



Aerial transit in Barcelona, Spain.

## Burnaby Mountain Link: Transformative, Sustainable Transit

It would be faster, more comfortable, more reliable and would more than pay for itself compared to current transit service. It would cut automobile traffic and reduce Burnaby Mountain greenhouse gas emissions by more than 7,000 tonnes a year – and it would free up diesel buses to provide 57,000 hours of annual service in other parts of Metro Vancouver.

“It” is an aerial link between Burnaby Mountain and the Production Way SkyTrain station. As reported in *Burnaby Now*, SFU President Andrew Petter recently told the Burnaby Board of Trade that university officials will be sharing the case for the gondola with all three levels of government over the coming months.

This is great news for the Metro Vancouver region and the residents of UniverCity—a third of whom rely on public transit. TransLink has been studying the potential for an aerial link for more than five years, with positive results. In a 2011 business case, updated this year, engineering consultants CH2M estimated capital costs of an all-electric system at \$130

million, with annual operating costs at \$3.14 million. CH2M estimated a life-cycle, cost-benefit ratio of 3.6: meaning that the system would deliver value three-and-a-half times its cost in the first 25 years. As SFU urban studies professor Anthony Perl recently told SFU’s student paper *The Peak*, the cost “might seem a lot to students ... but it’s a fraction of the cost of the Evergreen Line.” The Burnaby Mountain Link, Perl said, “is a real value deal.”

Not surprisingly, the public supports the idea: provided with environmental, reliability and cost-benefit information, 80% of Burnaby residents and 88% of student transit users favour the Burnaby Mountain Link as a vital connection in the region’s transit and transportation network.

Certainly, the service would be a boon to the 5,000 people already living in UniverCity, as well as for students, faculty and staff at SFU; 56% of all commuters to and from Burnaby Mountain use transit (compared to 39% in Downtown Vancouver and just 12% in the region overall).

But using transit can be challenging. More than 12,600 daily transit riders funnel through a single, overcrowded bus route; people pouring off the SkyTrain at Production Way must often wait 20 minutes or longer for space on the #145. And given that those buses must climb more than 300 vertical metres, winter conditions interrupt or cancel service altogether as many as 10 days a year. By 2021 the total ridership could exceed the capacity of frequent bus service.

A cable-propelled transit system would resolve all of these issues. Universally accessible 35-person gondola cabins would take seven minutes – less than half the 15+ minute bus trip on and off the mountain.

SFU Community Trust CEO Gordon Harris said recently that “the Burnaby Mountain Link would extend UniverCity’s international record for urban innovation and environmental leadership.” This would be the first urban aerial transit link in Canada, Harris said, calling it “a transformative and sustainable transportation alternative.”



First sales transaction at the grand opening of the new BC Liquor store on April 15th, 2016.

## Welcome to the Community

### BC Liquor Store

8992 University High Street  
Celebrate Life...Enjoy Responsibly  
[www.bcliquorstores.com/store/locator/239](http://www.bcliquorstores.com/store/locator/239)  
604-298-3441

Visit <http://universitycity.ca/retail-services> for a full list of UniverCity shops and services.

## Awards + Recognition

UniverCity has received more than 30 national and international awards in the past decade including these:

American Planning Association: National Excellence Award for Innovation in Green Community Planning

City of Burnaby Environment Award: Planning and Development for the UniverCity Childcare Centre

CMHC Best Practices in Affordable Housing Award for Verdant@UniverCity

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: Sustainable Communities Award for Integrated Neighbourhood Development

Urban Development Institute: Award for Excellence in Urban Development

Urban Land Institute: Award for Excellence, The Americas for Best Practice in Design, Architecture and Development

Visit <http://universitycity.ca/media/awards-accolades> for a full list of awards and recognition that UniverCity has received.

# Celebrating Firsts

## Elementary School Expansion

The University Highlands Elementary School, a provincial first and one of the key community-building elements at UniverCity, is about to get even better. The B.C. provincial government has recently approved an eight-classroom expansion that will increase the school's capacity to 450 children and will provide much-needed before-and after-school care space.

The \$11.7-million University Highlands Elementary opened its doors just over five years ago, thanks to a building donation by SFU and investments of \$8.8 million from the provincial government and \$2.9 million from the Burnaby School District, SFU Community Trust, and the City of Burnaby.

B.C.'s first LEED™ Gold school renovation is now home to 227 students and features a curriculum focused on sustainability and

