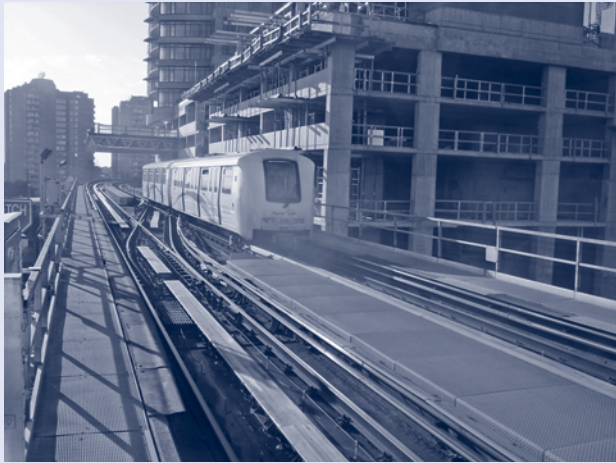


SkyTrain Dispatches



The construction of a residential tower near New Westminster station.

Construction around SkyTrain stations

There's plenty of construction activity around SkyTrain stations as rapid transit continues to shape urban development in the Metro Vancouver region.

Major residential projects are taking place on the Expo Line at King George and New Westminster stations. Along the Millennium Line, developments are rising near Sapperton, Production Way, Holdom, Brentwood, and Gilmore stations, as well as close to Lougheed Town Centre. Over the next few years, these projects will bring several thousand additional residents to the doorstep of SkyTrain and connecting buses.

Inevitably, some projects bring some short-term inconvenience, with buses diverted at New Westminster and Production Way stations, and the wheelchair-accessible pedestrian bridge at Sapperton station still unavailable for a few more months. We thank our customers for their patience.



A tower goes up behind Production Way station.



Better safety and technical equipment will help police keep transit more secure.

Federal funds boost transit security

We're working hard to make transit safer and more secure, thanks in large part to new funding from the federal government.

Transport Canada is giving us more than \$7 million to upgrade TransLink's ongoing safety and security program. The federal money covers three-quarters of the costs, while the rest will come from TransLink.

Among other things, the funding will mean enhancements for closed circuit TV technology on SkyTrain, better safety and technical equipment for the police service watching over the system, and the means to prepare a comprehensive response and recovery plan with key partners in the region.

BACK ISSUES

Back Issues is a new section that mines past issues of *The Buzzer* for nuggets of transit history. Hurrah!

1986 In *The Buzzer* from February 1986, B.C. Transit (one of TransLink's many predecessors) was saying hello to a historic new arrival: the #19 Metrotown Station trolley bus line.

Why was the #19 so historic? Well, before the #19, trolley buses operated exclusively within the City of Vancouver. The extension of trolley wires to Burnaby was the longest undertaken since 1970, when overhead wiring was installed on Cambie between 49th Ave and Marine Drive.

That year, eight more bus lines were also added or adjusted to serve Metrotown Station: the #49, #107, #110, #111, #114, #115, #116, and #130.

And last, here's a joke from the same *Buzzer*: *The one thing children wear out faster than shoes is parents.* Ha ha ha....



COMING EVENTS

- ✓ **Travelling Pan-African Film & Arts Festival** - From Feb. 2–Mar. 15, this arts showcase will take the talents of the world's African/Black diaspora to schools and neighbouring communities. First stop: Shadbolt Centre For The Arts, Burnaby, Feb 2. Ticket costs and more info at vpaff.org and 778-887-8438.
- ✓ **Valentine's Tea** - Fri Feb. 8, 1pm-3pm, Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Ave, Burnaby. Enjoy entertainment and tasty treats. Cost: \$8.91. Call 604-439-5510 for info.
- ✓ **The North Vancouver Community Players** present Edward Albee's *Three Tall Women*, Theatre at Hendry Hall, 815 East 11th St, North Vancouver. Shows at 8pm on Feb. 8-9, 13-16 and 20-23 (preview on Feb. 7). Tickets \$16; \$14 for seniors and youth 18 and under. Reservations: 604-983-2633. Visit northvanplayers.ca.
- ✓ **Love Lost, Love Found** - Join the CBC Radio Orchestra, 3pm, Sun Feb. 10 at the Chan Centre and swoon to beautiful music written in the name of love. Concert features mezzo-soprano Anita Krause. \$25; \$17 for seniors & students. Info: chancentre.com.
- ✓ **The Vancouver Women's Musical Society** presents pianist Catherine Lan at 11am Wed Feb. 20, at the Unitarian Church, 949 W 49th Ave, Vancouver. \$10; reception to follow. Info: Janie at 604-732-9986.
- ✓ **Mature Women's Network** presents "You and Your Bones: Calcium and Vitamin D" by Anar Dossa, UBC clinical pharmacist at 411 Dunsmuir, Vancouver on Sat, Feb. 23. Registration 12:30 pm; program & social 1-3 pm. \$4; includes refreshments. Info: 604-681-3986.
- ✓ **Bonsor Senior Health Alert Program** - Weekly seniors drop-in health program at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Ave, Burnaby. Retired nurses and trained volunteers offer blood pressure monitoring, massage, chair exercises, height and weight monitoring and more. Mondays 10am-1pm — drop in services available from 10am-11:45am and guest speaker at 12 noon. Call 604-439-1456 for info.
- ✓ **The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society** offers ongoing Scottish country dance lessons for all ages, all levels. Dancing is social and non-competitive, and no partner is needed to attend. For more info, call 604-929-6884 or visit rscdsvancouver.org.
- ✓ Learn public speaking and leadership skills through **Positive Thinkers Toastmasters**, a friendly, supportive non-profit club. Meetings on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm, BC Hydro Building, 333 Dunsmuir, Vancouver. Info: 604-922-6295.

