

To: Dr. Erika Paterson, EP

From: Samuel King, SK

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Subject: Proposal for Public Restrooms Within Skytrain and Canada Line Stations in Vancouver

Introduction

The City of Vancouver is experiencing a continued influx of people from all over the world. Being able to provide those visitors and current residents with basic services and facilities is a very important task. Among those necessary services and facilities that are required for a healthy functioning city include but are not limited to hospitals, parks and public transit. Out of these features of a city needs a well equipped public transit stations that can serve basic public needs.

Problem Statement

With more and more people coming to Vancouver and many of them are using the public transit services such as the Translink Skytrain and Canada Line train systems. Compared to other large cities the City of Vancouver's train stations are lacking public lavatories. Even outside of a station it can be quite difficult to locate those facilities. Many times over if one wants to use a public restroom outside of a station they are usually required to pay an expense at a shop or visit a restaurant in order to use one.

Proposed Solution

A possible solution to the problem of no lavatories within or outside of Skytrain and Canada Line train systems is to build restrooms directly inside of each station. These restrooms will be designated for male and females separately so as to provide ample space for busy transit times.

Scope

To figure out how best to implement lavatory facilities within train stations in Vancouver, I intend to target seven main issues:

1. Would transit users like to have lavatories at train stations?
2. Would transit users make use of lavatories at train stations?
3. Are transits users concerned with spread of infectious diseases at lavatories?
4. Would transit users prefer automatic paper towel dispensers or hand dryers?
5. Are transit users concerned with maintenance of lavatory facilities at train stations?
6. Are transit users worried about the safety of lavatory facilities at train stations?
7. What is the cost of building lavatories within train stations?

Methods

My primary data source will come from surveys and interviews with transit users conducted at various train stations throughout Vancouver. These surveys will be voluntary and consist of a questionnaire. For those that volunteer for the surveys I will also ask if they would like to be interviewed. The surveys will provide statistical data that can be compiled while the interviews will be for qualitative feedback regarding public restrooms at train stations.

If at all possible, my secondary sources of data will include interviews with employees of the City of Vancouver along with train station supervisors and Translink employees.

My Qualifications

I am a third-year Geographical Biogeosciences student at the University of British Columbia . As a current and avid user of the public transit system here in Vancouver I can attest to the need for lavatory facilities within train stations. I have come in contact with numerous students who spend lots of time on transit and those who transfer from bus to train or vice versa have voiced their discontent with the lack of restrooms within transit stations. The U-Pass program will give me the opportunity to venture to various stations across the City of Vancouver to conduct my research.

Conclusion

Lavatory upgrades to the transit stations throughout the city will provide a great and much needed service to the riders. By way of the seven issues previously mentioned I will be able to determine how much public demand there is for restroom installation at train stations and if it is feasible. I sincerely hope this proposal meets your requirements and I look forward to your response.