

Media Advisory
September 30, 2005
For immediate release

The Livable Region Coalition applauds free transit for school children during International Walk to School Week

The Livable Region Coalition would like to congratulate the TransLink Board for its motion of September 21st, 2005, granting free transit to all school age children within the GVRD during International Walk to School Week, October 3 to 8, 2005.

http://www.translink.bc.ca/Transportation_Services/Cust_Alert/Free_Transit_4kids.asp

We hope this initiative by Translink will lead to further, more permanent, measures to address school related congestion issues. According to ICBC statistics, 20 to 25% of all person trips during rush hour can be attributed to driving kids to school. A generation ago, most kids walked or biked to school. Today, it is estimated that half of all children in urban and suburban BC travel to school by car. This is a disturbing trend and one that needs to be addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated fashion.

We encourage TransLink to follow this positive initiative with other permanent measures to encourage school age children and their families to use public transit as an effective means to reduce congestion, improve air quality, and generally promote a healthier and safer lifestyle for our children.

The Liveable Region Coalition (LRC) is a group of Lower Mainland citizens and sustainable transportation advocates. For more information on the forum please contact 604.255-4527 or info@livableregion.ca
www.liveableregion.ca

BACKGROUND:

Source: ICBC's Way to go program website.
Reasons for Concern; Time for Action

http://www.waytogo.icbc.bc.ca/framesets/concerns/index_con.html

Nearly half of all children in urban and suburban B.C. travel to school by car.

During rush hour (peak period) 20 - 25% of person trips are travel to and from school in a typical community. A generation ago, most of these were walking or biking trips.

Chauffeuring children to school often results in two vehicle trips: one to the school and one returning home, creating up to four additional vehicle trips per day.

There are one million registered vehicles in the Lower Mainland.

30,000 additional vehicles are registered in the Lower Mainland each year.

Automobile ownership in Canada has risen from 310 vehicles per 1,000 people in 1970 to 484 per 1,000 in 1994.

Twenty five years ago 26% of new vehicle purchases were vans, trucks, sport utility vehicles (SUVs) and commercial vehicles which are larger and less fuel efficient than conventional cars. Currently, these heavier vehicles represent almost 50% of all vehicle purchases.