

New SkyTrain Cars Offer More Accessible Features!

48 new Mark II SkyTrain cars have started arriving at the BC Rapid Transit Company (BCRTC). The new cars will increase SkyTrain capacity by 30%!

The first of the new cars will come into service later this spring, and most, if not all, will be in service by the 2010 Olympics. The Mark II SkyTrain cars include several new accessibility enhancements, such as:

- A new seating arrangement will allow easier movement for people using wheelchairs, walkers, scooters or strollers. Wider aisles will enhance passenger capacity by approximately 10%.
- More stanchions to hold onto as well as a full length centre ceiling stanchion will provide more handholds and a highly visible guide to the exits for those with sight impairments. The stanchions are painted bright yellow for increased visibility.
- 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.
- New flooring with anti-slip properties.
- Onboard security cameras to monitor and record what is happening inside the car.

For more information, as well as photos and videos of the interiors of the new cars, please visit the buzzer blog:

<http://buzzer.translink.ca/index.php/2009/05/improved-interiors-for-the-new-skytrain-cars/>

Broadway Station Elevator Closure

As part of TransLink's re-design and upgrade of the Broadway SkyTrain Station, the elevator at the station entrance on the south side of Broadway Street (near Safeway) will be **closed permanently as of June 1.**

The new entrance for Broadway SkyTrain station, off 10th Avenue, including elevator access, is expected to open in **September 2009**. During construction, customers who need to use an elevator will be redirected across the street, to an elevator at the Commercial SkyTrain Station (near Shoppers Drug Mart). That elevator is located in the Ticket Vending Machine plaza and links to the Broadway Station platform via an overhead walkway.

Removing the elevator on the north side of the Broadway Station platform will increase space on the platform and reduce congestion during peak periods. The new entrance off 10th Avenue is designed to improve accessibility, provide an open station visible from both Broadway and 10th, and create an additional exit.

Other improvements, which are designed to enhance safety, security and accessibility, include glass walls on the concourse level and at the top of the stairs, new paving and space for new retail outlets in the future.

TransLink apologizes for the temporary inconvenience: the improvements will be worth waiting for.

For more information on the Broadway Station elevator closure please contact:

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Access Transit

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Scott Road Station Elevator Update

In the fall of 2008 the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee brought forward the recommendation to install a second elevator at Scott Road Station, which the TransLink Board subsequently approved.

A Capital Project Proposal was submitted, along with a budget proposal, through which Approval-in-Principal was granted. TransLink's Capital Management Department is currently reviewing the project scope and budget prior to making an application specific for project approval.

The second elevator at Scott Road Station will address a longstanding issue for customers with mobility impairments. The current elevator connects the SkyTrain to the park and ride, but not the bus loop; therefore, if a person with mobility concern arrives at the bus loop and would like to transfer to SkyTrain, they will require a taxi to get to the elevator in the park and ride lot across the street.

Design work will commence this summer. Tendering and construction are scheduled to begin in early 2010 with project completion anticipated for late 2010.

Funding Metro Vancouver's Bus Stops

While TransLink is responsible for providing public transportation to metro Vancouver residents, it shares the responsibility for the regions bus stops with each municipality through the Transit Related Road Infrastructure Program. Eligible TRRIP expenditures are broken down into three categories:

- Bus stop construction (50/50 cost share)
- Geometric road modifications (50/50 cost share)
- Transit priority lanes (100% CMBC paid)

All municipalities are party to the Transit Related Road Infrastructure Program. Municipal representatives are sent an email at the beginning of August each year for the following program year to alert them to the opportunity to cost share in potential TRRIP improvements. Provided funding is available, the 2010 TRRIP program will be communicated to the municipalities again at the beginning of August 2009.

It is important to note that all bus stops are located on public road right-of-ways or private properties (an example of private property would be the Park Royal Shopping Centre). TransLink cannot make unilateral changes on these roadways. TransLink only owns the bus loops (bus exchanges). When a bus stop is designed by Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC), the municipality must review and approve the design. It is then the municipality's responsibility to construct the bus stop.

TransLink and CMBC participate on the Major Road and Transportation Advisory Committee (MRTAC). All engineering department heads from all municipalities are members of this Committee. This is where TRRIP funding is discussed. If you have any questions regarding bus stop funding, please contact your municipality.

Canada Line Offering Specialized Orientation for People with Disabilities

Throughout July 2009, Canada Line will be conducting train and station orientation sessions for customers with accessibility requirements. Each session will take about an hour. Please view the calendar below for training dates, times and locations.

July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Canada Day	2 King Edward Stn - 10AM	3	4 Lansdowne Stn – 2PM
5	6 Oakridge Stn – 10AM	7	8 Aberdeen Stn 2:00PM	9	10 Lansdowne Stn – 10AM	11
12 Broadway 2PM	13	14 Bridgeport 10AM	15	16 King Edward 2PM	17	18 Aberdeen 10AM
19	20 Oakridge 2PM	21	22 Lansdowne 10AM	23	24 Broadway 2PM	25
26 Bridgeport – 10AM	27	28 Yaletown 2PM	29	30 Aberdeen 10AM	31	

Please note that there is a limited space available for each sessions.

To register for an orientation session, please RSVP with your **name, session date** and **telephone number** to:

Inge Bowles

Inge.bowles@translink.ca

604 453-4682

No later than two weeks before your desired session.

Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee will be held on June 11th, 2009.

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