



News Release

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TransLink expands fleet, service, thanks to federal investment

North Vancouver, British Columbia, January 8, 2009 – Federal funding will allow TransLink to purchase almost 200 new buses to replace and expand the fleet serving Metro Vancouver as well as continue with the SkyTrain expansion.

Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, Stockwell Day, B.C. Minister of Community Development Blair Lekstrom and Union of BC Municipalities Executive Member Malcolm Brodie joined TransLink CEO Thomas Prendergast today to make the announcement.

“The Government of Canada is committed to projects that encourage increased ridership on public transit,” said Minister Day, on behalf of John Baird, Canada’s Transport and Infrastructure Minister. “The Government’s investment in these new, easier-access hybrid buses demonstrates that we are delivering results that are good for our environment, create jobs, and give a boost to our economy.”

Federal Gas Tax funding of \$186.4 million over the next two years will allow further expansion and replacement of TransLink’s various fleets. The new funding will support the purchase of:

- 146 conventional buses
- 34 articulated trolley buses
- 23 Community Shuttles
- 55 HandyDART buses
- 38 SkyTrain Mark II cars

Thanks to funding from the federal Gas Tax, a third SeaBus will go into service in less than a year.

“Improving the quality and accessibility of public transportation is a huge priority for growing urban centres like Metro Vancouver,” said B.C. Minister Lekstrom. “These Gas Tax Funds will allow the region to enhance vital transportation infrastructure, which will have a direct impact on the day-to-day lives of residents.”

“We’re grateful to have the support of the federal government as we expand and improve our Metro Vancouver’s transit network,” added Mr. Prendergast. “We also want to acknowledge the partnership between TransLink, the Union of BC Municipalities and the provincial government, through which this funding has been earmarked for our improvement projects. As Metro

Vancouver continues to expand, so does the demand on the transit system, and it's clear that we could not move as quickly or with as many improvements without this kind of support."

"These new investments in TransLink's system will provide transit services that are efficient, sustainable and focused on the needs of commuters," said Mayor Brodie.

In 2009, the Gas Tax Fund will also provide \$10 million for the \$54 million SkyTrain Operations and Maintenance Centre expansion, and in 2010, the new Maintenance and Transportation Training Centre (MTTC) in Maple Ridge will receive \$50 million of the nearly \$165 million cost.

Today's event also acknowledged that 44 new low-floor accessible buses are now in service in North Vancouver. The purchase of the new buses was made possible through previous Gas Tax funding announced in September of 2007.

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