

North American Agencies Learned from the World at the Forum

The UITP North America Forum 2024 in Vancouver included countless reminders of the value transit brings to communities around the globe.

The Forum brought the world to North America. We benefitted from expertise and access to transit professionals from UITP's international community. We exchanged many new and innovative ideas and learned from our peers how public transportation is governed, funded, and valued in other countries.

Vancouver itself offered wonderful examples of how transit helps create public spaces for people. The city has successfully incorporated micro-mobility through investments in hike-and-bike lanes, bike sharing, electric scooters, and more. City leaders promote these modes of transit to enable people travel swiftly and conveniently without a car. The value that international cities like Vancouver place on transit sets an example for everyone in North America, particularly the United States.

Forum attendees also heard from leaders representing the broad range of demographics as the industry has grown much more inclusive at the executive and C-suite levels. I was pleased to see the beautiful mosaic of people at the table, whose diverse voices will guide us to address the needs of all our customers more thoughtfully.

Lastly, I was heartened that much of the discussion focused on workforce, operations, and maintenance, as well as ways to improve our systems and transit services for our riders. These ideas are not new, but the focus is growing in North America and is one of the reasons I am so enthusiastic about UITP.



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