Send your community events to
thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca

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BUZZER

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Photo from David Lam at trans-vancouver.fotopic.net.

The new Nova low floor 40 ft. bus. TransLink has added 124 Novas to the fleet, starting in July 2007.

Welcome to the fleet!

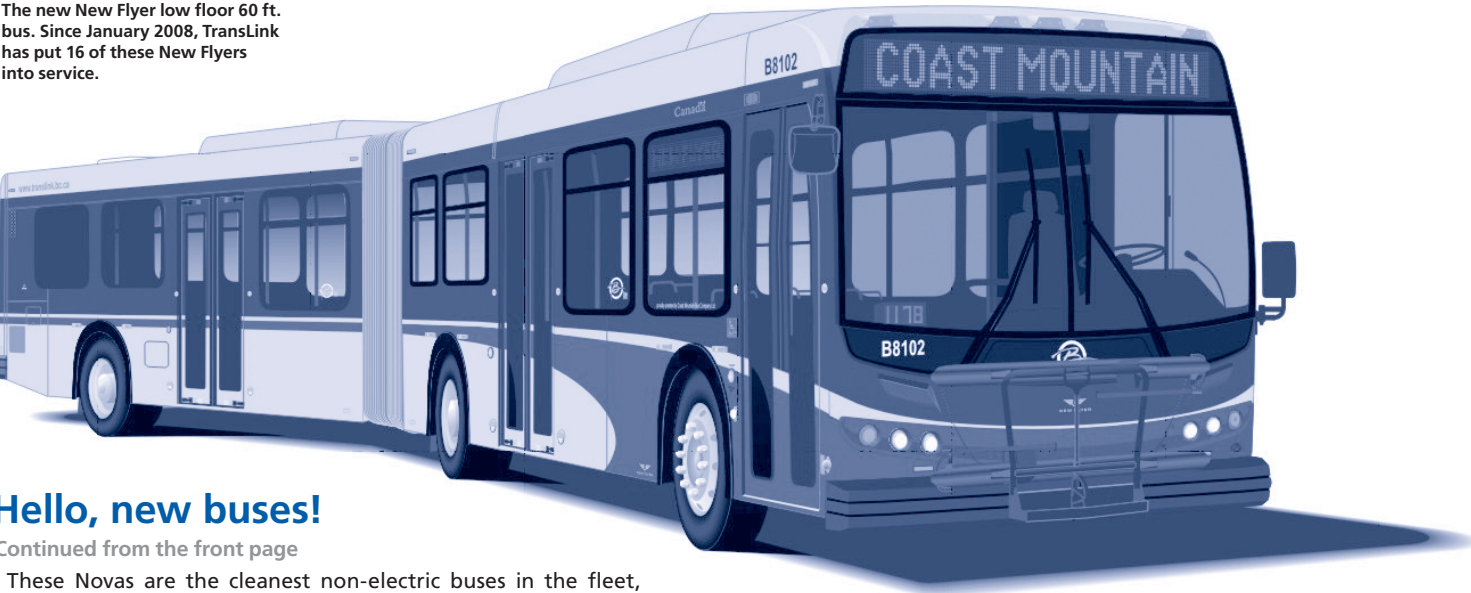
All about the new Nova and New Flyer buses rolling around your communities

We're happy to introduce two types of new buses to the streets of Metro Vancouver over the past few months.

First, say hello to the new 40 ft. low-floor Nova buses, which have started on routes like the #43 since July 2007. You'll know these buses by the rear-facing seats in the back, the single seat located right behind the driver, and the wide doorframes for better wheelchair access.

Continued Inside >>

The new New Flyer low floor 60 ft. bus. Since January 2008, TransLink has put 16 of these New Flyers into service.



