



Stakeholder Update  
August 2009

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## **Call for Interest to Serve on the 2010 Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee**

The Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee (UAC) is now accepting applications from those interested in serving on the Committee for the 2010 calendar year. Applications can be found online at: <http://www.translink.ca/en/Rider-Info/Accessible-Transit/Access-Transit/Users-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

Candidates will be selected based on qualifications and the need to reflect balanced representation from the following areas: persons with disabilities; seniors; cross section of regional representation; municipalities; educational institutions; social services representing immigrants and new Canadians and the medical community.

Committee members will be expected to promote accessibility awareness and work toward solving accessibility issues through creative, open-minded and inclusive thinking.

The role of the Committee is to assist TransLink in ensuring the implementation of the Access Transit Strategy and provide ongoing advice on all plans, programs and other initiatives that TransLink funds such as:

- Advise TransLink on matters which will enhance accessibility.
- Act as TransLink's organizational conscience on accessibility issues.

- Assist TransLink in setting priorities on accessibility issues.
- Provide comments on TransLink policies and strategy.

A sub-committee of the UAC will review new applications and select the 2010 members. Please submit your application to [Julie.Rogal@translink.ca](mailto:Julie.Rogal@translink.ca) no later than **Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009**.

If you have any questions regarding the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee and the application process please contact:

Julie Rogal  
604 453 4587  
[Julie.Rogal@translink.ca](mailto:Julie.Rogal@translink.ca)

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## **Canada Line Opening August 17<sup>th</sup>!**

The Canada Line has its official opening on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, three months ahead of schedule. On opening day, the service will be free to passengers, allowing customers to travel the 19km Line, a trip which takes approximately 25 minutes from Waterfront Station to YVR.

**Please be advised that TransLink expects large crowds and delays on opening day.**

The Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee has been involved in providing input into design elements as well as content for sensitivity training delivered to Canada Line staff. Some of the new Canada Line accessibility features you can look forward to include:

## **Vehicles**

- All vehicles will have two Multi - Purpose Areas (four per train) - one for wheelchairs, the other for bicycles and baggage. Two wheelchairs can be accommodated in a single Multi-Purpose Area.
- Multi - Purpose Areas are located in the middle of the trains, generally with direct access from the Designated Waiting Area.
- Each Multi - Purpose Area will be equipped with an intercom designated for wheelchair use.
- All train doors and sills are highlighted in contrasting colours to emphasize the edge of the vehicle and platform edge.
- Canada Line vehicles are larger than the existing Mark II SkyTrain cars, offering greater opportunity for people in wheelchairs and scooters to move about.
- Onboard announcements will be made in advance if an elevator is out of service at an upcoming station.
- Visual door indicators that blink when the doors are about to open or close.
- Each vehicle is equipped with electronic Canada Line station maps that alert customers to where they are in the system, in real time.
- High contrast information screens are on each vehicle to announce any emergencies on the system.

## **Elevators**

- Elevators are larger than most Expo Line elevators.
- Of the 35 elevators, 18 are flow-through style.
- At some locations, where space permits, an extra elevator call button has been provided on a post, on approach to the elevator. The call button to all elevators has been standardized to be on the right hand side of the frame at a consistent height.

- There are audio call outs for each public level served.
- Elevators will remain operational during emergencies.
- Tactile wayfinding to / from elevators to designated waiting area. The designated waiting area is lined up with the train door opening.

### **Stairs / Escalators / Ramps**

- Tactile high contrast strips located at the tops of stairs.
- Escalator treads will have high-contrast nosing and edges
- Ramps in stations have been designed to have grades of 5% or less.

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## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bus Stop Hop – August 29<sup>th</sup>!**

The BC Paraplegic Association (BCPA) and TransLink are pleased to announce the 8<sup>th</sup> annual BCPA Bus Stop Hop will be taking place **Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**.

The Bus Stop Hop is an annual racing adventure using bus, SkyTrain, SeaBus and Aquabus to introduce new users in wheelchairs to the transit system, while raising access awareness for TransLink and Aquabus employees and for all transit users. Participants search for clues, read maps and solve problems... all while keeping an eye on the clock! A project of the BC Paraplegic Association's Peer Program, in partnership with TransLink and Aquabus, the Bus Stop Hop highlights how people with physical disabilities can engage with and access their community and how peer support plays a crucial role in that engagement.

TransLink and the BCPA are requesting volunteers to assist in various areas, which include:

- Helping at different event locations as race site volunteers

- Assisting with organizing teams at the beginning of the race and at the end during the awards ceremony and dinner
- Being a participant on a team with someone with a mobility impairment.

If you are interested in becoming a participants or event volunteer please contact Brad Jacobsen [bjacobsen@bcpara.org](mailto:bjacobsen@bcpara.org) or Julie Rogal [Julie.Rogal@translink.ca](mailto:Julie.Rogal@translink.ca)

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### **Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee Meeting**

The next meeting of the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee will be held on October 7th, 2009.

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Please forward these updates on to others within your organizations or to other individuals who may find them of interest.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the status of the Access Transit project, please contact:  
[accesstransit@translink.bc.ca](mailto:accesstransit@translink.bc.ca)