

New Westminster Pedestrian Charter

Walking is the universal mode of transportation; people around the world walk to work, school and other destinations. Nearly every personal trip involves some walking, often to connect with other modes of transportation, such as bicycle, public transit and private car.

A pedestrian is a person that moves from place to place, either by foot or by using an assistive mobility device.

To ensure walking is safe, comfortable and a convenient mode of travel, the City of New Westminster respects the following principles:

Accessibility

Walking is a universally available means of reaching and using goods, services, community amenities and public transit.

Equity

Walking is the most affordable mode of transport, and allows everyone of all ages and abilities including children, youth and seniors to travel independently.

Healthy

Walking is a proven method of enhancing personal health and well-being.

Sustainability

Walking relies on human power and has negligible natural environment impact.

Safety

Walking is a safe mode of transportation. The more people out on foot, the more a community has a greater sense of safety.

Community

Walking-friendly places are people-friendly places, creating a more livable and cohesive community and contributing to community vitality, both socially and economically.

To support and encourage walking, the City of New Westminster will:

- review practices and regulations to ensure that a high priority is placed on pedestrian needs;
- plan, design and develop a pedestrian-friendly environment in public space to meet travel needs of pedestrians;
- improve pedestrian safety by minimizing potential conflicts between pedestrian and other users in the public right-of-way;
- invest in pedestrian facilities and services to encourage people to walk for commuting to work and school, exercise and recreation; and
- integrate walking with other modes of transportation.

Actions:

- provide and maintain infrastructure that gives pedestrians safe and convenient passage while walking and crossing streets;
- provide appropriate pedestrian access to public transit services;
- ensure weather protection is in place for pedestrians in commercial areas and other locations where there is significant pedestrian activity; and
- seek funding opportunities with other levels of government and agencies
- ensure that all sidewalks in the City have appropriate curb cuts, that surface texture is constructed to prevent persons using mobility challenged devices from losing their grip on the devices, to include adequate lighting, and
- access to buses be accommodated at bus stops for devices used by mobility challenged persons, and

The City of New Westminster works with individual citizens, community groups and agencies, businesses and other levels of government to achieve a pedestrian-friendly walkable community.