

How Do You Typically Get To Campus?

March 21st, 2024

Strong Towns Nanaimo

Why Is Driving So Attractive To People?

People aren't entirely rational beings - we make decisions relative to our environment. Every one of us chooses transportation options based around:

- Convenience - easiest (and sometimes cheapest) way to get around town...
 - What does that say about the other possible modes of transportation?
- Safety - we *feel* like driving is a relatively safe mode...
 - Safe for *whom*? For you, the driver? What about everyone else?
- Speed - driving is often faster in Nanaimo...
 - Have you ever wondered *why* this is?

Many parts of the world (and in North America) highlight this.

Universities Around The World



University of San Francisco, California, US

64% of students report taking transit to campus

https://www.sfmta.com/sites/default/files/reports-and-documents/2023/02/2022_muni_customer_sat_survey_exec_summary_comp.pdf



University of British Columbia, BC, Canada

60% of students report taking transit to campus

<https://planning.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/2022-06/UBC2021-TransportationStatusReport-FINAL.pdf>

Universities Around The World ctd.



University of Washington, WA, US

45% of students report taking transit to campus

<https://transportation.uw.edu/files/media/husky-stadium-2022-tmp-report-final.pdf>



Simon Fraser University, BC, Canada

88% of students report taking transit to campus

<https://www.sfu.ca/students/transit.html>

What Makes Transit Desirable In These Regions?

Convenience, safety, and speed – public transit is a viable form of transportation in these regions which increases ridership.

- These regions have convenient, cheap, and reliable transit
- Campuses themselves have dedicated transit hubs
 - Hubs, such as SFU's multiple transit exchanges help establish transit as a viable mode
 - VIU's mixes its transit exchange with *parking for cars*
- Student transit passes are cheaper than parking passes
 - VIU student passes (RDN) cost \$170.00 per semester
 - VIU parking passes cost \$104.25 per semester – \$65.75 cheaper

In most ways, VIU is built for *single-occupancy vehicles*, not transit users.

Visualizing Parking at Vancouver Island University



There's almost as much parking as there is *university*!

- Despite the relative abundance of parking on campus, people continue to lament the lack of parking at VIU

At its core, people are actually complaining about the lack of viable transportation options

So What? Just Build More Parking!



Parking creates ugly, pedestrian-unfriendly spaces on campus (and indeed, in our cities)

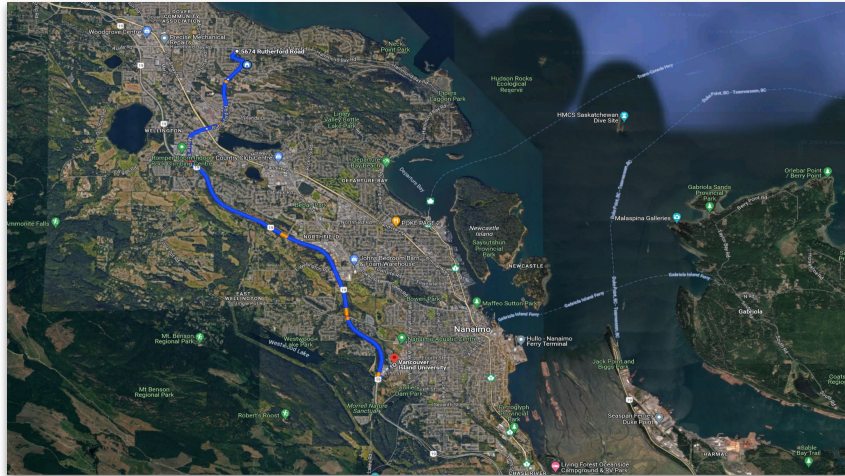
Humans inherently spend less time here.



Auto-oriented infrastructure destroys our planet through consumption and pollution

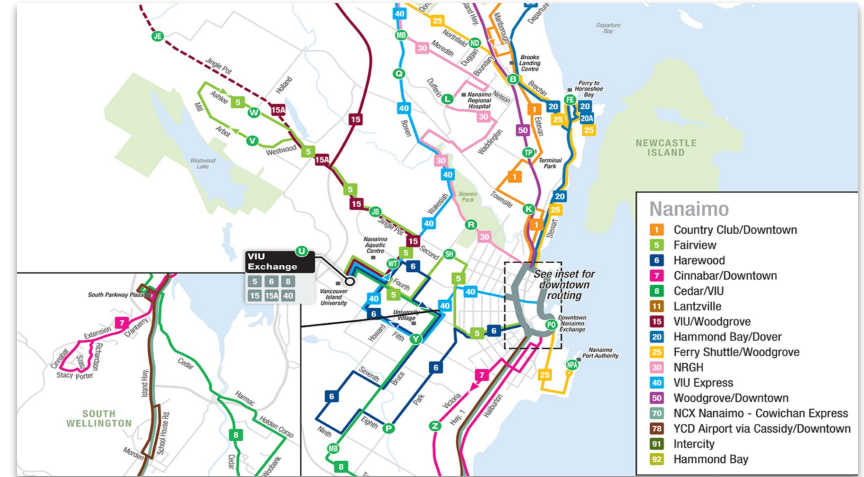
Building places for cars is detrimental

So What? Just Build More Parking! ctd.



Building cities for cars makes things further apart since “people can drive

Cars make it viable to put things further apart



Sprawl makes it hard to support public transit

When everything and everyone is spread further away, it's challenging to serve them

The Result: Most People Drive in Nanaimo

Employed labour force by main mode of commuting, Nanaimo E (Regional district electoral area), 2016 to 2021

Main mode of commuting	2016	2021
Car, truck or van – as a driver	88.2	89.5
Car, truck or van – as a passenger	4.3	4.6
Sustainable transportation	4.8	3.7
Public transit	1.4	0.6
Active transportation	3.4	3.1
Other method	2.9	2.5

https://www.enm-nhs.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/as-sa-fogs-spg/alternative.cfm?topic=13&lang=E&dguid=2021A0005921030@objectId=2_4@wbdisable=true

