

New DCN provides news and late-breaking transit information



SkyTrain riders might have noticed large digital screens at some SkyTrain stations. The Digital Commuter Network (DCN) is part of a new initiative that will provide news, weather reports, sports reports and advertising messages.

The bottom section of the DCN is where transit riders will find late-breaking news on any sudden transit changes as well as police alert information.

Being able to provide transit riders with this information will enable them to make any necessary choices about their commute.

The first phase of the DCN is now in operation at Metrotown and Waterfront SkyTrain stations and at the Vancouver side of the SeaBus terminal.

The DCN is part of a multi-million-dollar contract TransLink signed with Lamar Advertising. Under the 15-year deal, TransLink will receive advertising revenues of more than \$135 million. This money will be put towards maintaining and improving our transit system.

Plans to expand the DCN network include installation along the rest of the SkyTrain line before the 2010 Winter Olympics begin.

COMING EVENTS

Valentine Tea, Sat., Feb. 10, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Parish Hall of St. Augustine, home baking, raffle, Hawaiian entertainment, \$5, 8680 Hudson St. at 71st, Vancouver, for info call Evelyn, 604-325-9841 ✓ Burnaby Hospice Society Thrift Store, collectible sale, every Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 6843 Kingsway, Burnaby, ph: 604-520-5087 ✓ Confederation Centre, 4585 Albert St., Bby, is offering the following events: Flea Market, Sat., Feb. 3, 9:30 to 2 p.m., find a bargain, more than 50 tables of pre-loved items, free • Cozy Corner Craft Store, handicrafts for sale, made by centre members, plus public crafter items sold on consignment, volunteers wanted, Mon to Thurs, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 55+ Yoga for all levels, Mon to Thurs, 9 to 10:30 a.m., \$15.48, for info ph: 604-294-1936 ✓ La Bohème, Feb 8 to 11, Chan Centre, for info visit www.chan-centre.com ✓ Retro Design & Antiques Fair, Sun, Feb. 18, Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Dr., Vanc., \$4 admission, for info ph: 604-980-3159

New Year's Resolution winners

Thank you for voting for your favourite New Year's Resolution (contest featured in the Jan. 19, 2007, issue of The Buzzer). The five winners (Billy F., Keith C., K.R., Paddy W., and Sean M.) will receive a one-month three-zone transit pass – a \$130 value.

First place went to Billy F. for submitting the following resolution:

I will make room on the bus so others will not have to wait for another one in the cold and rain.

Watch for other upcoming contests in The Buzzer.

BUZZER

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Brodie acclaimed as TransLink Chair

The new TransLink Board for 2007, chosen by the GVRD Board of Directors, will lead the region's transportation authority into the third and final year of its 2005 – 2007 three-year plan.

At the board's first meeting of 2007 on Jan. 24, Richmond Mayor Malcolm Brodie was acclaimed to his second term as Chair of TransLink's Board of Directors and long time TransLink director and Surrey City Councillor Marvin Hunt was selected for his second term as vice-chair.

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Brodie acclaimed TransLink Chair . . . continued

2007 plan fully funded

In his comments to the TransLink Board, Chair Brodie noted that TransLink's 2007 plan is fully funded and that the focus this year will be on delivering all of the promised road and transit expansion.

"We come into this year with a solid plan that will maintain the momentum of road and transit improvements built up over the last two years," said Brodie.

More transit hours and buses on the way

"Our 2007 Transportation Plan will see the addition of 200,000 transit service hours and we will take delivery of 373 new buses – 89 of them to expand the fleet. The Canada Line will push forward on its aggressive construction schedule. We're intent on closing the funding gap for the Evergreen LRT Line to Coquitlam and work will be underway on 34 additional SkyTrain cars for the Expo and Millennium lines, scheduled for delivery in 2009.

"This year, we'll see the towers going up for the new Golden Ears Bridge over the Fraser River and the opening of the 204th Street rail overpass in Langley as we check off another item on our list of eight major road projects," Brodie added.

A pivotal year for TransLink

Commenting on the anticipated release of the province's recommendations on TransLink's governance, Chair Brodie acknowledged that 2007 is going to be "a pivotal year" for TransLink. "Despite the obvious challenges involved in planning, financing and implementing road and transit improvements in a growing region, where interest and expectations are high, there is strong public belief that TransLink has the right plan for the transportation system and that we're delivering what we've promised."

New North Van bus terminus in Downtown Vancouver

Due to construction and development along the 600 block of Beatty Street, North Vancouver buses now terminate in a new location.

The terminus consists of three bays on Cambie Street between Georgia and Dunsmuir.

Routes affected

- #240 15th St/Vancouver
- #241 Upper Lonsdale/Vancouver
- #242 Upper Lonsdale/Vancouver
- #246 Lonsdale Quay/Highland/Vancouver
- #247 Upper Capilano/Vancouver
- N24 Downtown/Upper Lonsdale NightBus

Inbound buses: will operate along Georgia Street to Cambie to the new terminus.

Outbound buses: will travel on Cambie to Dunsmuir, then left on Dunsmuir to Hamilton, left on Hamilton to Georgia, then turn right on Georgia and resume their normal route.

Rider Alerts, which feature bus service changes, will be distributed on Coast Mountain buses.



Bus zone changes on Cambie

Due to Canada Line construction work on Cambie Street, the #15 Downtown bus, which travels northbound, has been shifted to the west-side lanes between 16th Ave. and 12th Ave.

For the safety of our customers, bus zones will be established only where there are traffic signal controlled crosswalks.

Some bus stops have been closed as a result. Notices are being posted on those stops, directing customers to the nearest available stop. Passengers cannot board or leave the bus at any location other than these designated bus zones.

Please note: As a result of this change, the #15 has been diverted to the west-side lanes at:

- Marine Drive to King Edward Ave. (west side of the boulevard)
- King Edward Ave. to 19th Ave.
- 16th Ave. to 12th Ave.

TransLink and the Coast Mountain Bus Company thank customers for their continued patience during this construction period and apologize for any inconvenience.

For more information about these changes

please call Customer Information at (604) 953-3333 or visit www.translink.bc.ca