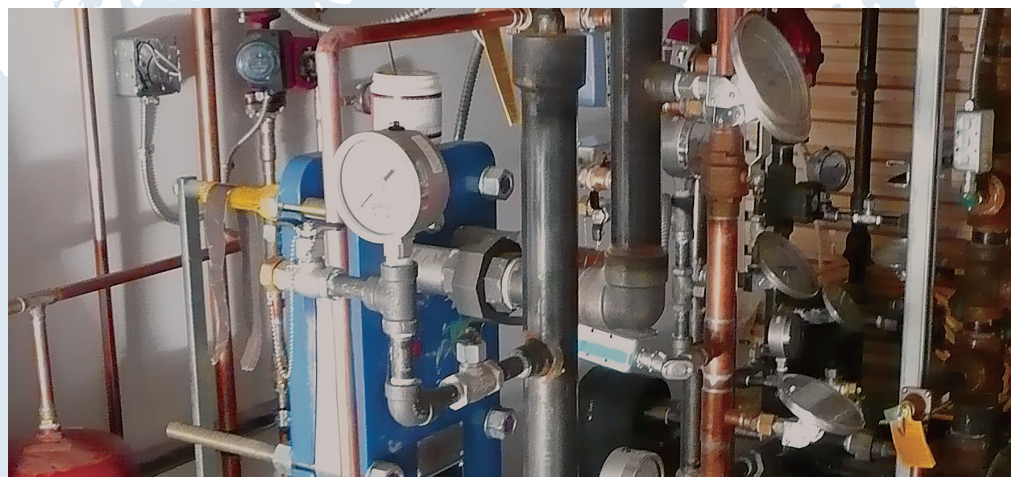
community involvement. Teachers take advantage of opportunities in the UniverCity community and on the SFU campus to help students learn about their impact on the local and global environment.

Expansion planning will begin soon, setting the stage for welcoming a new generation of University Highlands students.



University Highlands Elementary School.

## Province & SFU Endorse Central Energy Plant

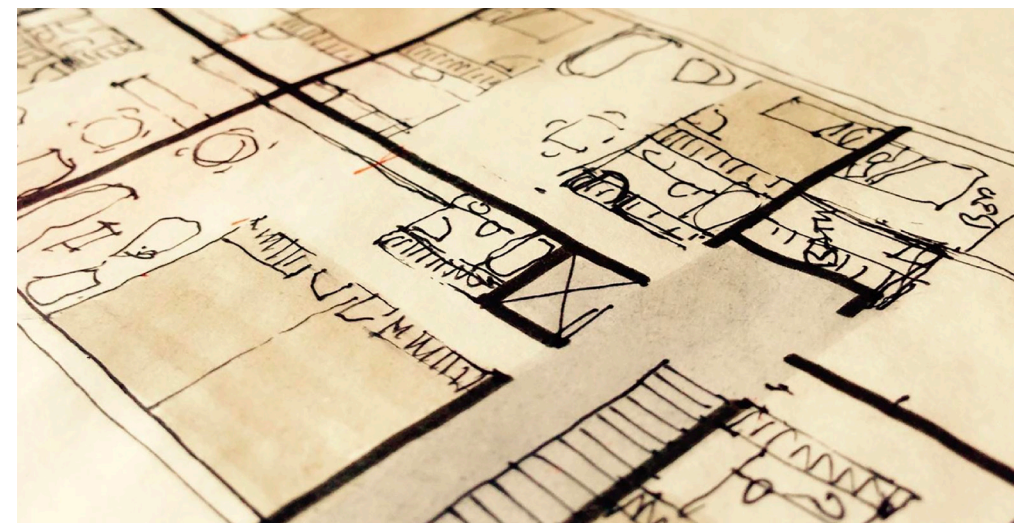


UniverCity Neighbourhood Utility Service.

SFU recently signed an agreement with Corix Multi-Utility Services Inc. (Corix) to expand the existing district energy utility for a new Central Energy Plant that will provide both UniverCity and SFU with low-carbon, thermal energy. With \$4.7 million from the Province of British Columbia and additional support from BC Hydro, the partnership between SFU, SFU Community Trust and Corix will produce energy using locally sourced biomass that would otherwise be destined for landfills (including urban wood waste, uncontaminated wood waste, and clean

construction wood waste). "The proposed Central Energy Plant is another example of SFU Community Trust partnering with SFU and industry leaders to help deliver low-carbon sustainable homes and a high level of comfort and convenience at UniverCity," said Dale Mikkelsen, the Trust's Director of Development. The proposed plant would reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by as much as 85%, and improve 24/7 service reliability to Burnaby Mountain. Municipal and provincial regulatory reviews will be underway this fall, and construction could begin early in 2018.

## Pursuing Passivhaus: Parcel 21



Sketch for Passivhaus at Parcel 21.

Already acknowledged as an international innovator in providing market-based, green-building solutions, SFU Community Trust is now pursuing Passivhaus, a building model that will meet the most ambitious standards for low heat-energy consumption, high insulation, high-quality windows, and fresh air ventilation.

The Passivhaus model has had significant success in Europe, where it is regularly delivered within traditional construction budgets. The Trust is pursuing Passivhaus on Parcel 21, in the form of an affordable 90-suite rental building that will provide increased access to a high quality, comfortable, healthy, and affordable living environment.

The Trust has established a learning partnership with BCIT, whose architectural and construction trades students will use the project for on-site learning, providing future designers and builders first-hand knowledge, experience, and changed expectations for the buildings of the future. Public consultation and design are already underway, and it is expected that Parcel 21 will be ready for occupancy by early 2019.

The Trust and the architectural lead – Local Practice – are documenting the evolution of the project on Facebook ([PursuingPassivhausatUniverCity](https://www.facebook.com/PursuingPassivhausatUniverCity)) and Instagram ([pursuingpassivhaus\\_univercity](https://www.instagram.com/pursuingpassivhaus_univercity)). Please follow along on our journey.

