

# Canwest News Service

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## Smart growth gets a hearing; Are more buses better? Two academics will debate smart growth principles this month.

**By:** Matthew Claxton, Langley Advance

A debate on the best way for communities to grow will be held in Langley Township later this month.

Todd Litman, of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, will be advocating in favour of principles lumped under the category of "smart growth," while Randal O'Toole of the libertarian **Cato Institute** will be arguing against it.

Litman is known for his advocacy of high-quality public transit, while O'Toole is an outspoken critic. Litman is also known for his research including the Online TDM [Transportation Demand Management] Encyclopedia. Audience members will be able to lob questions at both men after the debate.

The debate is being organized by the South Fraser OnTrax group, which itself leans towards the smart growth side of the issue.

OnTrax is a Langley-based group that has advocated for better public transit and complete communities in the South of the Fraser region.

The event is supported by a grant from Langley City, and will be held in a Langley Township facility. It will take place on Feb. 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fraser River Presentation Theatre in the Township's hall at 20338 65th Ave.

The event is free, but seating is limited and reservations are recommended. Email [southfraserblog@yahoo.com](mailto:southfraserblog@yahoo.com) to reserve a seat.