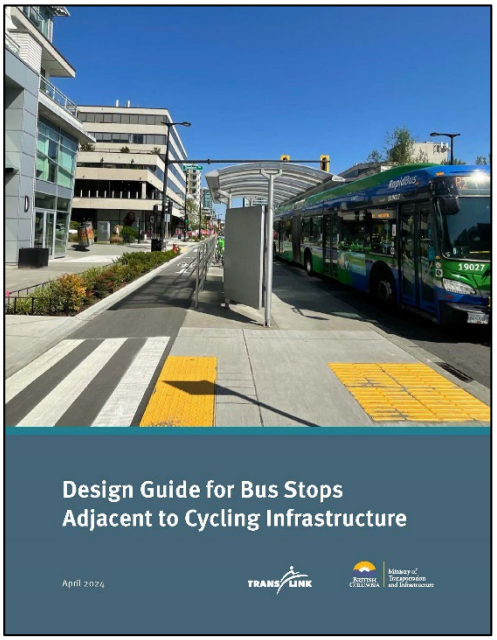
2024 Award Winner

TRANSPORTATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — PLANNING

TransLink, the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Urban Systems, Toole Design Group, and EAP Consulting Ltd., for the *Design Guide for Bus Stops Adjacent to Cycling Infrastructure*



TransLink, the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Urban Systems, Toole Design Group, and **EAP Consulting Ltd.,** have received a 2024 Transportation Achievement Award in the Planning category for the development of the ***Design Guide for Bus Stops Adjacent to Cycling Infrastructure.*** The Transportation Achievement Awards recognize excellence in the advancement of transportation to meet human needs, by entities concerned with transportation, such as governmental agencies, Tribes, legislative bodies, consulting firms, industry partners, and other organizations. Awards are presented in five categories: Complete Streets, TSMO, Safety, Planning, and Traffic Engineering.

The *Design Guide for Bus Stops Adjacent to Cycling Infrastructure* is a groundbreaking project aimed at ensuring safe and comfortable travel for all users, particularly those with disabilities. This initiative is part of TransLink's broader 30-year transportation strategy, Transport 2050, which envisions a future where every person in Metro Vancouver can easily connect to the opportunities they need to thrive. The Province of British Columbia's (BC) Accessible BC Act further supports this vision by mandating more inclusive and barrier-free transportation solutions.

Application of Innovative Concepts. The design guide is the first of its kind in North America and provides comprehensive guidelines for planning, designing, operating, and maintaining bus stops adjacent to protected cycling infrastructure. Key innovations include the use of signs with braille and raised tactile lettering, audible announcements on transit vehicles, and enhanced dynamic signage. The guide also recommends installing a wide range of tactile devices and actuated flashing beacons in areas of high conflict potential, significantly enhancing safety and accessibility for all users.

Implementation of a Challenging Transportation Project. The development of the design guide involved overcoming numerous challenges, including ensuring compatibility between bus stops and protected cycling lanes while maintaining accessibility for people with disabilities. The team employed a collaborative and iterative approach, involving extensive stakeholder engagement, including on-site field reviews, pilot projects, and virtual workshops. This process ensured that the final recommendations were practical, inclusive, and based on real-world experiences.

Significant Effect on Transportation. The project has had a profound impact on transportation planning and accessibility in British Columbia and beyond. By addressing the integration of bus stops with cycling infrastructure, the design guide promotes a more inclusive transportation network that encourages active transportation modes. The guide has garnered national and international attention and is poised to influence transportation planning practices across North America.

Multi-Faceted Transportation Project. The design guide combines aspects of active transportation planning, transit planning, road safety, and accessibility. It offers solutions for a wide range of contexts, from large urban centers to small rural communities. The guide's flexibility ensures that it can be adapted to meet the specific needs of different environments, making it a valuable resource for transportation professionals across various jurisdictions.

Efficiency and Economy of Transportation. By providing clear guidelines for the integration of bus stops and cycling infrastructure, the design guide promotes more efficient use of public space and resources. The guidelines help streamline the planning and implementation process, reducing costs and improving the overall efficiency of transportation systems. This approach aligns with the evolving needs of communities, ensuring that infrastructure investments are sustainable and effective.

Safety Implications for All Users. Safety is a core focus of the design guide, which includes numerous recommendations to enhance the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users. Features such as protected intersections, continuous sidewalks, and raised crosswalks ensure that all users can navigate the transportation network safely and confidently. The guide's emphasis on accessibility ensures that people with disabilities can travel independently and with dignity.

Acknowledgements. Among those instrumental on this project were the following individuals:

Brian Patterson, RPP, MCIP, PMP, Senior Planner and Project Manager, Urban Systems**; Jim Elliott, AICP,** Senior Planner, Toole Design Group**; Cristina Lucca, EIT, EAP Consulting Ltd**.

Visit here for more information on ITE's Awards Program. Visit here for information on the Design Guide.