## Evo Joins Car Share Fleet

UniverCity residents now have more options for car share services with the addition of Evo. They join MODO the Car Co-op and Zipcar as car share providers in the community. Parking stalls and electric vehicle charging stations are currently available in The Cornerstone building with additional spaces planned for the CentreBlock building when it opens later this summer.

For more information, visit: <http://universitycity.ca/sustainability/transportation>



UniverCity residents now have three options for car share.



Cedar Woven Huts at the UniverCity Childcare Centre.

## Centre in Bloom

On May 12th, SFU Community Trust Director of Development Dale Mikkelsen was on hand in Seattle to receive an award for Petal Certification from the International Living Future Institute (ILFI). The ILFI oversees the Living Building Challenge (LBC), and the UniverCity Childcare Centre is set to become the first Living Building in Canada. To be fully certified, a Living Building must achieve the most advanced measures of sustainability in the built environment possible today. The Childcare Centre must meet a series of performance criteria in every challenge category, including Site, Health + Happiness, Equity, Beauty, Materials, Water and Energy. The Childcare Centre has now received all of its LBC petals except Energy, which the Trust expects to receive within the next twelve months. This makes our childcare the most advanced LBC building in Canada to date.

The UniverCity Childcare Centre opened in 2012 and was the recipient of a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant totaling \$216,000 in partnership with the SFU Faculty of Education. Deemed "the greenest childcare centre on the planet" by the ILFI, the centre was built for 18% less than a conventional childcare centre.

For more information about the UniverCity Childcare Centre, visit: <http://universitycity.ca/the-community/childcare-education/>

# Transit by the Numbers

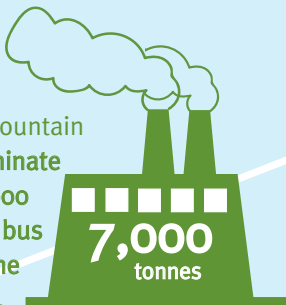


That's how much travel time automobile users will save by switching to the Burnaby Mountain Link, reducing auto-operating costs by **\$4.5M** and collision costs by **\$3.4M**.

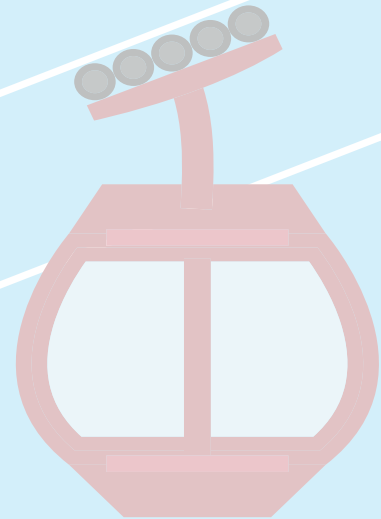


The Burnaby Mountain Link would cut travel time from 15 to seven minutes, saving 1.6 million hours annually.

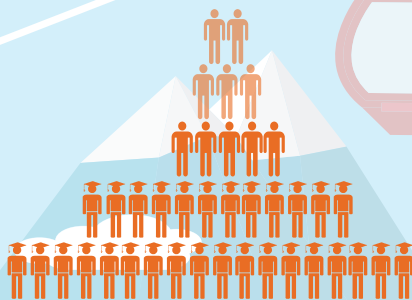
The Burnaby Mountain Link would eliminate more than 57,000 hours of diesel bus operations in the first year alone, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by **7,000 tonnes** annually and freeing up buses for elsewhere in the region.



Counting capital costs AND annual operating expenses of \$3.14M, CH2M estimates a lifecycle cost-benefit ratio of 3.6: that means the Burnaby Mountain Link would deliver value more than three-and-a-half times its cost over the first 25 years.



Engineering consultants CH2M estimate the total capital cost to be **\$130M**.



SFU has **30,000** students, staff and faculty -- UniverCity is currently home to **5,000** residents and will welcome nearly **5,000** more.



Daily transit users depend on the over-crowded #145 bus route, often having to wait 20 minutes for a ride.



## IT'S MY MOUNTAIN™

SFU Community Trust  
130-8960 University High Street  
Burnaby, British Columbia  
Canada V5A 4Y6

T 604-291-3000  
E [Info@UniverCity.ca](mailto:Info@UniverCity.ca)

Office hours:  
M - F: 8:30am to 4:30pm  
[www.UniverCity.ca](http://www.UniverCity.ca)

Follow us on Twitter & Instagram and "like" our Facebook page to get up-to-the-minute updates about the community and join in discussions with your neighbours.

Find us at:



[univercity.ca/blog](http://univercity.ca/blog)



UniverCitySFU



UniverCity\_SFU



UniverCity\_SFU



SFUCommunityTrust



RECYCLED  
Paper made from  
recycled material  
FSC® C014956

## What's Happening

If you would like to receive regular information about what's happening in the UniverCity community, at SFU, and in Burnaby, please email us at: [Info@UniverCity.ca](mailto:Info@UniverCity.ca) and ask to be added to our community email list.