

Dear Mayor Crompton and Council,

I recently read in the Pique that the council is considering "free" bus options for our village. I think this is a fantastic idea.

Two years ago, my husband and I went on a ski holiday in the Tyrol/Innsbruck area and we experienced the convenient and delightful benefits of free transit. The region's policy is to allow free transit to all people carrying skis. When we checked in at the hotel we were given our room keycard and a Welcome Card bus pass for the extent of our visit. We used the Welcome Card/bus pass when we didn't have our skis with us. During our two-week stay we used the bus everyday to get to the ski hill and back to the hotel, and to go shopping and out for meals. We were able to move around the neighbouring villages easily without a car. I feel that this model would work well in Whistler.

We live in White Gold and usually drive to Lot 7, park and ski, but last year the parking lot was frequently full and we often had to drive back home. Towards the end of the season I was considering the bus as an option, but as seniors it would cost the two of us \$2.50 each way for a total of \$10. We usually called up *Whistle* to take us to the hill for the same amount. One problem we found was getting a lift back home at the end of the day as taxi or *Whistle* waits were often long. However, if the bus was free for anyone with skis, or with a bus pass, this would make the bus a more attractive option.

I believe that Whistler could consider adding a bus pass to the cost of accommodation or as part of the ski pass, similar to the Austrian model. I am sure with more research that the council could learn how they fund transit with a hotel stay with included bus pass. This model would also work in summer for hikers to access the hill, and for shopping and dining. Here is a link to the website: <https://www.innsbruck.info/en/skiing/service/free-ski-bus.html>

I respectfully ask that the council look into this option for visitors and also consider a bus pass option for residents.

Sincerely,

Colleen & Ian MacDonald

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Free ski bus: source Skiresort.info



Skiers ride transit free in Austria/source Powderhounds

