

CENTRAL VALLEY GREENWAY

Application for 2005 Energy Aware Award:

Submitted by the City of Burnaby on behalf of the TransLink/GVRD, the Cities of Burnaby, New Westminster, and Vancouver, and Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In North America, 67% of all fossil fuels are burned for transportation purposes. In the Lower Mainland, the Central Valley on the Burrard Peninsula is a major transportation corridor, including Highway 1, a railroad, a skytrain line and the Lougheed Highway. In what is undoubtedly BC's most heavily used transportation corridor, no zero emission route option is currently available to commuters.

The following submission presents how TransLink/GVRD, the Cities of Burnaby, New Westminster, and Vancouver, and Better Environmentally Sound Transportation (BEST) have begun to address this short-coming by planning, designing and constructing a greenway suitable for zero emission commuters (cyclists, pedestrians and bladders) as part of Transport Canada's Showcase Program for CO₂ reduction demonstration projects at a total cost of \$17 million dollars to all of the partners.

Retrofitting greenways into existing communities is extremely complex, due to land ownership, land use, and rights of way issues. The Central Valley Greenway (CVG) has required long-term and ongoing leadership and coordination between 3 municipalities, a non-governmental organization, all levels of government, landowners, rights-of-way owners and stakeholders. Project completion is expected in 2007. In the first few years following completion the project is expected to reduce CO₂ emissions by 1,200-1,500 tonnes per year, with these numbers increasing to 6,000-7,000 tonnes per year over the long-term. It will serve as an anchor and inspiration for the growing network of greenways and urban trails in the region, promoting energy conservation through reduced automobile use.