Hello, new buses!

Continued from the front page

These Novas are the cleanest non-electric buses in the fleet, thanks to low-sulfur diesel and a particulate filter. They're also about 10 per cent lighter than the New Flyers, providing better fuel economy and lower emissions.

TransLink bought 124 Nova buses in total, but just 123 of them drove all the way to the Lower Mainland from their factory in Saint-Eustache, Quebec last winter. The last Nova bus hit a moose en route to Metro Vancouver, and had to go back to the factory for major repairs. (Never fear: it will join up with the rest of the buses in a few weeks.)

There are 35 seats in the new Novas, and they feature rear-facing

wheelchair positions that don't require restraints. As well, the Novas feature stainless steel frames and fibreglass body panels that don't rust, and removeable plastic lower panels that allow easy access for repairs.

And TransLink has also made a huge effort to ensure the 2006 and 2007 buses are much quieter than their predecessors, which is very noticeable with the Novas.

Look out for the new New Flyers

The second new vehicle on the roads is the articulated 60 ft. low-floor New Flyer bus, found on high-capacity routes like the #99 B-Line since January.

"Articulated" means the bus has a bendy, accordion-like joint in the middle, and on these New Flyers, the middle joint features custom-made leaning pads to help passengers get to the back more easily.

Sixteen New Flyers were ordered from the company's head office in Winnipeg, but they were made in New Flyer factories in Minnesota and driven up to Vancouver. (Luckily, none of these hit any wildlife on the way.)

Just like the Novas, the New Flyers feature cleaner exhaust due to a diesel particulate filter, and rear-facing wheelchair positions that don't require restraints.

And to make it as accessible as possible for those with mobility

Hybrid buses debut in 2009

Our bus fleet will get even greener in 2009, as we've bought 141 new diesel-electric Nova hybrid buses that will arrive next spring.

The new buses run on electricity generated by a small diesel engine, and hybrid operation drops emissions by up to 90 per cent compared to conventional combustion engines. When launched, they'll be the cleanest, most fuel efficient non-trolley buses in the history of the fleet!

Even compared to the newest generation diesel buses (like our low-emission 2007 Novas), the new hybrids will cut greenhouse gas emissions and improve fuel efficiency by 20 per cent. It helps that they're about 800 kilograms lighter than the latest diesel buses, which aids in lowering fuel consumption.

Of the 141 hybrids arriving in 2009, 109 will replace older buses, cutting emissions across the whole bus fleet. In fact, in some cases, the hybrids will produce 97 per cent fewer emissions than the buses they're replacing.

The remaining 32 hybrids will expand the fleet to improve service in the Lower Mainland. And that's only the beginning: we're looking to buy even more hybrid buses this year that will arrive by the end 2009!

concerns, the *entire* New Flyer bus can kneel down to curb-level on its door side.

More buses on the horizon

This isn't the last of the new buses this year. We're expecting nine new Orion Highways buses in February, and 66 more of the low floor 40 ft. Nova buses later this year.

And watch out in 2009, as 141 diesel-electric hybrids are scheduled to join the fleet. (See the story above for more information.) Keep your eye on The Buzzer for the latest news as that story unfolds!

What's your take?

Have you been on a new Nova or New Flyer? We want to know what you think of riding the new buses. Send your feedback to thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca, and we'll publish the best responses in the next Buzzer.

This feature story was suggested by Sean, a transit rider. Submit your own story ideas to thebuzzer@translink.bc.ca.

Provincial plan means better transit sooner

Premier Campbell announced the province's vision for transit expansion last month, and we at TransLink couldn't be more excited.

We've long been working on service expansion plans such as the Evergreen Line, a train line to UBC, and implementing more rapid bus services like the B-Lines. It's fantastic that those plans and more are priorities for the province too.

TransLink can also bring those expanded services to customers much more quickly, backed by the political and financial support of the province.

We're already working with the Ministry of Transportation to move the plan forward. That means better service for busy corridors, and more rapid transit and buses for underserved areas like the Northeast Sector and the South of Fraser. Sooner rather than later!



The province plans to spend \$10.3 billion on Metro Vancouver rapid transit by 2020.

Highlights of the province's transit plan

By 2020, the province will spend:

- » \$1.6 billion on 1,500 new, clean technology buses, increasing the province's fleet by 60 per cent
- » \$10.3 billion on four Metro Vancouver rapid transit lines: the Evergreen Line, the UBC Line, the upgraded Expo Line, and the Canada Line
- » \$1.2 billion on new RapidBus BC lines – energy efficient, high capacity buses on nine major routes in Kelowna, Victoria and Metro Vancouver

B.C. will provide \$4.75 billion by 2020; the rest will be sought from federal and municipal funds, and from TransLink.