

## Summer 2026 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Hub is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the guidance of a mentor from the partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing sustainability across the region. The pay rate for the summer 2025 program is \$31.25/hour or \$7,812.50 for a 250-hour project.

- Visit the [Sustainability Scholars Program website](#) to learn [how the program works](#) and to [apply](#).
- Be sure to review the application guide on the Apply page to confirm your eligibility before applying.

**Applications close at 11:59 pm on Sunday February 1, 2026.**

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## Project title: Developing a Regional Bikeway Maintenance and Condition Monitoring Process

### Project Background

Cycling has a clear role to play in promoting sustainability. Transportation is the biggest contributor to GHG emissions in Metro Vancouver. Cars, light trucks and SUVs account for 32% of all emissions in the region, meaning that day-to-day travel choices have significant climate impacts when looked at on a regional scale. Human-powered transportation options such as cycling have long been recognized as underutilized zero emissions transportation options. This is why TransLink's Transport 2050 and Access for Everyone plans call for rapidly completing 75% of the Major Bikeway Network (MBN) and Urban Centres Bikeway (UCB) networks within 10 years.

TransLink's Access for Everyone plan identifies a link between infrastructure construction and ongoing maintenance by noting that the construction of the MBN must be paired with corresponding OMR (operations, maintenance and rehabilitation) funding. This acknowledges that ensuring that bikeways are safe and comfortable includes not just high-quality design, but also dedicated and careful condition monitoring and maintenance. As more of the MBN-UCB gets built out, maintaining the network to ensure that bikeways remain Comfortable for Most will become ever more important to encouraging cycling and making sure that our region maximizes the sustainability benefits of active transportation.

### Project description

How do we encourage cycling by ensuring that regional bikeways are clean and well maintained? Much is known about the importance of convenience, safety, comfort and reliability in encouraging cycling. Traffic separated bikeways or traffic calmed neighbourhood street bikeways provide all of these, which is why North American bike facility planning has shifted towards a focus on Comfortable for Most facilities in recent years.

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TransLink has been addressing bikeway design for many years through its Local Government Funding Program (LGFP), which provides grant funding to local governments throughout Metro Vancouver to build bikeways that meet TransLink's classification of Comfortable for Most. This program has supported and continues to support the build out of the Major Bikeway Network and Urban Centres Bikeways (MBN-UCB). All bikeways built under the LGFP include design features that make them comfortable for most people. But maintenance has not yet been included in this program in a significant way.

Local governments are responsible for maintaining built cycling infrastructure around the region. This project aims to help TransLink support local government partners by addressing several questions:

- What approaches to bikeway condition assessment and maintenance exist across the region?
- What approaches exist around the world?
- What would a TransLink-run assessment program look like that aimed to deliver a consistent approach grounded in partnership with local governments?

The Sustainability Scholar will identify a comprehensive process and develop tools to support the assessment and documentation of cycling infrastructure conditions along Major Bikeway Network corridors. This will lead directly to improvements in bikeway conditions and increased feelings of comfort, safety and reliability for people using the MBN. This in turn, will encourage modal shift from driving to cycling, lowering GHGs and increasing sustainability.

## Project scope

- Introduction to TransLink, relevant staff and resources in order to gain knowledge of the organization and relevant existing work and resources.
- Review of relevant TransLink documents related to the project, including the MBN Action Plan, Operations Maintenance and Rehabilitation (OMR) planning, existing MBN OMR maintenance standards and criteria, and the Local Government Funding Program (LGFP) to understand the context.
- Literature review of public agency documents regarding bikeway maintenance planning procedures and program development to understand existing relevant research and best practices.
- Interviews with 3 to 5 comparator jurisdictions (2 to 3 global and 2 to 3 local jurisdictions) to understand their bikeway maintenance approach and delivery models.
- Based on the research, interviews, and additional information provided by TransLink, develop a bikeway condition assessment process, including easy to use guidance materials for performing the assessments such as a checklist and assessment timeline. The Scholar will input the criteria into TransLink's web-based data gathering and organization platform (ArcGIS Survey123). TransLink will provide training on how to use the tool if needed.

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- Engage internally and share with TransLink staff the development of the bikeway condition assessment process for feedback and visibility within the organization.
- If time permits, validate the assessment process by using it to assess conditions for one or more Major Bikeway Network sections or corridors.

## **Deliverables**

- An assessment tool (in ArcGIS Survey123) to support the assessment process, data storage and possibly communication between TransLink and local government staff.
- A final report containing detailed information about work completed for use by TransLink, including the findings of the research performed and documentation of the assessment process and how to use it.
- If time permits, validation of the assessment process and documentation.
- A summary final report for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library.

## **Time Commitment**

- This project will take 250 hours to complete
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 14
- The Scholar is to complete their hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.

## **Required/preferred Skills and Background**

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Project management and organizational skills
- Comfortable talking to/interviewing strangers to collect information
- GIS training or experience, an asset
- Familiarity with local bikeways, an asset
- Research background or interest in active transportation planning

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Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

Contact Karen Taylor at [sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca](mailto:sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca) if you have questions

## Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 19, 2026.

[Click here for details and to register.](#)

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume, cover letter and preparing for an interview (there are many more online).

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>