

Cycling and transit are a great fit!



The warmer, drier weather of spring helps to make cycling an enjoyable, healthy option for getting to work, running errands, or heading to a favourite local destination. Being able to connect with transit for a portion of your trip makes cycling even more attractive.

TransLink's responsibilities include planning and funding for regional cycling improvements.

During the past eight years, TransLink and municipal governments have invested over \$50 million in cycling infrastructure and improved transit access for cyclists.

In 1999, only 40% of the bus fleet had bike racks; that figure now exceeds 90% and will reach 100% in 2009. SkyTrain now permits bicycles aboard trains at all times except in the peak direction during the weekday rush periods. SeaBus and West Coast Express allow bicycles on all trips.

Bike lockers are available for rent at many SkyTrain stations, Phibbs Exchange and the Sexsmith, Ladner and South Surrey Park and Rides. The cost is just \$30 for a three-month period, plus a refundable key deposit.

Construction of the Canada Line rapid transit project between Vancouver and Richmond will include a new bicycle-and-pedestrian bridge over the Fraser River. As well, TransLink is leading the development and construction of cycling infrastructure such as the Central Valley Greenway, a traffic-separated active transportation route from downtown Vancouver to downtown New Westminster.

Cycling is fun, healthy and more convenient than ever for transit users. See the Cycling section at www.translink.bc.ca for more information.

COMING EVENTS

Theatre West Van presents the farcical British comedy, *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery*. April 28 and May 2 – 5. Curtain is 8 p.m. Tickets \$18 (\$15 for seniors & 18-and-under). Studio Theatre at Kay Meek Centre, 1700 Mathers Avenue, West Vancouver. 604-913-3634 or www.kaymeekcentre.com. ■ "Artist as Photographer" exhibit until May 12 at Artists For Kids Gallery, 810 West 21st St., North Vancouver. A diverse collection of contemporary Canadian photography. Public viewing 10 – 5 weekdays, noon – 4 weekends. Admission by donation. ■ Voices for VST, featuring Pacific Spirit Choir and Leora Cashe, May 4, 8 p.m. at Shaughnessy Heights United, tickets \$20 (\$10 for ages 12 and under). Call 604-922-7921 for information. ■ Confederation Centre's Flea Market is Sat. May 5 from 9:30 – 2:00. Here's your chance to clean out your cupboards or find yourself a bargain. Free admission. Vendor tables \$17.50. 4585 Albert Street, Burnaby. 604-294-1936. ■ Bazaar/tea, Sat. May 5 from 11 - 3 at Victoria Drive Community Hall, 2026 East 43rd Ave in Vancouver. Baking, bargains, and more. In support of Citizens' Pet Population Control Society. Free admission. ■ May 6 – 12 is North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH). The goal of NAOSH week is to focus the attention of employers, employees, the general public and all of the partners in Occupational Safety and Health on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace. For more information visit www.naosh.ca or www.worksafefbc.com. ■ Interested in researching your family history? Join the BC Genealogical Society. Year-round meetings and classes, 2nd Wednesday of every month at Edmonds Community Centre, 7282 Kingsway (at Edmonds). Call 604-502-9119 or visit www.bcgs.ca.

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BUZZER

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"Historic" launch of two accessible trolley routes

TransLink, the City of Vancouver and the accessible transit community celebrated a milestone achievement in the effort to make public transit in Vancouver available to everyone. Two routes in the West End and downtown, the #5 and #6, are now the first truly "accessible" trolley services. See inside for more details on this story, plus information about May 6 bus re-routes during the BMO Vancouver Marathon, the joys and convenience of combining cycling and transit, and more.

“This is an historic day for transportation in Vancouver.”

Those were the words of Sam Sullivan, Mayor of Vancouver and TransLink Director, at an event to commemorate the designation of the #5 and #6 bus routes as the first fully accessible trolley services in the region. The #5 and #6, which run in Vancouver’s downtown and West End areas, are scheduled to operate accessible low-floor trolley vehicles on all trips and also meet the following accessibility standards:

- At least 25% of the bus stops are accessible
- There is at least one accessible stop for every four blocks
- Each accessible stop must have a corresponding accessible stop for the return trip

“These two routes serve a diverse community with varying degrees of mobility,” said Mayor Sullivan. “For those who did not have the convenience of public transit because of their challenges, the wait is finally over.”

