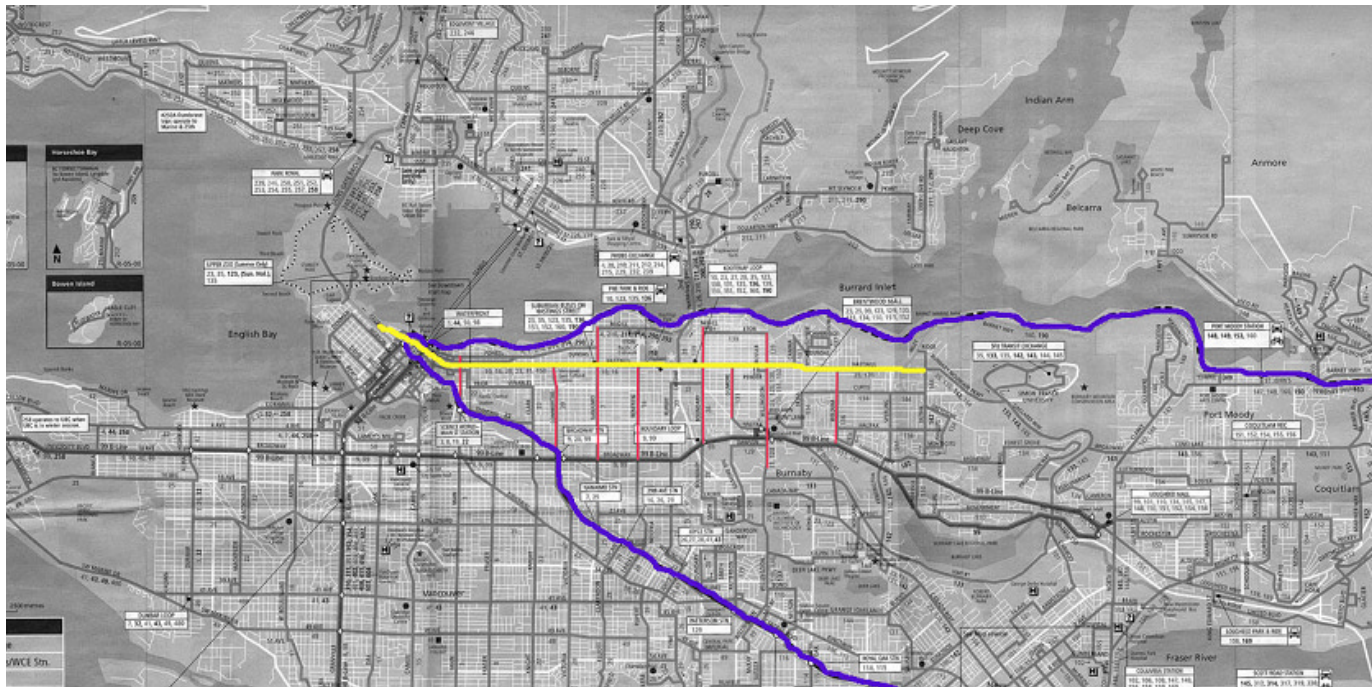


STREET,CAR, ARCHITECTURE by heather bretz

...good public infrastructure leads to good street life due to the synergy between private and public development...

public transit architecture



the above map shows the current public transit routes in the lower mainland. The upper blue line is the West Coast Express while the lower blue line is the Skytrain. The yellow line is the proposed streetcar route along Hastings Street from Coal Harbour to the base of Burnaby Mountain. The shaded yellow box is a community called the Heights located near Wilington Avenue in Burnaby. This area was intensely studied to determine the effects that a streetcar would have on the public street life in terms of zoning, policy and planning.



global transit approach...

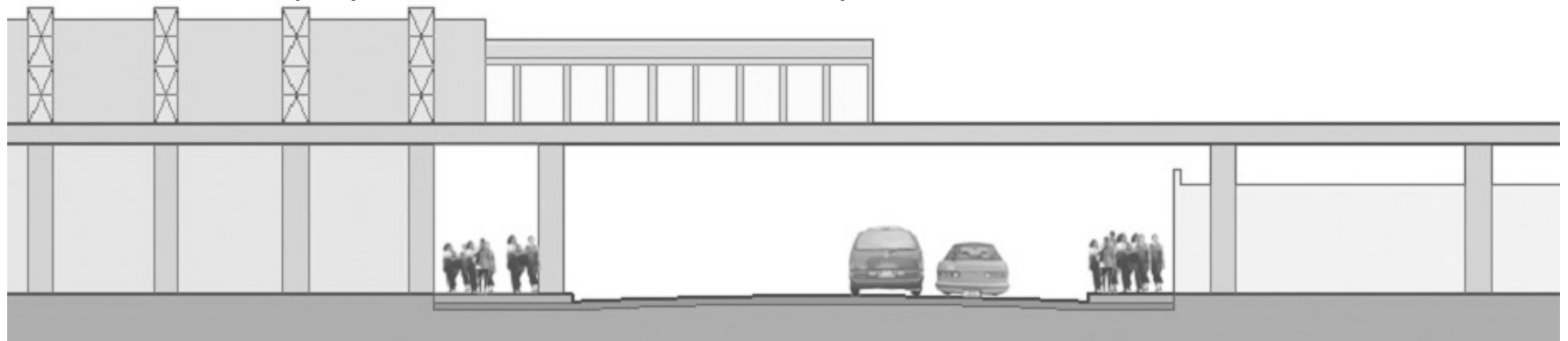
public infrastructure often leads to a synergy between public and private development, but this does not mean a good street life. public infrastructure often leads to a synergy between public and private development, but this does not mean a good street life.

The Broadway Skytrain station at Broadway and Commercial Drive shows a poor or lack of planning for the street has lead to horrible street conditions and appalling public space.

Though there is a large public infrastructure and a high population that accompanies the Skytrain and street, the public streetscape is not a admirable form of urban design.



section of the Broadway Skytrain station located on East Broadway at Commercial drive



a vancouver historic approach...



historically, Hastings Street had a streetcar running until it was replaced by the trolley cars after World War II. The streetcar allowed for cars, bicycles and pedestrians to freely move along the street. It also provided for a great street life along Hastings Street as people were on street level with the ability to get on and off of the tram every other block.

a global contemporary approach...



today, many cities around the world use the streetcar as a part of their public transit system. Streetcar systems usually run at one tenth the cost of a standard light rail transit system such as Skytrain. Portland Oregon has recently completed a new streetcar system running from its downtown core through an old industrial land and out to the university. The streetcar has become extremely popular and has drawn business back into the areas through which it runs.

