

BikeLinks - ECCE App Challenge 2026

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Mission Statement

The City of Surrey's Climate Change Action Strategy states that "the science is unequivocal, excess greenhouse gases from human activities are driving warming of the atmosphere, oceans and land, resulting in widespread disturbances to both natural and human systems" (1). To begin to tackle such a complex and global issue, Surrey and other municipalities around Metro Vancouver have developed their own plans and objectives for tackling climate change. One key theme that links these cities' plans is one of the pillars of sustainability in urban areas, transportation, more specifically, active and public transportation. For example, a key target for the city of Vancouver is to ensure that two thirds of all trips are made by walking, cycling and public transit by 2040 (2).

However, "while [active transportation like] cycling is growing in popularity, many people are discouraged from riding because it seems dangerous or impractical. There are many challenges, including a lack of direct routes, finding convenient and secure parking, weather, and topography, but the biggest concern for most people is motor vehicle traffic" (3). This tension between the existing status-quo of car-dependency and a burgeoning cycling and mass transit commuter culture is the main limiting factor that prevents Metro Vancouver from becoming more sustainable. In other words, for cities to truly meet their sustainability goals, the cycling and transit infrastructure must be in place to meet such burgeoning demand. One often overlooked aspect in the development of this infrastructure is the connection between cycling and transit.

BikeLinks seeks to unite cycling and transit infrastructure in one app. We feel that the lack of information about multi-modal transportation serves as a bottleneck that limits Metro Vancouver's ability to have truly sustainable transit. Resources exist for both cycling and transit but a harmonious, detailed and interactive resource that informs the public about the connection of these two systems does not. We aim to bridge the gap between these two worlds so that biking and transit in tandem can become a core component in the lives of many more Metro Vancouver citizens.

References

(1) <https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/sustainability/climate-change-action-strategy>

(2) <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/greenest-city-2020-action-plan-2015-2020.pdf>

(3) <https://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/transportation-2040.aspx>