



TransLink launches historic new bus service

RapidBus brings faster, more frequent service to eight Metro Vancouver communities

January 6, 2020

COQUITLAM, B.C. – TransLink launches RapidBus on four routes – bringing customers up to 20 per cent faster bus service with higher frequencies, fewer stops, dedicated bus lanes, bus priority changes to intersections, and all-door boarding.

RapidBus provides a more reliable bus service that can move more than 10,000 people per hour at peak times. The new service is made possible through investments from Phase One of the Mayors' Vision, the Government of Canada, and the Province of BC.

“We’re stepping up our bus game,” says TransLink CEO Kevin Desmond. “RapidBus is a crucial part of improving the region’s bus service through the Mayors’ Vision. These RapidBus routes will benefit eight communities and bring our customers a more reliable bus service that they deserve.”

Coming every 10 minutes or better during peak hours and every 15 minutes or better in non-peak hours, customers can now catch a RapidBus on these four routes:

- **R1 King George Blvd – (Guildford Exchange/Newton Exchange)**
 - Every eight minutes during peak hours
- **R3 Lougheed Hwy (Coquitlam Central Station/Haney Place)**
 - Every ten minutes during peak hours
- **R4 41st Ave (UBC/Joyce-Collingwood Station)**
 - Every three to six minutes during peak hours
- **R5 Hastings St (SFU/Burrard Station)**
 - Every four to five minutes during peak hours

RapidBus customers will enjoy new customer amenities such as softer seats, more space on 60-foot articulated buses, real-time digital signage, and audio next-bus information at RapidBus stops.

RapidBus is the newest service added to improve the Metro Vancouver bus system. Here is a brief history of buses in Metro Vancouver:

The evolution of Metro Vancouver transit buses	Year
RapidBus service launches	2020
First double-decker bus	2019
First battery-electric bus	2019
B-Line service begins	1996
First 60-foot articulated bus	1991

MEDIA RELEASE



First lift-equipped buses	1990
HandyDART service launches	1981
SeaBus service launches	1977
First trolleybus	1948
Buses added to streetcar fleet	1920s
Metro Vancouver streetcar service	1890

The R2 Marine Drive route between Phibbs Exchange and Park Royal will enter service in spring of this year. There are seven more RapidBus routes planned for Phases Two and Three of the Mayors' Vision following the launch of R2.

Rapid facts:

- 330,000 people live within walking distance of the four RapidBus corridors
- There are 98 new RapidBus stops installed along the four corridors
- All other routes that also use either Lougheed Highway or 41st Avenue will see faster service thanks to bus-priority road changes
- The R1 King George Blvd (previously the 96 B-Line) capacity is increasing 20 per cent
- The R5 Hastings St (previously the 95 B-Line) capacity is increasing 25 per cent
- The "B-Line" moniker is being retired (Except for Vancouver's 99 B-Line, which will continue serving customers during the construction of the Broadway Subway)

Quotes:

Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

"Effective public transit helps people get to where they want to go faster, at a lower cost and in a more sustainable way. It builds communities and helps create jobs. The RapidBus is going to make a real difference in the lives of people in Metro Vancouver. I am pleased it is part of our Government's historic investments in transit infrastructure."

Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing –

"These new RapidBuses will get more people to their destination faster. That means people in communities like Surrey, Maple Ridge, Coquitlam, and other communities served by these lines can spend less time in traffic and more time doing the things that matter to them. These RapidBuses are just one example of how our shared commitment to transit is making a difference for people in the region. I know that our commitment to fund 40% of the capital costs for every phase of the Mayors' Council's 10-Year Vision will continue to deliver transit improvements across Metro Vancouver, making life better for everyone."

Bill Dingwall, Mayor of Pitt Meadows –

"This new service will provide residents with a fast, affordable, frequent and reliable way to get around and efficiently connect Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge and Port Coquitlam to the Coquitlam Central Station SkyTrain. It is important transit investments like these that

A better place to live built on transportation excellence.

MEDIA RELEASE



help us create more connected, green and livable communities. Starting today, a trip from Maple Ridge to Coquitlam Central Station will take just 30-37 minutes. From Pitt Meadows, the RapidBus will get you to Coquitlam Central Station in approximately 20 minutes. We know that a more efficient and convenient bus service translates into increased ridership. It also allows communities to create transit-oriented housing near the Rapid Bus services providing improved transit options from young to older citizens.”

Learn more:

[RapidBus website](#)

Media contact:

TransLink Media Relations

E: media@translink.ca