



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Transit & Transportation Plan Brings Enhanced Transit Service to Maple Ridge

Maple Ridge, BC: On Wednesday, November 23, 2016 TransLink's Board and the Mayor's Council approved Phase One of the Transportation Plan for Metro Vancouver. For Maple Ridge this represents a 63 % increase in bus service hours.

"Phase One of the plan includes a direct B-Line bus route from Maple Ridge to Coquitlam SkyTrain station, new bus service to Silver Valley, better bus service in the Albion area and five new passenger cars for the West Coast Express commuter train" said Mayor Read. "We fought hard over the past year to ensure these services were all included in Phase One of the plan which will take place over the next four years. This represents a significant win for Maple Ridge and I want to personally thank staff for working so hard on behalf of the citizens of Maple Ridge."

The Transportation Plan was approved unanimously by both the TransLink Board and the Mayors Council after public consultation took place throughout the region. Some of the new buses are expected to begin service starting in 2017. Highlights of the plan for Maple Ridge include;

- 10% increase in bus service across the region, including a 63% increase in services for Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, the highest service increase in the region.
- New and expanded funding for Major Road Network operation and maintenance, improvements and seismic upgrades.
- New \$60M infrastructure fund to support B-Line implementation and related infrastructure that would be drawn upon to improve convenience and speed.
- 20% service increase to existing SkyTrain lines improving transit and roadway congestion.

SUMMARY OF REGIONAL INVESTMENTS IN PHASE ONE BENEFITTING MAPLE RIDGE

Bus

- **C45 & C46:** Additional trips to provide a more convenient and frequent weekday schedule, increasing frequency to every 60 mins between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm. Currently, weekday frequency is only every two hours and ends at 7:00 pm. Service during times when West Coast Express trains arrive would be unchanged.
- **New Bus Service to Silver Valley:** Service would operate every 30 mins during weekday AM and PM peaks, and every 45 mins at all other times, from early morning to 9:00 pm, seven days a week. Final routing to be determined.
- **New B-Line Service – Lougheed:** Introduce new B-Line express service, providing faster, more frequent and reliable service on Lougheed Highway. Service would operate every 15 mins or better seven days a week, throughout the day and into the evening. Service will connect Maple Ridge to the SkyTrain at Coquitlam Central Station. Local service will continue to be provided on Route 701.

West Coast Express

- Add five new rail cars to provide more space for riders and to reduce overcrowding.

Millennium Line

- 28 new rail cars for Expo and Millennium Lines to provide more space for riders and to reduce overcrowding and pass-ups.

Major Road Network

- Expanded operation, maintenance and expansion of the Major Road Network across the region, enabling municipalities to receive additional funding support for new critical links.
- \$50 million over three years in new regional funding for upgrades that will improve safety and reduce traffic bottlenecks-formulae allocation to municipalities.
- \$32.5 million over three years in new regional funding for seismic upgrades to the structures on the Major Road Network, such as overpasses, retaining walls and bridges.

Walking and Cycling

- \$12.5 million in new regional funding to improve sidewalks, crosswalks and pedestrian signals around transit. Specific projects would be selected in collaboration with municipal stakeholders. TransLink would provide 50-75% of costs, depending on project specifics.
- \$29.8 million for cycling infrastructure like new bike lanes and multi-use paths. Specific projects would be selected in collaboration with municipal stakeholders. TransLink would provide 50-75% of costs, depending on project specifics.
- \$11.5 million to invest in regionally-owned cycling facilities and at major transit stations and exchanges.

“One of the significant improvements that we will be seeing in the region is a 15% increase in the HandyDART service. This increase is higher than the overall 10% increase in bus service and the implementation of the HandyDART increases is accelerated and will be available to the public as a priority,” said Mayor Read. “As we worked through the proposal our team was able to secure agreement that B-Line Service route will be direct along Lougheed Highway to ensure speed of moving people west to new transit hubs in Coquitlam. The public consultation for this work is expected to begin in the first part of 2017 to ensure this service upgrade meets the needs of our growing community.”

For more information on the Transportation Plan please contact Frank Quinn, General Manager: Public Works & Development Services at 604-467-7359 or via email at fquinn@mapleridge.ca.

Background Information

Bus service increases by municipality	% increase in bus service hours	Distribution of expanded service	% of regional population
Burnaby / New Westminster	5%	5%	12%
Delta / Tsawwassen First Nation	11%	2%	4%
Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows	63%	15%	4%
North Shore	14%	14%	8%
Richmond	8%	6%	8%
Surrey / Langley / White Rock	15%	30%	27%
Tri-Cities / Anmore / Belcarra	9%	7%	9%
Vancouver / UBC / UEL	6%	21%	27%
The entire region	10%	100%	100%