars have accumulated 675 million km of travel, more than two round trips to Pluto (it’s 5.7 billion km from Earth)

The entire fleet averages 180,000 km, per car, per year. The original 114 cars, delivered 1984-1986, have travelled an average of four million km each, more than 100 trips around the Earth (the planet has a 40,000 km circumference).

The rails between Waterfront and New Westminster have more than 3 million trains (about 12 million cars, or 47 million wheels).

The SkyTrain reach a huge milestone on December 11, 2010: on this day 25 years ago, the system launched into service! SkyTrain has become an iconic, important part of our transit network in the Lower Mainland, its lines now stretching into Surrey and Richmond. (The West Coast Express commuter rail line also connects downtown Vancouver with the northeast region!)

We’re happy and proud to celebrate 25 years of SkyTrain: we hope you are too!

Send us your stories, photos, and more! Do you remember riding SkyTrain during Expo, or any other fond memories of SkyTrain? Send your stories, photos, video, and more to thebuzzer@translink.ca—we’d love to showcase them in an upcoming Buzzer issue or on our blog (buzzer.translink.ca)!

SkyTrain facts that are out of this world...

IN A QUARTER CENTURY...

- During weekday morning and afternoon rush hours, SkyTrain carries more than 75 million passengers. (That’s an average of 450,000 per hour, vs. the 384,000 km average distance from Earth to Moon.)

- SkyTrain’s 258 Expo/Millennium cars have accumulated 675 million km of travel, more than two round trips to the Sun (the Sun orbits at 150 million km from the Sun).

- The entire fleet averages 180,000 km, per car, per year. The original 114 cars, delivered 1984-1986, have travelled an average of four million km each, more than 100 trips around the Earth (the planet has a 40,000 km circumference).

- The rails between Waterfront and New Westminster have more than 3 million trains (about 12 million cars, or 47 million wheels).

CURRENT FACTS...

- During weekday morning and afternoon rush hours, SkyTrain operates on average every 108 seconds between Waterfront station and Columbia.

- SkyTrain currently carries more than 75 million passengers per year, an average of nearly 250,000 per weekday, and with more than 20,000 during the peak hour.

- In the busiest section, from Broadway station into downtown Vancouver, SkyTrain now carries more than 12,000 passengers during the peak hour, equivalent to more than five bridge or freeway lanes. The Alex Fraser Bridge, Second Narrows Bridge, and Massey Tunnel, each carry about 2,000 cars per lane, with an average occupancy of 1.1 to 1.2 people. In a 2-hour period (7 to 9 a.m.) SkyTrain brings more than 17,000 passengers into downtown.

- Starting in November 2010, we’ve ramped up service to our Twitter account, with call centre workleaders providing key updates and responding to customer inquiries from 6:10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

- SkyTrain history!

- In honour of SkyTrain’s 25th anniversary, the Buzzer blog is posting SkyTrain Historical videos, classic photos, magazines, and more during the month of January! Visit us online at buzzer.translink.ca for these items and much more. (To go straight to the SkyTrain History items, use the dropdown “Select Category” menu under Archives in the blog’s sidebar, and pick the option called “Transit History.”)

- See the Buzzer blog for more SkyTrain history!

- Follow our Twitter account and get service info on the go

- Are you a Twitter fan? Follow us at twitter.com/translink today!

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