



## Stakeholder Update December 2009

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### **HandyDART Strike Update**

MVT Canadian Bus Inc. (MVT) and their employees represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) have resumed mediated contract talks. The mediated talks will continue later this week (December 17). TransLink is focused on doing whatever it can to assist MVT and their employees reach an agreement as soon as possible.

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### **Year End Review of Accessibility Initiatives**

In 2009, TransLink delivered a number of accessibility enhancements to our public transportation system. Some are built on previous accomplishments while others have set the foundations for future initiatives.

### **Opening of the Canada Line**

On August 17<sup>th</sup> the Canada Line opened, on budget and three months ahead of schedule. The rapid transit line which travels from downtown Vancouver to Richmond and the Vancouver International Airport has several noteworthy accessibility features including:

- Two Multi-Purpose Areas (four per train) on each vehicle – one for wheelchairs, the other for bicycles and baggage. Two wheelchairs can be accommodated in a single purpose Multi-Purpose Area.

- Each Multi-Purpose Area is equipped with an intercom designated for wheelchair use.
- Each vehicle is equipped with high contrast (yellow on black) information screens that have the ability to announce emergencies on the system. Announcements are made if an elevator is out of service at an upcoming station.
- Elevators are near station entrances and are highly visible.
- At some locations, where space permits, an extra elevator call button has been provided on a post, on the approach to the elevator.
- All elevators are equipped with Closed Circuit TV Cameras.
- There are audio call-outs for each public level served.
- Elevators remain operational during emergencies.
- Ramps in stations have been designed to have grades of 5% or less.

## **New SeaBus**

In mid December TransLink will welcome a third, fully accessible SeaBus vessel to the fleet – the Burrard Pacific Breeze.

## **Commercial-Broadway Station Upgrades**

In October 2009 renovations were completed at the Commercial-Broadway SkyTrain Station. Some of the upgrades included:

- A new, accessible entrance at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- A new staircase leading up to platforms three and four.
- A new up escalator, plus new lighting and glass walls at the ground level for improved visibility and daylight.
- Removal of the elevator at the north end of the station to reduce congestion.
- A new, faster, larger elevator in the south end of the station to reduce the congestion.

## **48 New SkyTrain Cars**

In the summer of 2009 TransLink received 48 new Mark II SkyTrain cars. The Mark II SkyTrain cars include several new accessibility enhancements, such as:

- A new seating arrangement that allows easier movement for people using wheelchairs, walkers, scooters or strollers.
- New electronic route maps that light up as the train travels from station to station. This feature makes it easier for users, especially those with hearing impairments, to know where they are on the SkyTrain line.
- Improved design of the articulated section which connects two cars together.
- Visual “door close” indicator lights located inside each set of doors which flash when the doors are about to close, and light up when they are open.

TransLink and the Access Transit Department would like to greatly thank transit users and the Access Transit Users’ Advisory Committee for all of their feedback and hard work during 2009.

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

The next meeting of the Access Transit Users’ Advisory Committee is scheduled for January 7th, 2010.

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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.ca](mailto:accesstransit@translink.ca)

On behalf of Access Transit, we would like to wish you a warm and wonderful Christmas. May 2010 bring peace, health and happiness.