

Newsletter

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TransLink and CMBC recognize Access Awareness Day

In recognition of Access Awareness Day, TransLink and Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) promoted universal accessibility with internal events during the first two weeks of June.

Access Awareness Day is more than just one day a year at

TransLink, as our transportation services provide one of the cornerstones of accessibility: mobility.

Over the course of two weeks CMBC invited volunteers from the disability community to each bus depot. These volunteers gave drivers and staff an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about accessibility from a different standpoint.

On June 8, TransLink hosted an accessible bus trial outside of Metrotown Station. The CMBC bus training department provided a wheelchair, scooter and bicycle for people interested in trying to board using accessible bus features. A HandyDART vehicle was also provided, giving TransLink employees an opportunity to experience the processes involved in a safe ride from a customer's perspective.

In addition, TransLink also hosted a one-day art exhibit, featuring photographs

and paintings created by local artists with disabilities. Contributing sources included Users' Advisory Committee Vice-Chair **Heather McCain**, as well as the posAbilities art group 'Alternatives'.

One of highlights of the Access Awareness Day events included guest speaker **Brad Jacobsen**, creator of the annual Bus Stop Hop race and local BC Paraplegic Association (BCPA) Peer Program Associate. Brad visited both TransLink and the Vancouver Transit Centre to speak about the challenges he has experienced and the importance an accessible transportation system has on a newly disabled person's ability to regain independence within our community.

New Westminster SkyTrain Station gets an Elevator Makeover

For the first time in Metro Vancouver's history an existing SkyTrain station will be fully integrated into a new residential/commercial development. On June 6, construction began to combine the New Westminster SkyTrain Station with the Plaza 88 community development.

As part of this project, the westbound (to Waterfront) elevator will be demolished and **out of service until November 2011**. The eastbound (to King George/VCC Clark) elevator will continue to be in service. We have provided scenarios below to assist people who may be affected by this out-of-service elevator:

"I want to board at New Westminster Station and travel towards Waterfront Station."

Customers must use the eastbound elevator at New Westminster Station to reach the platform for trains to King George/VCC Clark. They will then take a train to Columbia Station. At Columbia Station they must go down the eastbound elevator to the ticket vending machine level, and then take the westbound elevator up to the platform for Waterfront Station.

"I will be travelling from King George or VCC Clark and want to get off at New Westminster Station."

Customers will need to stay on the westbound train until they reach 22nd Street Station, then switch to a train heading eastbound towards New Westminster Station. Once arriving at New Westminster Station, customers can use the operational elevator to get to ground level.

For more information on current and future construction projects, visit OnTrack at <http://www.translink.ca/en/Be-Part-of-the-Plan/Projects/OnTrack/About-the-Projects.aspx>

Scott Road Station Elevator Construction Begins!

Construction is now underway on a new accessible elevator on the west side of Scott Road Station. On June 17, the project was officially launched by Russ Hiebert, Member of Parliament for South Surrey-White Rock-Cloverdale; the Honourable Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Surrey-Panorama; and Fred Cummings, President and General Manager of BC Rapid Transit Company.

They were joined by Al Cleaver, retired Surrey fire chief and former member of the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee (UAC). Al was an energetic advocate for the installation of a second elevator at Scott Road Station; he was first alerted to the issue by his nephew, a young man with cerebral palsy. During the groundbreaking ceremony, Al was awarded a certificate in recognition of the pivotal role he played in bringing a second Scott Road Station elevator to fruition.

The completion of the elevator is scheduled for the spring of 2012 and is funded by the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia and TransLink. The elevator, to be made of glass and steel, will help Scott Road meet Crime Prevention through Environmental Design guidelines. This project is also part of the OnTrack program, where TransLink is re-investing in the current system through maintenance and upgrades.

Both the Scott Road Station bus loop and SkyTrain platform will experience changes due to construction. Please check www.translink.ca/ontrack for more information.

Accessible Bus Stops in Metro Vancouver

In May 2011, the total percentage of accessible bus stops in Metro Vancouver was 58.3%. A detailed comparison of the accessible bus stops for the month of May 2010 and May 2011 is outlined below.

	Active Stops 2011	% Accessible May 2010	% Accessible May 2011
Belcarra/Anmore	28	24.0%	28.6%
Bowen Island	1	100.0%	100.0%
Burnaby	944	44.9%	48.0%
Coquitlam	548	43.2%	44.7%
Delta/TFN	532	43.3%	46.2%
Langley - City	117	71.8%	70.9%
Langley - Township	340	55.0%	59.4%
Maple Ridge	306	34.3%	40.5%
New Westminister	259	67.4%	71.0%
North Vancouver - City	166	69.3%	69.3%
N. Vancouver - District	434	48.7%	50.0%
Pitt Meadows	52	52.9%	53.8%
Port Coquitlam	229	21.1%	27.1%
Port Moody	163	38.7%	41.7%
Richmond	710	53.4%	56.1%
Surrey	1332	70.0%	71.2%
Vancouver/UBC	1946	68.6%	69.9%
West Vancouver	4	60.0%	75.0%
White Rock	106	37.7%	39.6%
Total	8217	56.1%	58.3%

Please call **604.953.3333** or check www.translink.ca to find out if the bus stop you are intending to go to is accessible.

Fare Gate Construction at Commercial - Broadway Station Service Impacts

The bus stop arrangement at Commercial-Broadway Station will be temporarily revised to accommodate the upcoming Fare Gate construction. The following changes will be in effect from **June 20, 2011 until August 2011**:

- 9 Alma and N9 Downtown will relocate from just east of the station to just in front at the westbound Broadway nearside Commercial Drive (the new bus stop number is 52094)
- 99 B-Line U.B.C. will pick up at the stop approximately 35 metres east of its' current location (the new stop number is 50913). Transit Supervisors and Utility Operators will be on-site to assist customers and provide queue management
- In addition, passengers should be aware that fencing has been installed to assist with queue management and passenger safety on Broadway in front of the 99 B-Line U.B.C. stop.

If you have any questions regarding service impacts please call customer information at **604-953-3333**.

Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Access Transit Users' Advisory Committee will be held on September 15, 2011.

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: access.transit@translink.ca