TransLink Chair Malcolm Brodie was equally enthusiastic. “Since 1980, when HandyDART was introduced, TransLink and its predecessors have worked to create a transit system that everyone can use, regardless of their mobility issues,” he said. “A big step was taken in 1990, with the first low-floor diesel buses, and our new low-floor electric buses take accessibility to the next level.”

As the entire trolley fleet is converted to the new, low-floor buses, TransLink is continuing to work with the City of Vancouver to bring the other trolley routes up to standard. From time to time, older, “non-accessible” trolley buses may be used as substitutes on the #5 and #6 routes for new trolleys being serviced or repaired; however, care will be taken to ensure a customer needing an accessible coach will not miss more than one bus.

Earlier SkyTrain service, bus re-routes for Vancouver Marathon May 6

The 36th BMO Vancouver Marathon will be held Sunday, May 6 in the downtown, Stanley Park, Kitsilano and False Creek areas. SkyTrain service will begin 90 minutes earlier than its usual Sunday schedule, with the first trains leaving King George at 5:38, Lougheed Town Centre at 5:43, and Waterfront at 6:20.

Below is a list of bus re-routes for May 6, effective 6 a.m. – 1 p.m.:

- #3 Downtown will divert at Main and Pender along Main, Hastings, and Columbia, then return to its regular route.
- #4 westbound will divert at Powell and Clark along Clark, Hastings, Howe, Granville, Broadway, Burrard, 4th Ave., Alma and 10th Ave., then return to its regular route.
- #6 Downtown will divert at Seymour and Hastings along Hastings, then Richards before returning to its regular route.
- #7 westbound will divert at Powell and Clark along Clark, Hastings, Howe, Granville, Broadway, Burrard and 4th Ave., then return to its regular route.
- #4/7 eastbound will divert at 4th Ave. and Burrard along Burrard, Broadway, Granville, Seymour, Hastings, Clark and Powell, then return to its regular route.
- #8 Fraser will divert at Seymour and Hastings along Hastings, then Main before returning to its regular route.
- #19 westbound will divert at Main and Pender along Main, Hastings, Howe, Pender, Georgia, Denman and Robson to its temporary terminus on Robson at Bidwell.
- #19 eastbound from its temporary terminus will travel via Robson, Cardero, Pender, Burrard, Hastings and Main and then along its regular route.
- #22 westbound will divert at Clark and Venables via Clark, Hastings, Burrard, 4th Ave. and MacDonald, then return to its regular route.

■ #22 eastbound will divert at MacDonald and 4th Ave. along 4th Ave., Burrard, Hastings and Clark, then return to its regular route.

■ #50 Waterfront Station will leave Willow and Broadway and travel along 8th Ave., Oak, Broadway, Granville, Robson, Seymour and Hastings to its temporary terminus on Cambie at Hastings.

■ #50 False Creek from its temporary terminus will travel via Pender, Homer, Hastings, Howe, Nelson, Granville, Broadway and Willow, then return to its regular route.

■ #84 VCC-Clark Station will divert at 4th Ave. and Burrard along Burrard, Broadway, Kingsway, 10th Ave., Main and 2nd Ave., then return to its regular route.

■ #84 UBC will divert at 2nd Ave. and Main along Main, Broadway, Burrard and 4th Ave., then return to its regular route.

■ #98 Waterfront Station will divert at Seymour and Hastings along Hastings, then Burrard to its temporary terminus on Burrard at Pender.

■ #210/211 westbound will divert at Powell and Clark along Clark, Hastings and Cambie, then return to its regular route.

■ #210/211 eastbound will divert at Burrard and Pender along Burrard, Hastings, Clark and Powell, then return to its regular route.

■ C21 Yaletown from Davie and Denman will travel via Denman, Robson, Thurlow, Davie, Richards and Drake to its temporary terminus on Drake at Richards

■ C21 Beach from its temporary terminus at Cambie and Hastings will travel via Pender, Richards, Davie, Burrard, Robson, Denman and Davie, then along its regular route.

■ C23 Main Street Station will divert at Davie and Seymour along Seymour, Hastings then Cambie to its temporary terminus on Cambie at Hastings.

More information is available by using the trip planner on-line at www.translink.bc.ca or by calling TransLink Customer Information at 604-953-3333.