

Quick Green Guide

20 Minute Community

January 25, 2025

The “20 Minute Community” concept is to enable residents to live, work, play, shop, learn, and socialize within 20 minutes of their home without having to use a personally owned car. This means using active transportation (walking, biking, or non-motorized devices), motorized units (wheelchairs, electric bikes, scooters, skateboards, motorcycles, etc.), and mass transit. It includes rideshare cars and Uber/Lyft/taxis.

For over a century, the design of cities has been focussed on the personal car; so, getting around exclusively using other modes of transport won't be a quick change. However, we can start with small changes to switch us in the right direction.

- **New Zoning**

Instead of new mega projects to move people long distances with SkyTrain, light rail, or highways, we can start with zoning changes for low rise buildings to promote shops, services, and work spaces, in addition to bedrooms so people can live, work, play, shop, learn, and socialize within 20 minutes of their home.

- **Free Hop-On Hop-Off Buses**

To make these local activities more accessible, we should consider having free electric Hop-On, Hop-Off buses or golf carts in high streets. This will knit our communities closely, reducing the need for personally owned cars.

- **Safer, smoother local traffic**

Traffic on high streets includes commuters which reduce access for local workers and shoppers. Limiting speed to 30 kph makes it safer and allows personal wheeled vehicles access to the high street. Smart traffic lights and intersections will smooth traffic flow even though the speed is reduced.

- **Additional Shoppers**

These changes make it easier for people outside of the immediate community to visit and shop. They can come into the community by SkyTrain or bus and have easy access to the high street.

The Next Step

If this vision is what you want for your Vancouver, please email build.local.communities@gmail.com with your name and address - phone is optional. This will subscribe you to the monthly newsletter about fun activities in your area and keep you up to date on advance, Thank you, Wally Kunz, 604 817-4727